



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS—2010 DOCUMENTS

Introduced & Edited by
AVTAR SINGH BHASIN

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
**PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

GEETIKA PUBLISHERS

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS—2010

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

The documents are reflective of the complex web of considerations that govern India's relations with the world at large, and underline the shift of power to Asia and emergence of India as a major player. No international gathering today is complete without India's presence, where India's input is valued in finding solutions to the complexities of the problems facing the mankind. In the last six decades India has made success of its experiment in democracy and in the last couple of decades it has been buttressed with the emergence of India as a major economic power. The manner in which India came out unscathed from the economic meltdown of 2008 have left many wondering at the resilience of Indian institutions.

The 750 documents showcased here seek to convey the message to the world that India has arrived.

ISBN : 978-93-81417-00-3

Price Including (Compact Disc): ₹ 2500.00

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–2010
DOCUMENTS**

Other books of Avtar Singh Bhasin

- 1. Some called it Partition, Some Freedom:**
(Last 75 days of the Raj)
- 2. India–Sri Lanka Relations and Sri Lanka’s Ethnic Conflict:**
Documents: 1947–2000–Five Volumes
- 3. India in Sri Lanka—**
Between Lion and the Tigers
- 4. India–Bangladesh Relations: Documents 1971–2002—**
Five Volumes
- 5. Nepal–India and Nepal–China Relations–1947–2005**
Documents—Five Volumes
- 6. India’s Foreign Relation—Documents**
Annual Volumes for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007,
2008 and 2009

**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010
DOCUMENTS**

(With Enlarged Edition on the C.D.)

Introduced & Edited by
AVTAR SINGH BHASIN

**PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

GEETIKA PUBLISHERS
NEW DELHI-110 028

Published by



GEETIKA PUBLISHERS

A-51/II Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028

Tele: 98-111-57294, 011-2577-1897

E-mail: bhasin.as@gmail.com

2011 April-©Avtar Singh Bhasin

ISBN : 978-93-81417-00-3

Printed and Bound in India at
Focus Impressions, New Delhi-110 003

E-mail : focusimpressions@gmail.com

ravikumarsk82@gmail.com

Distributed by

Geetika Publishers

A-51/II, Naraina Vihar

New Delhi – 110028

www.geetikapublishers.in

President of India

Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil

Vice President of India

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari

Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh

Ministry of External Affairs

External Affairs Minister

Shri S. M. Krishna

Minister of State

Shrimati Preneet Kaur

Minister of State

Shri E. Ahamed

Foreign Secretary

Secretary (East)

Secretary (West)

Secretary (Economic Relations)

Dean, Foreign Service Institute

Smt. Nirupama Rao

Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy

Shri Vivek Katju

Shri Manbir Singh

Shri Ajai Choudhry

Special Secretaries

Shri R. B. Mardhekar

Shri Jayant Prasad

Additional Secretaries

Km. Sarita Bali

Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji

Shri Basant Kumar Gupta

Shri Dalip Sinha

Shri Ashok Tomar

Official Spokesperson

Joint Secretary (Public Diplomacy)

Shri Vishnu Prakash

Shri Navdeep Suri

(The deployment of officers shown above is as on
December 31, 2010)

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2010

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Section – I General

Section – II Climate Change

Section – III Civil Nuclear Energy

Section – IV Multilateral Cooperation

Section – V Diaspora

Section – VI ASIA

- (i) South ASIA-Countries of the SAARC**
- (ii) Southeast, East ASIA and Pacific**
- (iii) West and Central Asia**

Section – VII AFRICA

Section – VIII EUROPE

Section – IX AMERICAS

- (i) North America**
- (ii) South and Central America**

Section – X INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Section – XI INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

P R E F A C E

This is the ninth 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. The documents showcase the reach of Indian foreign relations in a globalised world. They are reflective of the complex web of considerations between nations. They indicate the shift of economic power to Asia and emergence of India as a major player. No international gathering today is complete without Indian presence and in finding solution to international problems Indian input is valued. In the last six decades, India has made success of its experiment with democracy and the nations around the world look at it with admiration. It is no wonder now that the United Arab Republic after the overthrow of its old regime and anxious to adopt the creed of democracy, looks towards India for help in organising its elections.

In the last couple of decades, India's success story in democracy has been buttressed considerably with another success story of economic miracle with the achievement of high growth of eight to nine percent. The manner in which India came out unscathed from the economic meltdown of the 2008 have left many wondering at the resilience of Indian institutions. It is the strength of its institutions and their ability to overcome any setbacks which nations encounter now and then, that inspire confidence in Indian story. The preference of India to project its soft power over the hard one, helped New Delhi to build confidence among the developing countries. The emergence of new consultative groupings intersecting continental barriers have forged new relationships among nations to work towards human wellbeing - a far greater guarantee of peace.

India's story now attracts global interest . These volumes seek to carry this message of India to people around the world. The global engagement of India and its increased interaction has led to the generation of plethora of documents thereby increasing the bulk every year. This needed tackling and in 2009 we experimented by combining electronic technology with the print and found it quite successful. While the printed volume, like last year, provides the ready reference to the totality of material made available, by placing the text of some of the documents in the accompanying Compact Disc (CD), the bulk has been brought within a reasonable limit.

The documents have been, as in the past, categorized thematically and region-wise and arranged chronologically. Those which do not fall in any particular category or deal with two or more subjects/countries have been placed in the general list, with cross referencing where necessary.

As always TCA Rangachari, has been of great help. He particularly went through the introduction with a fine comb. Thank you sir. Having said that, I hasten to add that I remain fully responsible for any deficiency that may have crept in the introduction or any where else in the volume.

**New Delhi,
April 30, 2010.**

Avtar Singh Bhasin

INTRODUCTION

I

It had been an eventful year for the Ministry of External Affairs. A record number of high level visits from abroad and an equally large number of visits by Indian leaders abroad, kept the lights of South Block burning 24x7. Twenty-four Heads of Government/State and 35 Foreign Ministers came to India. Indian President, Vice President and Prime Minister between them visited 22 countries. The External Affairs Minister went to 18 countries and with Minister of State visiting another 8, it made a total of MEA ministerial level visits 26. Noteworthy was the fact that during the year, Heads of Government of all the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Councils—USA, Russia, Britain, France and China made it to New Delhi. These visits covered as broad an area as possible. As the review of the year by the Ministry of External Affairs said the year "witnessed a qualitative expansion of strategic relations with key partner countries and robust engagement with India's neighbours". Apart from the visits by Prime Minister himself, many other senior ministers made it abroad on behalf of the Prime Minister to attend international gatherings. Minister of Power Sushil Kumar Shinde attended the Summit of the Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at Dushanbe, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma attended the CICA Summit at Istanbul, and the Vice President went to Brussels to attend the ASEM Summit. The External Affairs Minister represented the Prime Minister at the SCO Summit at Tashkent. The Summits that the Prime Minister himself attended were—India-ASEAN Summit, EAS, two G-20 Summits at Toronto and Seoul, SAARC, BRIC, IBSA, NUCLEAR SECURITY CONFERENCE and the India-EU. In keeping with India's consistent engagement with the OAU multilaterally, an Indian delegation attended the Executive Council Session of the OAU at Kampala and called on its Chairman.

International relations today are no longer uni-focused, demanding action only at diplomatic level. The spectrum on which the nations today conduct their relations is much wider than before and includes - trade and industry, finance and business, culture, information, art and education, science and technology, energy and agriculture and many other fields. The problems that the globalized world faces today are much more complex than at any time in the past. Many of them have no national solutions and must be tackled at multilateral level. The recent financial crisis is an example when the global community got together to create a new multilateral forum-- the G-20 to work out a consensual solution. To guard the international community against the evils of war, the horizon too has expanded to include social, economic and all other problems which are the bane of humanity. The problems like terrorism, climate change, energy security, etc. have no national solutions.

In recent years, India has focused on its soft power to create a niche among the nations and people around the world. The diaspora has been a major catalyst in projecting India's soft power. The creation of eight Chairs of Indian studies in a single year alone at the internationally famous universities is a step in the same direction.

II

NEIGHBOURS

Relations with the Neighbours constitute the priority in the pursuit of India's national interests. With them we share the air we breathe and the waters which are our lifeline. Our peace and security are inextricably linked to our neighbours. How we manage our resources determine our and theirs prosperity. The interdependence which is inherent in our relationship determines the mutuality of interests. Therefore when we study our foreign relations, it becomes imperative to determine how we and our neighbours have managed to live together.

Afghanistan

India's policy in Afghanistan was unambiguously articulated by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in his speech in the Lok Sabha while reporting to the House on the Conference on Afghanistan which took place in London in February 2010. He said India's "stand was to ensure an emphasis on

the international community's long-term engagement in Afghanistan, the central and coordinating role of the UN, a focus on the resolve to combat terrorism, condemnation of terrorist groups, and the importance of the Afghan National Security Forces assuming a leading role in ensuring security. While supporting the Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up the armed struggle, accept the values of democracy, human rights and pluralism as enshrined in the Afghan constitution and do not have ties with terrorist groups, India stressed on the need to ensure that the Afghan peace and reintegration process should be inclusive and transparent."

He was more explicit at the Kabul Conference in July and said:

"India is committed to the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan underpinned by democracy and cohesive pluralism and free from external interference. India has contributed to these goals through our Development Partnership which is implemented entirely in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan Government and people. Our Assistance programmes are spread all over Afghanistan and cover all sectors of development: humanitarian, infrastructural, institution and capacity building, small-scale quick gestation projects, and agriculture. The ultimate aim of our assistance is to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan state and people to stand on their own feet in the areas of governance and services for the Afghan people."

When the Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul visited India in April and February respectively, they were reassured of India's commitment to these ideals which inspired Indian policy towards their country.

Bangladesh

The visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2010, provided a new impetus to "launch a new phase in (their) bilateral relations." The opportunity was utilized by the leaders of the two countries to work out "a comprehensive framework of cooperation for development..... encapsulating their mutually shared vision for the future", based on their faith in, inclusive social justice, and democracy to promote "cooperation in water resources, power, transportation and connectivity, tourism and

education". Responding to Indian concern for security, Prime Minister Hasina agreed with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that the territory of either country should not be allowed to be used "for training, sanctuary and other operations by domestic and foreign terrorists/militants and insurgent organizations and their operatives". A major programme for social and economic development of Bangladesh was agreed upon between the two Prime Ministers. The icing on the cake was a billion US dollars EXIM credit for the supply of locomotives, rail coaches and other equipment for Bangladesh railways, buses and machinery etc. (The Exim credit agreement was signed in August when Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited Dhaka.) Agreeing to promote inter-grid connectivity in power sector, New Delhi agreed to provide Bangladesh with 250 MW of power to boost its power system. New Delhi was most responsive to Dhaka's desires for improved connectivity with Nepal and Bhutan, and her concerns on Tipaimukh hydroelectric project in the Northeast. Bangladesh was assured that "India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact Bangladesh".

Agreeing with New Delhi on the need for reforms of the UN System, Sheikh Hasina supported India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN security Council.

Nepal

Despite the constitutional logjam in Nepal during the year, bilateral relations were not allowed to suffer. The External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visit to Kathmandu at the very start of the year in January 2010 was an assurance of India's goodwill towards the young republic. Mr. Krishna by signing a MOU for construction of the Terai Roads at an estimated cost of Indian Rs. 805 crores, sent a clear message to Nepal that while it could sort out its internal constitutional problems at its own pace and in its own way, New Delhi would not withhold its cooperation for its development in any manner. In the projection of its soft and knowledge power, New Delhi agreed to help in setting up Science Learning Centre with an assistance of Indian Rs. 16.6 crores for which a MOU was signed. In order to give Nepal a modern equity market culture, a further amount of Rs.9.2 crores was committed to provide technical assistance to establish a Central Depository System.

In the fragile political situation prevailing in the Himalayan state with its open border, security has always been a major area of concern for New Delhi, which has been emphasized to Kathmandu repeatedly. It was no exception now. The Nepalese, as always, assured New Delhi of their being sensitive to its concerns. Given the need to strengthen the security related infrastructure, EAM conveyed the assurance that India was willing to provide all possible assistance to the Nepalese security agencies, of course, as per their request. India is already committed to help in the construction of a police academy in that country.

For various reasons, India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 has been a sensitive issue with Nepal and it had been asking for its review. India is not unmindful of it either. There have been such reviews in the past but with no concrete results. Since the Nepalese raised this question again with the EAM, he did not fight shy of undertaking another review to satisfy the Nepalese sensitivities.

The environment for the Indian business and industry continued to be unsatisfactory with all Indian joint ventures almost lying shut. The External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna was quite frank to bring this unsatisfactory situation to the notice of his interlocutors. There appeared little hope of improvement notwithstanding the agreement between the two countries for the need to sign a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, besides an agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation. Nepal continues to drag its feet on signing the extradition treaty the draft of which was negotiated and finalized between the two countries almost five years ago.

EAM in his meeting with the Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Parchanda" was forthright to disabuse him of any notion that India was interfering in Nepal's internal affairs, a charge which the Maoist leaders hurl at India to gain the dubious advantage of winning popular sympathy and support. Conveying his "deep disappointment on the baseless attacks on India" he warned that such things "vitiates the age-old and time-tested friendly relations".

Within days of the return of EAM from Kathmandu, the Nepalese President Ram Baran Yadav visited India. President Smt. Pratibha

Devisingh Patil reminded her guest of India's continued goodwill for his country. She expressed the hope that the task of achieving "an inclusive multi-party democracy" in Nepal would be "expeditiously" completed.

Sri Lanka

It was a year of peace in Sri Lanka marked by stronger ties with India. To reach out to the people across the island, India opened two new Consulates General at Jaffna in the North and Hambantota in the South of the country. India already has a consulate at Kandy in Central Sri Lanka. The exchange of visits of service chiefs was a sign of new thaw. Sri Lanka has no more any qualms about strengthening linkages in various fields and levels. India on its part, to prevent any possibility of any remnants of the LTTE regrouping, on May 14, 2010 renewed its ban on the LTTE, which was first imposed in 1992.

The war left in its wake 2,80,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who needed relief and rehabilitation. India stepped in to help Colombo to tie over this urgent humanitarian problem with a grant of Rs. 500 crores besides construction materials, and family packs containing the basic necessities. The joint efforts helped in providing immediate relief to almost all the IDPs. The Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao who toured most of the rehabilitation centers in the North and East in September 2010, did not find anything to complain on this account. But they remained vulnerable needing support until livelihoods were restored which presages economic activity to generate employment.

The visit of President Rajapaksa to New Delhi in June 2010 was a landmark visit in many ways. The 45-paragraph Joint Statement issued on the occasion underlined the two countries commitment "to substantially enhance the range and depth" of their ties including "through greater economic integration, enhancing connectivity and other linkages and closer developmental cooperation". Recognizing the need of the hour, all the projects that India committed were located in the North and this in itself underlined the Indian commitment to the welfare of the Tamils.

Progress in these projects would generate jobs and employment besides the much needed economic activity, ensuring long-term goal of rehabilitation of the IDPs. Resumption of ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo

and Rameswaram and Talaimannar would enable greater people to people movement and contacts. Already the largest number of transnational flights between India and Sri Lanka ensure heavy tourist traffic between the two countries. When the re-development of the Palali air port and Kankasanthurai port are completed it would further boost island's air and sea connectivity with southern states of India in a big way. The proposal for an energy grid will be the second of its kind after Bangladesh. After the success of the FTA in promoting two way trade, a more comprehensive framework of economic cooperation is in the offing. Already Bharti Airtel, the leading Indian telecom company is involved in Sri Lanka telecom sector and public sector NTPC in power generation. IRCON another public sector consultancy company is involved in railways.

Resettlement, rehabilitation, employment and livelihood are one side of the coin. The other, which is perhaps more important and will facilitate long term reconciliation between the two most important communities of Sri Lanka, is resolution of the core issue for political settlement of the ethnic problem which created the conundrum in the first place. The President is aware of what needs to be done. The prescription is already there and accepted by and large by all the stake holders. What is needed is to add a little potion so as to make the devolution more effective and meaningful. The 13th amendment, which was enacted following the 1987 India - Sri Lanka agreement, has been accepted as a basic document. It is also accepted at all hands that there was a need to strengthen the devolution prescription. The need to make the police administration accountable to the Provincial Chief Ministers and the devolution of power to the Provincial Councils to raise the revenue to meet their developmental aspirations, were some of the core issues that need to be attended to.

India acquiesced in President's priority to strengthen himself politically to be in a position to tackle the ticklish political question effectively. He has succeeded in that direction and his political position was now unassailable. He has won the second term as President. His rival, the former Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. Sarath Fonseka was vanquished and behind bar. The main opposition party, the UNP was in disarray and his political rival Ranil Wickremesinghe was facing a challenge to his leadership. The President has got the 18th Constitutional Amendment through the parliament. His road to a third term is clear if he chooses to do so when the time comes.

India having identified itself with the Tamil aspirations in Sri Lanka on the ethnic issue, is looked upon by the Tamils both in Sri Lanka and India to pull their chestnut out of the fire. Worried that in the first flush of victory, the President might ride rough shod over the Tamils, New Delhi availed itself of the first opportunity to convey its concerns to Colombo. On July 17, 2009 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his meeting with President Rajapaksa at Sharm-el-Sheikh, on the sidelines of the NAM Summit, had left him in no doubt about Indian concerns. He had told him "we are deeply concerned" and that "we have legitimate concerns about the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils. It has a bearing on Sri Lanka's relations with India." It is now two years since the elimination of the LTTE. Already internationally concern is being expressed at human rights violations during the ethnic war. This concern could best be doused by expeditiously attending to the ethnic question. Time is the essence of the game and it is ticking away with Colombo sitting pretty!

Pakistan

Since 26/11 the relations with Pakistan remained in a state of suspended animation. New Delhi was unhappy at the tardy manner in which Pakistan dealt with the masterminds behind this horrendous attack, even after accepting that its nationals were indeed involved. India, however, realized that Pakistan being a next door neighbour, must be kept engaged, did not give up its efforts. As Prime Minister said so often: one can choose one's friends, but not the neighbours. It was in this spirit that New Delhi wanted to test the waters if Islamabad was ready to start the process in a meaningful way that the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna went to Islamabad in July. But unfortunately the talks floundered because there was hiatus in the expectations that the two countries had from the talks. As the Foreign Secretary, in one of her TV interviews, which she gave on return to New Delhi, said: "We had very precise... defined ideas on how to take this dialogue forward. We had had the opportunity to discuss this with Pakistan over the last few months so we clearly knew where we were going. I think in Pakistan's case the idea or the perspective was to resume dialogue across all fronts. But obviously the process of building trust, the enhancement of confidence has to proceed before you can resume dialogue in all the areas in which Pakistan and India were engaged in years before."

Notwithstanding the fact that the aftermath of the Islamabad talks left a bad taste in the mouth, Foreign Secretary could discern a silver lining. She said: "But a positive thing that has emerged out of what we discussed with Pakistan... was the affirmation by Foreign Minister Qureshi that Pakistan stood by the achievements made in the bilateral dialogue between our two countries in the period between 2004 and 2008." Regarding the future of the talks, Mrs. Rao remained optimistic and expressed the view that "the dialogue process must go on...". The ground work for the process to go on has once again been laid in Thimphu in February 2011 on the sidelines of the SAARC ministerial level meeting. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries had an exchange of views and announced the resumption of the process.

Hope is eternal. India as a bigger country must persist in its efforts to bring Pakistan round to realize the futility of an estranged relationship. It was in this spirit that the Prime Minister grabbed the opportunity offered by the semi-final cricket match in the World Cup Cricket Series between the teams of India and Pakistan. He first decided to watch the match himself and then invited Pakistan Prime Minister Gilani to Mohali (Punjab) for the same. The opportunity so offered was quite productive. It once again kindled the hope that the two countries will live in peace and the difficulties in the path of peace will be removed. If the year 2010 was a year of stalemate, 2011 offers hope of a better and brighter future relationship.

III

SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA

Look East a buzz word in studying India's relations with the South-East Asian countries was no longer a cliché but the bedrock of India's foreign policy in the region. The emergence of regional sub-groupings like BIMSTEC brought about a new realization that Southeast Asia was an immediate neighbour of India through the connectivity provided by North East States. New initiatives have helped to generate a new understanding and friendly feeling towards India in the region. Regular interaction at the ASEAN level through the mechanism of India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits and other institutional interaction at various forums have now been combined with the regular nurturing of bilateral relations.

There was active traffic in forging bilateral relations. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil visited Laos and Cambodia in September and Prime Minister visited Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam in October. South Korean President and Malaysian Prime Minister's visited India in January, Gen. Than Shwe of Myanmar's in July and Chinese Premier came just before the close of the year 2010. The External Affairs Minister visited Australia in March and China in April and Seoul in June. All this VVIP traffic kept the Ministry of External Affairs busy with the region. The Prime Minister also met his Chinese counterpart in Hanoi in October on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit.

China

April 1, 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. External Affairs Minister Krishna visited China to mark the occasion. The year-long celebrations of Indian culture in China and of Chinese in India concluded formally in December 2010 with a function presided over by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh when the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao was also present. The festivities played a crucial role in increasing awareness and consciousness of each other's country and culture. The significance of the relationship was oozing out of the assertion that India-China relations go beyond their bilateral scope and have "acquired global and strategic significance." On the bilateral front the Communiqué issued during the visit of the Chinese Premier in December was a reminder to the doubting Thomases that the two countries were capable of sorting out their differences that might crop up in their day to day relationship. It said:

"The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the comprehensive and rapid progress of India-China relations in the last ten years, and reaffirmed their commitment to abiding by the basic principles and consensus concerning the development of India-China relations set out in the Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China in 2003, the Joint Statement of India and China in 2005, the India-China Joint Declaration of 2006 and A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of India and China of 2008. The two sides decided to enhance strategic communication, advance functional cooperation, broaden cultural exchanges, and deepen

and enrich the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, mutual respect and sensitivity for each other's concerns and aspirations."

Japan

Japan and India have more or less institutionalized their relations in different fields. They span economic, political, defence, culture and education, climate change, science and technology etc. The annual summits at Prime Minister level are expression of their keen desire to relationship-building. The visit of Defence Minister AK Antony to Tokyo, in November 2009 institutionalized the ministerial defence dialogue as an important step forward in the background of the participation of India and Japan with the United States in naval exercises.

The depth of economic cooperation was summed up by External Affairs Minister in his statement in the Lok Sabha on 19 December 2010 on the Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo while recounting the areas of cooperation like flagship infrastructure projects as the Delhi Metro, Dedicated Freight Corridor Project and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. The conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement would eventually lead to a quantum increase in bilateral trade. A suggestion coming from the Japanese Prime Minister for establishing a comprehensive Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue was welcomed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The breakthrough achieved by India in persuading Japan to start negotiations for an Agreement of Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, despite Japanese sensitivities, was a tribute to India's non-proliferation record. Japan and India together with Germany and Brazil are aspirants for entry into the UN Security Council as permanent members and are coordinating their efforts in this direction.

Malaysia

The deepening of relations between India and Malaysia was evidenced by the exchange of visits by the Prime Ministers of the two countries in 2010. The Malaysian Prime Minister came in January and Dr. Manmohan Singh reciprocated the visit in November. The signing of the 12 Agreements/MoUs during the two visits was an expression of a desire on both the sides

of the need for a deeper relationship. The most significant of all was the omnibus Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement covering goods, services and investments. The setting up of a CEO's forum would provide a platform for cooperation between the corporate sectors of the two countries.

Summing up the Prime Minister's visit to Kuala Lumpur the External Affairs Minister told the Lok Sabha on November 19 that keeping the future relations in mind "both Prime Ministers identified various elements to develop Strategic Partnership between the two countries. These include maintaining regular dialogue and contact at the summit level; biennial meetings of the Joint Commission headed by the Foreign Ministers; enhancing defence exchanges, cooperation and joint collaboration on projects of mutual interest in the defence sector; enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, including through information sharing and the establishment of a bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at an early date; further strengthening bilateral trade and investment cooperation; expanding cooperation in infrastructure development and exploring possibilities for development of cooperation in financial sector; studying the possibility of enhancing the scope and level of joint collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector between PETRONAS of Malaysia and ONGC Videsh Limited of India in third countries; and identifying possible collaborative projects in the new and renewable energy sector through the establishment of a Joint Working Group."

Laos and Cambodia

The high level President's visit to Laos and Cambodia in September gave a special boost to promoting India's relations with the countries with which India had centuries old civilizational contacts. Building on that advantage President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil endeavoured to build a dynamic economic and developmental partnership with both of them. The visit was significant because the last visit of an Indian President to these countries was in 1959.

Government of Lao PDR repeatedly conveyed to her its deep appreciation for India's continued assistance and support for its developmental efforts through loans and assistance in the field of human

resource development, hydropower and irrigation schemes in particular. India's preferential tariff assistance to Laos came in for special mention. In Vientiane, a Cultural Exchange Agreement for the years 2011-13 was signed as also an agreement for a new Government of India Credit Line of US \$ 72.55 million to finance two power projects. Agreements between the newly set-up Indian Chamber in Laos (INCHAM) with each of the three leading Indian Chambers of Commerce (viz. FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM) would catalyze greater cooperation between the businessmen of the two countries.

In Cambodia, the Indian developmental assistance also came up for appreciation. Oil and gas, mineral extraction, agriculture and tourism were mentioned as future areas for bilateral cooperation. A MoU for cooperation between our Comptroller and Auditor General and the National Audit Authority of Cambodia was signed. A US\$15 million Credit Line Agreement between EXIM Bank and the Cambodian Government was signed for Phase II of the Stung Tassal Water Development Project. The President announced a financial grant of US\$ 246,000 for upgradation of the Cambodia-India Friendship School.

IV

WEST ASIA

India's relations with the West Asian countries are based on dynamic factors of civilization, culture, and historical links. Housing a large Indian diaspora, pressure of energy resources, and an extended neighbourhood make West Asia a critical area for Indian policy makers. Security of sea-lanes joining the east and the west and increased piracy in the waters around the region has made it incumbent upon India to increase its footprints in the Indian Ocean. New Delhi is conscious of the sensitivities of the countries on the rim and therefore has made every effort to keep other stakeholders on board.

To nurture and to carry forward its ties developed during the earlier years, New Delhi has kept itself in constant touch with the countries of the region. While strengthening economic ties, political interaction has been maintained at the highest level. The President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil took a tour of the area visiting Syria and UAE in

November. External Affairs Minister visited Oman in October. Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia in March. His visit to Saudi Arabia was after 28 years of the visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1982. It may be recalled that in 2006 King Abdullah had visited New Delhi. He was then the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

The most important outcome of the Prime Minister's visit to Riyadh was the signing of the historic Riyadh Declaration by the Prime Minister and King Abdullah, in which India and Saudi Arabia decided to raise their cooperation to a strategic partnership covering security, economic, defence and political areas. In particular, both leaders emphasised the importance of strengthening the strategic energy partnership. It was also agreed that both sides would work towards meeting their vast requirements relating to infrastructure and development by augmenting the flow of investments into each other's countries

The meeting of the India-Iran Joint Commission in New Delhi in July saw the presence of Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance. On this occasion a review was made of bilateral economic and cultural cooperation and six agreements/ MoUs were signed. The joint Commission, set up in 1983, had been meeting at regular intervals on issues relating to economic cooperation.

India reiterated its commitment to the Palestinian cause by deploring and condemning the tragic loss of life and injuries to the people on the boat carrying supplies for Gaza by the indiscriminate use of force by the Israelis. In the meeting of the NAM countries in New York in September External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna renewed India's support for a "negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 and 1515." In 2010, like in 2009, New Delhi once again contributed a million US dollars to UNRWA in response to UNRWA flash appeal. It also contributed like in previous years, another 10 million US dollars as budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority.

V

AFRICA

India has a very lively and active relationship with countries of Africa and as in previous years close and high level contacts were maintained with the countries of this continent. In January the Vice President visited the southern African countries—Malawi, Botswana and Zambia. In March a delegation of the African Union came to New Delhi and in its meeting with senior officials of the Government of India discussed the implementation process of the decisions taken at the India-Africa Forum Summit. The delegation conveyed their appreciation for the manner in which India had engaged with them to implement the decisions. The Chief of Staff of the African Union Chairperson said that they appreciated India for believing in this multilateral relationship with Africa and for putting on the table the resources required to implement the commitments it had made.

In August the second phase of the Government of India's Pan African E-Network project was inaugurated. Conceptualized on the vision of India's former president Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam of connecting India with all the fifty three (53) countries of the African Union with a satellite and fibre optic network for sharing India's expertise in education and health care, the project is being implemented in 47 African countries, of which actual commissioning has been completed in 34 countries.

Under this Project India has made available the facilities and expertise of some of the best universities and super-specialty hospitals in India to the people of Africa. The project is also equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other services in the African countries, besides providing VVIP connectivity among the Heads of State of the African countries through a highly secure closed satellite network. More than 1700 students from several African countries have already registered with the Indian universities for the various courses being offered by them under the tele-education component of the Project. Regular tele-medical consultations have also started between the African doctors and the Indian specialists through this network. Likewise, nearly 700 CME lectures have been delivered by our doctors from the Indian Super Specialty hospitals.

At the highest level the Presidents of Seychelles, South Africa and Mozambique visited New Delhi. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia came in December and along with the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna jointly presided over the proceedings of the first India - Ethiopia Joint Commission. Earlier in March the two countries had a round of Consultations between the two Foreign Offices.

In August the Foreign Minister of Gambia visited New Delhi and among other things he signed an agreement for annual consultations between the two Foreign Offices. In March the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Lesotho and Congo had visited New Delhi. The Chadian Foreign Minister came calling in September. In October Commerce Minister Anand Sharma visited Kenya where Indian investments touched an impressive figure of 1.5 billion US dollars. Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur paid a visit to Namibia and Minister of State for Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid to Nigeria. Mr. Khurshid represented India at the 50th anniversary of Nigerian Independence and also laid foundation stone of the India-Nigeria Friendship Hospital in the capital city of Abuja. The hospital to be completed in two years will be the biggest health care project of its kind in West Africa.

VI

EUROPE

There were a series of visits to and from Europe which houses the three permanent members of the UNSC—the UK, France and Russia. India had the privilege to host Heads of Government/State of all the three during the year. In the case of Russia, its Prime Minister too was invited and he came. The Presidents of Iceland and Turkey as well as the Polish Prime Minister were honoured guests. The Vice President visited Belgium for the ASEM Summit besides Croatia and Czech Republic. The Prime Minister was in Belgium for the India-EU Summit. He went to Germany for a bilateral visit. Foreign Minister of Russia was in New Delhi for a meeting with the External Affairs Minister and Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur visited Hungary and Slovenia.

France

In recent years India and France are engaged in regular dialogue at the highest level. In 2008 President Sarkozy was the Chief Guest at the Indian

Republic Day and in 2009 Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Chief Guest at the Bastille Day parade. In 2009-10, India had 'Bonjour -India' (French Cultural Festival), in 2010-11, France will have 'Namaste France' (Indian Cultural Festival). In 2010 before the formal visit of French President to India in December, the Prime Minister and President met twice in April and June on the sidelines of the Washington Nuclear Security Conference and G-20 Summit respectively.

In May the foreign offices of the two countries had their annual consultations, the last one was in Paris in 2009, when they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchange of views on regional and multilateral issues. The visit of President Sarkozy and his wife in December 2010 which also marked the 12 year of India-France strategic partnership offered them an opportunity to reiterate "their common determination to work for global peace and security."

The visit offered the two leaders an occasion to reaffirm "their shared vision and values inspired by multilateralism, justice, freedom, equality and fraternity." They reiterated their determination and confirmed their commitment to work together towards "peace and global security and reiterated their determination" to give a new impetus to the Indo-French Strategic Partnership. France has consistently supported India's aspirations for a permanent seat on the UNSC. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of President's visit the two countries reaffirmed their wish to continue and expand their dialogue and concrete cooperation in multilateral bodies, especially in UNSC during the 2011-2012 biennium, so as to address threats such as regional crises, terrorism, climate change and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, as well as to promote arms control and global disarmament. France recognized "India's non-proliferation record as well as its willingness to further contribute to global non-proliferation efforts". It also extended its full support to India's desire "for membership of multilateral export control regimes NSG, MTCR, AG, WA in a manner consistent with procedures and objectives of these groups."

At the start of the year 2010, on 14 January the India-France Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force along with the signing of Agreements on the protection of Confidentiality of Technical data and information relating to cooperation

in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and concerning intellectual property rights on the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which supplemented it.

While having some reservations but unmindful of the contents of the Indian nuclear civil liability Act, passed by the Indian parliament and much to India's satisfaction, France was willing to go ahead with the implementation of its agreement on the supply of nuclear reactors.

France agreed with New Delhi that the best way to secure Afghan independence and security was to strengthen the Afghan National Security Forces. Another area of concern to India is the question of terrorism particularly from across the border. Since it required international cooperation, President Sarkozy agreed with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in calling upon the international community to combat it firmly.

Russia

There were several visits from Russia underlining the continued warmth in the relations between the two countries. Both the Russian President and Prime Minister visited New Delhi for high level talks. During Russian Prime Minister Putin's visit five agreements/MoUs were signed in the fields of atomic energy, space, mineral development and their import etc. The visit of Russian President was an occasion to sign another eleven agreements also in diverse fields-- emergency management, simplification of travel documents, oil and gas sector, Science and Technology, combating irregular migration, pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbon etc.

The meetings of several joint commissions, functioning in multi disciplines, took place. The Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation met in October, the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation in November and the Joint Commission on Trade and Investment in December when a Protocol on trade and investments was also signed. A landmark contract was signed between the two countries coinciding with the visit of the Russian President in December for design and production of 5th generation fighter aircraft.

Russia *ab initio* has been in support of Indian permanent membership of the UNSC.

United Kingdom

The visit of British Prime Minister David Cameron to New Delhi in July was an opportunity for the Prime Ministers of the two countries to continue their discussion on bilateral and international issues initiated only a few weeks earlier on the sidelines of the Toronto G-20 Summit. While welcoming the development of broad based UK - India cooperation in the Defence Sector, they too stressed the importance of existing cooperation in combating terrorism. The British Prime Minister was supportive of a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council. Treating Afghanistan as one of the global security challenges, they agreed on the need for stability in Afghanistan.

Germany

Relations with Germany were described by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his visit to Berlin in December as "excellent" and without "bilateral irritants", for which he gave full credit to Chancellor Merkel and extended India's thanks to her. Since both India and Germany are members of the UN Security Council for the 2011-12 period, he promised "to work closely with Germany both bilaterally and within the G-4, to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council, as well as in support of the expansion of the permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership."

Poland

Another important visitor from Europe during the year was the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk who came in September. In exchange of views between the Prime Ministers of India and Poland it was agreed that both sides would endeavour to enhance trade and investments in both directions with the target of doubling the value of bilateral trade by 2014. They discussed global issues like reform of the UN Security Council and climate change and agreed to expand cooperation in the field of clean coal technology. Prime Minister Tusk reaffirmed the support of Poland for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2011-12 as well as for a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council.

Ice Land

President of Iceland, H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson accompanied by a 20-member strong business delegation was in New Delhi from January 11-17, 2010. He was conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007. In his meeting with Prime Minister, President Grimsson discussed bilateral and international issues, including cooperation in the field of geo-thermal energy, IT, carbon sequestration and recycling, glaciological studies, earthquake prediction and, oil exploration by Indian companies of Iceland's coast, besides discussing the way forward on Climate Change after the COP-15 Conference.

Turkey

Turkish President came calling in February in the background of rich historical connections, both cultural and political, dating back to the exchange of embassies between the Mughal and Ottoman courts in the 15th and 16th centuries and the enthusiastic support that the people of India lent in the foundation of the Turkish Republic after the First World War. The visit of President Abdullah Gul was marked by complete understanding on matters of mutual concern which led to the signing of two important declarations between the two countries—the Declaration on Terrorism and Declaration on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Great stress was laid on building institutional linkages such as parliaments and political parties of both the countries.

VII**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The anxiety felt in New Delhi when President Obama took over in Washington did not take time to vanish following the assumption of the reins of administration by him. The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the US in 2009 gave enough indications that not only would the older relations be maintained but pushed forward vigorously for which a new agenda was set. Mr. Obama in deference to Indian sensitivities maintained a hands off policy on Kashmir and prudently put pressure on Pakistan to be sensitive to Indian concerns about terrorism, cooperate in the investigations of the 26/11 and bring the perpetrators of the horrendous crime to justice. Similarly Obama Administration has been quite appreciative

of the Indian assistance programme in Afghanistan which sought to build and develop human resources and the much needed infrastructure in Afghanistan.

The high point of India-US relations was the visit to New Delhi of Mr. and Mrs. Obama. He went all out to respect the Indian sensitivities on all issues and characterized "the India-US relationship as one of defining partnership of the 21st Century". On the question of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, an issue close to the hearts of millions of Indians, President Obama was more than categorical. In his address to the Indian Parliament he gave an explicit assurance that the United State supported India's quest for a permanent seat, an assurance which was reflected in the Joint Statement issued at the end of his visit—"in the years ahead the United States looks forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member." They also pledged as strategic partners "to continue to consult each other closely on regional and global developments and remain sensitive to each other's interests". Until India's permanent membership came through, it was agreed between the two leaders that while India was non-permanent member of the UNSC their delegations in New York "will intensify their engagement and work together to ensure that the Council continue to effectively play the role envisioned for it in the UN Charter".

At the beginning of the year in January Defence Secretary Gates came calling and in his interaction with the Defence Minister A. K. Antony exchanged views and perspectives on a number of issues including the regional security situation and global security challenges. Both expressed "satisfaction about the improvement in bilateral defence relations since the signing of the bilateral cooperation agreement in 2005". The enhanced bilateral defence relations are now reflected in all areas, "including military to military interactions and in the area of defence trade".

Following the launch of India - US Global Strategic Partnership in 2009, the first such Dialogue, led by External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, took place in Washington in June. On the US side the talks were led by the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. At this talk, Mr. Krishna reiterated the importance that the Prime Minister attached to the Strategic Dialogue and his personal commitment to it. The EAM assured the US that India considered the mutually beneficial relationship with the United States to

be one of India's foremost foreign policy priorities. This reality was reflected in the Joint Statement issued at the end of the strategic talks, in the word that "as strategic partners, India and the United States would continue to consult each other closely on regional and global developments and remain sensitive to each other's interests".

VIII

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Coming to their own after half-century of waiting on the sidelines, the countries of the South are out to challenge an international order, built, when they were struggling to overthrow the colonial yoke. In resisting the reforms, some powers are now seeking to perpetuate themselves at the UN. But the reforms of the UN have become urgent. New Delhi with some other countries is engaged in a relentless struggle to break that monopoly of power of the few. The campaign has gathered enough momentum and support and it is now a question of time before the reforms come.

India by itself has gathered enough support from a range of countries both developed and developing. Of the P-5 countries only China has not yet come out clearly in favour of New Delhi though it continues to hedge its position by taking the line that the question of reforms of the UN needed "extensive and democratic consultations". To the G-4 Statement issued recently on the SC membership, China said "forcing premature plans (would) undermine the unity of the UN member states" since there were sharp differences over major issues". Barack Obama in his November speech to the Indian members of Parliament said: "We believe that India is a deserving candidate for permanent membership of the Security Council". The other three—the UK, France and Russia are committed to New Delhi's support. Meanwhile India has been elected to one of the non-permanent seats for the year 2011-12. India's candidature obtained 187 votes against 128 which were actually required. The External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna described "this resounding endorsement of India's candidature at the United Nations ...as a reaffirmation, if any were needed, of the overwhelming support that India enjoys in the international community". Significantly all the BRIC and IBSA and G-4 partners of India find themselves simultaneously on the Security Council.

IX

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**ASEAN**

ASEAN now has a population of more than 600 million with a combined gross domestic product of US \$ 1.5 trillion, marked by a high growth and political stability, a growing middle class, endowed by enormous natural resources, including some of the world's largest tracts of rainfall forests. With these considerable assets, ASEAN has thus become a regional organization with global significance. It is in a position to evolve the larger regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific region. With its dialogue partner, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN plus Three forum, ASEAN is already the hub of the region's key diplomatic process. ASEAN has naturally become an essential partner for India in the pursuit of its Look East Policy.

The ASEAN-India are having a dialogue since 1992 first as sectoral dialogue partners and since 1995 as full dialogue partners. The relationship was further elevated in 2002 at the ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then the ASEAN-India Summit has been held annually. From economic relationship, it now transcended to cover political and security dimensions. India participates in a series of consultative meetings with ASEAN under the ASEAN-India dialogue platform, which include Summit, ministerial and senior officials' meetings besides meetings at experts' level. It demonstrates its commitment and shared interest to ensuring peace, security, stability and development in Southeast Asia,

In October 2003 India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia at the 2nd ASEAN-India Summit in Bali and also signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism. In November 2004 at the Vientiane India - ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity was signed. It set out the roadmap for long-term ASEAN-India engagement. India has now appointed Mr. Biren Nanda as its Ambassador to the ASEAN. ASEAN and India will mark the 20th anniversary of their dialogue relationship in 2012 with a Commemorative Summit to be held in New Delhi. A number of commemorative activities have been planned to signify the expanding and deepening of the dialogue partnership.

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) has been established to take stock of ASEAN-India relations over the past 19 years and explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation between ASEAN and India. The EPG is expected to present their final report and recommendations to the ASEAN-India Summit in October 2011.

In 2008, the total volume of ASEAN-India trade was US\$ 47.5 billion. ASEAN's exports to India were US\$ 30.8 billion - a growth of 24.4% in comparison with that of 2007. ASEAN's imports from India were US\$ 17.9 billion - a growth of 44.5% in comparison to that of 2007. In 2009, the two-way trade between ASEAN and India stood at US\$ 39.1 billion. As for foreign direct investment (FDI), the inflow from India to ASEAN Member States was US\$ 591 million in 2008, accounting for 1.2% of total FDI in the region. In 2009, the FDI inflow from India to ASEAN was US\$ 970 million, accounting for 2.5% of total FDI in the region. Despite impact of the global financial/economic crisis, India remained the seventh largest trading partner of ASEAN and the sixth largest investor in ASEAN in 2009. At the 8th ASEAN-India Summit in October 2010, both sides reaffirmed their commitment made at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit to achieve bilateral trade target of US\$ 70 billion by 2012. While in 2009 India and ASEAN signed an agreement in goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation (which was signed in 2003), an agreement on Services is being worked out paving the way for the establishment of an ASEAN - India Free Trade Area. The Agreement on Goods of August 2009 has created one of the world's largest free trade areas (FTA) a market of almost 1.8 billion people with a combined GDP of US\$ 2.8 trillion.

SAARC

The 16th SAARC Summit marked the 25th anniversary of SAARC and was hosted by Bhutan in April 2010. In the two and a half decades robust institutional framework for cooperation in areas such as food security, poverty alleviation, terrorism, communications, and trade and economic has been set up. SAFTA, the SAARC Development Fund and the South Asian University and the like projects would promote greater economic linkages and people to people contacts.

The major theme of this years' summit being climate change, the Declaration that it adopted on Climate Change agreed to establish "an Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change to develop clear policy direction and guidance for regional cooperation as envisaged in the SAARC Plan of Action on Climate Change." In keeping with the theme of the Summit, the Summit Declaration too was appropriately titled "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia".

Accepting the need for a 'Vision Statement' after its existence for 25 years, the Declaration agreed to form a 'South Asia Forum' consisting of eminent personalities with diverse background from all the member States for the "generation of debate, discussion and the exchange of ideas on South Asia and its future development".

A very significant point that emerged at the meeting was that in the last few years all the SAARC countries have now multiparty democratic system and hence the need to focus on providing "effective, efficient, transparent and accountable government" to the people. This necessitated sharing of experiences by various countries by establishing institutional linkages in the political and parliamentary fields. The Bangladesh proposal for a "SAARC Charter of Democracy" to be discussed at an inter-governmental meeting was accepted and Dhaka offered to provide the venue and a Concept Paper for this purpose.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

India attended the two meetings of the SCO in the year 2010 as Observer. External Affairs Minister SM Krishna was present at the Summit at Tashkent in June and Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power attended the Council of the Heads of Government meeting at Dushanbe in November.

BRIC and IBSA

The Prime Minister visited Brasilia in April for the second BRIC and IBSA Summits. The first BRIC Summit was held in June 2009 at Yekaterinburg(Russia). The agenda of the Second BRIC Summit included discussions on the international financial and economic crisis, the G-20 related matters, climate change, UN reforms, regional issues including Iran, the Middle East and Haiti, and a general follow-up of the dialogue of BRIC countries.

It may be recalled that the BRIC idea took shape with the first meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries—Brazil, Russia, India and China on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2006. Since then they have been meeting annually on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. A standalone meeting of the Foreign Ministers was held in Yekaterinburg in May 2008. These consultations were found particularly useful especially in the context of the world economic and financial crisis. Since the last Summit Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, National Security Advisers and Governors of Central Banks of BRIC countries have met to make it a vibrant entity. The four large countries with abundant resources and large populations accounting for one-fifth of the world's GDP, working together expect to bring the benefits of inclusive social and economic development to their peoples. In 2011 the BRIC is to be expanded into BRICS by the inclusion of South Africa.

Simultaneous with the BRIC Summit, Brazil hosted the 4th IBSA Summit composed of India, Brazil and South Africa. IBSA has become a significant vehicle for comprehensive trilateral cooperation between three large democratic countries from three continents that share common values and are engaged in the development process to improve the lives of their peoples.

It is significant that IBSA cooperation is not limited to governments, but engages the civil societies of the three countries. Indeed civil society involvement is a significant aspect of IBSA. The IBSA countries also take up projects in other developing countries under the IBSA Trust Fund. This is a novel initiative of South - South cooperation. Currently such projects are located in seven countries. IBSA has committed more projects in Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquake there, and is considering additional projects in Palestine.

The Summit particularly focused on UN reform, the impact of global economic and financial crisis and scourge of terrorism. As the External Affairs Minister told the Parliament the leaders of the IBSA "reiterated the need for urgent reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more representative and democratic". Recognising the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries, the EAM told the parliament the three leaders meeting in Brasilia "emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable development and

called for a development-oriented, balanced and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade talks." Focusing on terrorism the Leaders "considered the scourge of terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security". While sympathizing with India as a victim of terrorism the IBSA Leaders "emphasized the need for early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism."

Nuclear Security Conference

President Obama of the United States while addressing the UN Security Council Summit in September 2009 on the question of nuclear non-proliferation had called for a nuclear Security Conference in Washington in April 2010. Accordingly this conference did take place in Washington and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was an important participant among the 47 Heads of Government apart from the UN, IAEA, and the EU.

Prime Minister informed the Conference of India's nuclear development programme and in so doing "also underlined (India's) concerns on clandestine proliferation and the danger of nuclear material and technical know-how falling into hands of non-state actors." He described the "new Russia-US agreement to cut their nuclear arsenals as a step in the right direction" and called on "all states with substantial nuclear arsenals to further accelerate this process". He said the "danger of nuclear terrorism makes early elimination of nuclear weapons a matter of even greater urgency".

At the Summit, Prime Minister announced "the establishment of a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership in India". The Centre to be "wholly owned and managed by the Government of India, would have four schools on Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety and Radioisotope applications. The Centre would also assist in safe, secure and proliferation-resistant promotion of nuclear energy, upgrading of standards and sharing of experience. The Prime Minister assured his audience that India "will develop it in partnership with IAEA and interested countries."

The Summit's outcome "was contained in a Communiqué and a Work Plan aimed at fostering political commitment on nuclear security and follow up action in forums such as the IAEA." India's Weapons of Mass Destruction

and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act of 2005 and Atomic Energy Act already provide the legal basis to implement nuclear security measures. India also ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 2005.

G-20

Other multilateral forums were also quite active during the year. There were two Summit level conferences of G-20 countries - in Toronto in June and in Seoul in November both of which were attended by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister felt that it was quite difficult to protect global growth in a situation where markets were nervous about debt sustainability. His assessment was that the recovery of the economy was quite fragile and private demand in the industrialized countries was likely to remain weak. His fear was that under the circumstances the "contractionary policies, if followed by many industrialized countries simultaneously, could provoke a double dip recession" which "would have very negative effects on developing countries, and on the prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Speaking from his own experience he said: "Thanks to an effective fiscal and monetary stimulus, we were able to contain the effect of the global crisis on our economy. After growing at 9 percent for four years before the crisis, our economy averaged about 7 percent growth in last two years. We expect to grow by 8.5 percent in 2010-11 and we hope to go back to 9 percent by 2011-12." He said India was "giving a strong push to investment in infrastructure, relying on private public partnership as much as possible to reduce the burden on scarce public resources".

ASEM

The Vice President Hamid Ansari represented India at the biennial Summit of Asian and European countries popularly known as ASEM at Brussels in October.

The overarching theme of the Summit was "Achieving Greater Wellbeing and Dignity for all Citizens". The agenda had five themes - (1) Financial and Economic Governance; (2) Sustainable Development; (3) Global Issues; (4) Regional Issues; and (5) People-to-People Visibility and Future of ASEM. This was the second summit level participation for India. The

Summit witnessed expansion of ASEM membership further by welcoming three new partners - Australia, New Zealand and Russia who attended the Summit for the first time. The total strength of the ASEM stands enlarged at 48.

ASEM brings together 27 European Union members and the European Commission from the European side, and from the Asian side it has ten ASEAN members and six other countries - China, India, Japan, Mongolia, Pakistan and South Korea. The six other countries are under a subgroup North, East and South Asia (NESA).

ASEM is a unique framework which brings Asia together with Europe on one platform for cross-continental dialogue and cross-fertilization of ideas on a wide range of topical issues. One of the objectives of ASEM is to focus on issues in which it can add value to ongoing processes in other multilateral frameworks. ASEM not only offers a platform to the leaders for informal dialogue on topical issues but also helps to shape the international policy agenda.

ASEM members together account for more than 40 per cent of the world's population; 50 per cent of global GDP; and 60 per cent of world trade. Twelve ASEM countries figure among the top 25 trading partners of India which itself offers a valuable forum for India's bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The last ASEM incidentally was held in Beijing in October 2008, which was attended by the Prime Minister. That was the first summit level meeting attended by India.

The Vice President in his intervention at the Summit particularly articulated the point highlighted by Prime Minister at the G-20 Summits "how to ensure global growth amidst debt sustainability concerns, especially in some of the Eurozone countries". Vice President stressed that fragile economic recovery and weak private demand in developed economies had caused sovereign debt problems which need utmost priority for fiscal consolidation. He stressed that shortcuts would not work to resolve the crisis and a differentiated strategy would need to be crafted to take into account the special circumstances of each country. In his opinion, international trade and investment offered "an important route forward towards non-inflationary and sustainable global economic recovery. Developing economies are focusing on increasing domestic demand, especially through enhanced

infrastructure investment". Hence the role of enhanced multilateral and private capital flows to developing economies had become critical.

X

TERRORISM

That terrorism has snowballed into an international problem needs hardly any emphasis or reiteration. India has suffered enormously from cross border terrorism and for too long. It has therefore consistently waged the struggle against this scourge at all levels. It is a recurring theme of discourse both in bilateral discussions and at international fora, whenever an opportunity offers itself. In the last few years, bilateral meetings have been coordinated by Ministry of External Affairs with 18 countries and groupings. Bilaterally, it is done through the mechanism of Counter-Terrorism Joint Working Groups (CT-JWGs). The Ministry currently coordinates CT-JWGs with 25 countries and 2 regional groupings. Ministry of Home Affairs also contributes its share by taking up this issue with the neighbours through bilateral mechanisms that exist with them. These efforts have proved very helpful in enabling exchange of views and experience regarding terror threats and groups, sharing of information, cooperation in training and capacity building, countering terror financing, sharing best practices, strengthening of multilateral efforts in countering terrorism and in facilitating agency to agency cooperation.

XI

NUCLEAR

Since the signing of the India-United States Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, India has successfully widened the area of its cooperation with many other countries. Another similar Agreement signed with France was ratified through exchange of Instruments of Ratification between the Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and the French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont on January 14, 2010. In accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, it entered into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. In 2009 the United Kingdom, Canada, Kazakhstan and Mongolia had promised cooperation in this field. Talks on nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes also opened with Japan.

On March 29 India and the United States took an important step towards implementing the civil nuclear cooperation agreement, by completing negotiations on "Arrangements and Procedures" for reprocessing U.S.-obligated spent nuclear fuel. Negotiations on these 'arrangements and procedures' commenced in July 2009 and were concluded during the last round of negotiations held in New Delhi on 2-4 March, 2010. These arrangements, negotiated pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, will enable Indian reprocessing of U.S.-obligated nuclear material under IAEA safeguards.

India crossed the final hurdle in the nuclear cooperation domain with the passage of Civil Nuclear Liability Damage Act in Parliament in August. With the Presidential assent granted on September 21, 2010 the way was cleared for India to sign the Convention on Supplementary Compensation on Nuclear Damage (CSC). It signed that Convention at Vienna on October 27, 2010 thereby delivering on the last of its commitments stemming from the nuclear agreement with the United States. The international covenant provided a framework for channeling liability for providing speedy compensation in the event of a nuclear accident, was signed at the International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna by Dinkar Khullar, India's Ambassador to Austria. The IAEA is the "depository" of the CSC, which has so far been signed by 14 countries but ratified by only four. The CSC will enter into force only when at least five countries with a minimum of 4,00,000 units of installed nuclear capacity ratify the treaty.

With India signing the CSC and the Obama administration issuing the requisite 'Part 810' licensing certification, the stage is now set for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. to begin full-fledged commercial negotiations with General Electric and Westinghouse for supply of two 1,000-MWe reactors. Three rounds of discussions of an exploratory nature have already been held.

There has been some difference of opinion between India and some of the supplier countries regarding certain provisions of the Act with regard to the liability of the Suppliers in case of civil damage. Despite this there has been God speed for the cooperation as no country has reneged from its promise to supply nuclear reactors for its civil nuclear energy programme.

Prime Minister described the passage of the Act a completion of journey to end apartheid against India in the field of atomic power. Widening the area of cooperation, India and the United Kingdom signed a Joint Declaration on February 11 on Civil Nuclear Cooperation and another agreement was signed with Canada on peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy in June. On March 12 India and Russia signed an Agreement for construction of Reactors of Russian design in India. The Agreement outlines the timelines for steps to be taken for the construction of Kudankulam units 3 & 4, provides for construction of two more reactors at Kudankulam (Units 5&6) and two reactors at Haripur, West Bengal during 12th Five Year Plan.

XII

In this globalized village, the story of India's vibrant democracy, emerging economy and transformation into a knowledge society has attracted world-wide attention and interest. Recognition of new found status of India as a responsible nuclear power with an impeccable record of non-proliferation has added to its prestige externally. The soft power that it has gathered through sports, education, cinema, music, art and literature, and advanced level of Information Technology have all contributed to its claim to its rightful place in the reformed UN Security Council reflecting the present day world than the one embedded in the post-war world when most of Asia and Africa were struggling to overthrow the colonial yoke.

The message of new and emerging India is now catching up fast through the medium of Public Diplomacy, which the Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao emphasized as one of "vehicle of dissemination of the ideas, the interests, the concepts and the approaches that define our foreign policy". Mrs. Rao while inaugurating the Public Diplomacy Conference in New Delhi on December 10 put it succinctly when she said: "As our foreign policy interests and strategic perspectives become more sharply honed, as our global presence become much more visible, as India's re-emergence grasps the world's attention, as our economy becomes one of the international frontrunners in terms of its accelerated growth rate, India's voice must be heard in multiple situations, before diverse audiences, and the task to fulfill this will be that of its diplomats who must be ever active in the tasks of advocating and explaining the Indian 'brand' as it were, because this is a compelling narrative surrounding the world's largest democracy

that must be heard." These are all the attributes of a soft power built on the values of Indian culture, ancient mingling with the modern building an inclusive society at home while projecting itself externally as a country willing to partner in building new relationship of 21st century discarding those of the post-war vintage.

India has not lagged behind in developing its hard power either. While a country can project its image on the strength of soft power, it cannot meet challenges to its security without hard power. All the three-arms of its defence forces are busy acquiring cutting-edge technologies. Its naval power is keeping the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean open and free. It is effectively engaged to meet the menace of piracy outside its waters in the Indian Ocean. In reaching out to the countries hit by Tsunami, its navy gave ample proof of its ability to play multiple roles. In joining with the ASEAN + Eight Defence Ministers conference at Hanoi in October, 2010 New Delhi gave notice of its expanded interest beyond the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. Through the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia and the Malacca Straits mechanisms, India is now partnering with other countries in the region to improve the safety of navigation in the Southeast Asia. As pointed out in this narrative earlier, India is a targeted country of such elements and is enthusiastic supporter of trans-national cooperation to meet these challenges. Its army and air force take part in war exercises with the armies and air force of the most advanced nations in the world and have acquitted themselves with distinction. Its security forces are helping in peace keeping operations on behalf of the UN in many parts of the world for the past almost half a century with distinction. Its police too has been engaged in maintaining law and order in many countries at the request and on behalf of the UN. It is acknowledged that the twenty-first century belongs to Asia. India is a hot contender for its rightful role in Asia and beyond.



CONTENTS

The documents listed here provide ready reference to the 750 documents bearing on India's foreign relations during the year 2010. 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.

	Page No. on CD	Page No. In Printed Book
Preface	IX	
Introduction	XI	

DOCUMENT NO. SECTION – I GENERAL

001.* Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Introduction of "Tourist Visa-on-Arrival" facility for tourists from Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore. New Delhi, January 1, 2010.	3	3
002. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Fourth R. N.Kao Memorial Lecture. New Delhi, January 19, 2010.	3	—
003. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the Conference titled "An International Dialogue between Islam and Oriental Religions", at the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. New Delhi, February 20, 2010	12	—
004. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Inauguration of the Indian Association of International Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. New Delhi, April 6, 2010	19	—
005. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit Conference. Washington (DC), April 12, 2010	21	—

006.	Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Defence College. New Delhi, April 27, 2010.	22	—
007.	Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration Ceremony of Passport Seva Kendra. Bengaluru, May 28, 2010.	26	—
008.*	Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the 9th IISS Asia Security Summit. Singapore, June 5, 2010.	29	5
009.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Kalyani Shankar for the All India Radio. New Delhi, August 12, 2010.	36	—
010.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Third Conference of Indian Heads of Missions. New Delhi, August 26, 2010.	43	—
011.*	Inauguration of the 3rd Indian Heads of Mission conference. New Delhi, August 27, 2010.	44	13
012.*	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Heads of Indian Missions. New Delhi, August 27, 2010.	47	16
013.*	Excerpts from the address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Combined Commanders' Conference. New Delhi, September 13, 2010.	49	18
014.*	Address by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at South Asia Initiative, Harvard University on "India's Global Role". Boston, September 20, 2010.	52	21
015.*	Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Asia Society on 'India in the 21st century: Strategic Imperatives'. New York, September 28, 2010.	64	33
016.	Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for Scholars. Washington (D. C.), October 8, 2010.	70	—
017.	Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during the ceremonial send off to Haj pilgrims. New Delhi, October 12, 2010.	77	—

CONTENTS**XLVII**

018	Address by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the inauguration of the Manekshaw Centre and Seminar on the "Role of Force in the Strategic Affairs" on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the National Defence College. New Delhi, October 21, 2010.	78	—
019.*	Keynote Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the seminar: "The Role of Force in Strategic Affairs" on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the National Defence College. New Delhi, October 21, 2010.	82	41
020.*	Valedictory Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Golden Jubilee Seminar of the National Defence College. New Delhi, October 22, 2010.	89	48
021.	Valedictory Address of Defence Minister A. K. Antony at the Golden Jubilee Seminar at the National Defence College. New Delhi, October 22, 2010.	93	—
022.	Inaugural Address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh the 9th International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition (Petrotech-2010). New Delhi, November 1, 2010.	95	—
023.	Inaugural Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the International Seminar titled "Indian Culture in a Globalised World" organised to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and 122nd Birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. New Delhi, November 11, 2010.	97	—
024.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister in Lok Sabha on Prime Minister's recent visits abroad. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	104	52
025.	Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at National Maritime Foundation on "India as a Consensual Stakeholder in the Indian Ocean: Policy Contours" New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	111	—

026.*	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at National Defence College on 'Challenges in India's Foreign Policy'. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	118	60
027.*	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Inaugural Session of Conference on 'Public Diplomacy in the Information Age'. New Delhi, December 10, 2010.	133	75
028.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the International Conference of Jurists on 'International Terrorism and Human Rights'. New Delhi, December 11, 2010	138	—
029.*	Response of Official Spokesperson on allegations by Red Cross as per Wikileaks. New Delhi, December 17, 2010.	140	80
030.	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at launch of Ministry of External Affairs & Public Diplomacy Division websites. New Delhi, December 24, 2010.	140	—

SECTION – II CLIMATE CHANGE

031.	Inaugural address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 97th Indian Science Congress. Thiruvananthapuram, January 3, 2010.	147	—
032.*	Statement issued at the end of the second meeting of the Ministers of the BASIC countries. New Delhi, January 24, 2010.	153	85
032-A.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the meeting of the Group of 77 on Brainstorming on Climate Change: Exchange of views on the Post-Copenhagen process and the way forward at the UN General Assembly. New York, February 3, 2010.	155	—
033.	Remarks of Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the 6th MEF meeting. Washington (D. C), April 18, 2010.	156	—

CONTENTS**XLIX**

034.* Chair's Summary of the Sixth Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. Washington (D. C.), April 19, 2010.	160	88
035.* Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the Third Meeting of the Minister of the BASIC countries. Cape Town, April 25, 2010.	161	89
036. Thimphu Statement on Climate Change issued by the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC countries. Thimphu, April 29, 2010.	164	—
037. Statement by Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests Vijai Sharma at the Climate and Forest Conference. Oslo, May 27, 2010.	165	—
038.* Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. New Delhi, May 28, 2010.	167	94
039. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the 7th MEF Meeting. Rome, June 30, 2010.	168	—
040. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the inauguration of the Conference on 'Global Carbon Budgets and Equity in Climate Change'. Mumbai, July 1, 2010.	172	—
041.* Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of the BASIC countries. Rio de Janeiro, July 26, 2010.	174	96
042.* Intervention on Climate Change by Minister of State Smt Preneet Kaur at the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' meeting. Port Vila, Vanuata, August 6, 2010.	177	99
043.* Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the Fifth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change. Tianjin, China, October 11, 2010.	178	100
044. Chair's Summary of the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on "Climate Change: Technology Mechanism". New Delhi, November 10, 2010.	182	—

045.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Forests on the press briefing by the Minister of State Jairam Ramesh at the end of the two-day Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change New Delhi, November 10, 2010.	186	—
046.*	India reiterates its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. New Delhi, December 1, 2010.	189	105
047.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at India's participation at the Cancun Conference on Climate Change. Cancun, December 7, 2010.	189	105
048.*	Speech of Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the Cancun Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. (COP-16). Cancun, December 8, 2010.	192	108

SECTION – III CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY

049.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs entering into force of India-France Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. New Delhi, January 14, 2010.	197	113
050.	Speech of Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shyam Saran at the Global Zero Summit on: 'India and the Pursuit of Global Zero - A World without Nuclear Weapons'. Paris, February 3, 2010.	197	—
051.*	Joint Declaration by India and the United Kingdom on Civil Nuclear Cooperation. New Delhi, February 11, 2010.	201	114
052.*	Press Statement issued by the Department of Atomic Energy on the India-Russia agreement on construction of Reactors of Russian design in India. Mumbai, March 13, 2010.	204	117
053.	Address by Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shyam Saran at the International Friendship Exchange Council of Japan on India-Japan Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Tokyo, March 29, 2010.	204	—

CONTENTS**LI**

054.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India - U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation - Reprocessing Arrangement. New Delhi, March 29, 2010.	210	—
055.*	Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's Visit to Washington for the Nuclear Security Summit. New Delhi, April 4, 2010.	224	118
056.	Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for USA for the Nuclear Security Summit. New Delhi, April 9, 2010.	230	—
057.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference. Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010.	230	124
058.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Nuclear Security Summit. Washington, April 13, 2010.	239	133
059.*	Press Conference of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the end of his stay in Washington to attend the Nuclear Security Conference. Washington (D. C), April 13, 2010.	243	137
060.	Communique of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit. Washington (D. C), April 13, 2010.	249	—
061.	Work Plan of Washington Nuclear Security Summit. Washington (DC) April 13, 2010	252	—
062.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the Prime Minister's visits abroad to attend the Nuclear Security, IBSA and BRIC Summits. New Delhi, April 23, 2010.	260	143
063.*	Media Note issued by the Prime Minister's Office - Agreement between India and Canada for Co-operation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	265	149
064.	Statement by Dr. S. Banerjee, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission & Leader of the Indian delegation at the 54th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Vienna, September 22, 2010.	266	—

065.	Media Report on India signing the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), and text of the Convention. Vienna, October 27, 2010.	271	—
------	---	-----	---

SECTION – IV MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

ASEAN

066.*	Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Delhi Dialogue-II. New Delhi, January 21, 2010.	305	153
067.	Press Releases issued by the Embassy of India in Vietnam on the visit of Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur to Hanoi for the 17th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial meeting. Hanoi, July 23, 2010.	308	—
068.	Press Statement of the 8th ASEAN Economic Ministers Conference. Da Nang (Vietnam), August 27, 2010.	311	—
069.*	Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Hanoi on recognition of Observer Status for India by ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. Hanoi, September 24, 2010.	313	157
070.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of Defence Minister A. K. Antony to Hanoi to attend the meeting of the Defence Ministers of ASEAN PLUS Eight Countries. New Delhi, October 12, 2010.	314	—
071.*	Hanoi Joint Declaration on the First ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. Hanoi, October 12, 2010.	316	158
072.	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's visits to Japan and Malaysia and to Hanoi for the India-ASEAN Summit. New Delhi, October 22, 2010.	318	—

CONTENTS**LIII**

073.*	Media Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit. Hanoi, October 29, 2010	318	161
074.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 8th India-ASEAN Summit. Hanoi, October 30, 2010.	324	167
075.	Statement by the Chairman of the 8th ASEAN-INDIA Summit. Hanoi, October 30, 2010.	327	—
076.	Press Release issued by the ASEAN Secretariat on the 8th ASEAN-India Summit. Hanoi, October 30, 2010.	330	—
076-A*	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the fifth East Asia Summit. Hanoi, October 30, 2010.	332	170
077.	Hanoi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit. Hanoi, October 30, 2010.	335	—
078.*	Relevant extracts from the Interaction by Prime Minister with the media on board VVIP flight on way back to New Delhi from Hanoi. October 30, 2010.	337	174
079.*	Media briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon onboard special flight from Hanoi to New Delhi. October 30, 2010.	339	176
080.*	Extract relevant to India-ASEAN and East Asia Summit from the Suo Motu Statement in the Lok Sabha by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Prime Minister's visits abroad. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	342	179
ASEM			
081.	Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari's visit for ASEM Summit. New Delhi, October 1, 2010.	344	—
082.*	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Eighth ASEM Summit. Brussels, October 4, 2010.	352	182

083.*	Intervention by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Eighth ASEM Summit: Intervention on Economic and Financial Governance. Brussels, October 4, 2010	354	184
084.	Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Vice-President's Bilateral Meetings in Brussels. Brussels, October 4, 2010.	356	—
IBSA–BRIC–RIC			
085.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (Economic Relations) and Secretary Secretary (West) on Prime Minister's Visit to Brazil for IBSA and BRIC Summits. New Delhi, April 9, 2010.	362	186
086.*	Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for USA for the Nuclear Security Summit and Brazil for the IBSA and BRIC Summits. New Delhi, April 9, 2010.	371	196
86-A.*	Press Statement of IBSA Forum on the occasion of the election of India, Brazil and South Africa as non-permanent members of UNSC. New York, October 12, 2010.	373	197
087.*	Opening Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Press Conference after the IBSA Summit. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	374	199
088.	Joint Communiqué issued by the Ministers of the IBSA countries on the Situation in the Middle East. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	375	—
089.	Brasilia Declaration of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum Fourth Summit Conference. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	377	—
090.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the IBSA Trust Fund Receiving 'Millennium Development Goal' Award. New Delhi, September 21, 2010.	389	201
091.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at IBSA Ministerial Meeting. New York, September 25, 2010.	390	202

CONTENTS**LV**

092.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the "IBSA -Joint Statement": Open consultations on Enhanced Cooperation at the UN. New York, 14 December, 2010.	392	—
093.*	Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the BRIC Summit. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	393	205
094.*	Opening Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during Media Interaction following the BRIC Summit. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	396	208
095.	Joint Statement issued at the end of the II BRIC Summit. Brasilia, April 16, 2010.	397	—
096.	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the Prime Minister's visits abroad to attend the Nuclear Security, IBSA and BRIC Summits. New Delhi, April 23, 2010.	405	—
097.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Wuhan for RIC Ministerial meeting. New Delhi, November 13, 2010.	405	210
098.	Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the 10th Russia-India-China (RIC) Ministerial Meeting. Wuhan (China), November 15, 2010.	414	—
EU			
099.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Meetings of Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission with Indian leaders. New Delhi, June 23, 2010.	420	—
100.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany. New Delhi, December 7, 2010.	420	—
101.	Statement by the Prime Minister on the eve of his departure for Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany. New Delhi, December 9, 2010.	421	—

102.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju and Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar on India-European Union Summit Brussels, December 10, 2010.	421	220
103.	Joint Declaration on International Terrorism issued on the conclusion of the India-EU Summit. Brussels, December 10, 2010.	429	—
104.	Joint Declaration issued on the conclusion of the Summit of the European Commission and the Government of India for cooperation and dialogue in the field of Culture. Brussels, December 10, 2010.	432	—
105.*	Joint Statement issued at the end of the EU-India Brussels, December 10, 2010.	434	228
106.*	Joint Press Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy after EU-India Summit. Brussels, December 10, 2010.	438	232
107.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the Address by Commerce Minister to the India - European Union Business Summit. Brussels, December 10, 2010.	446	240
G-20			
108.	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Prime Minister's Visit to Canada. New Delhi, June 22, 2010.	447	—
109.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Toronto to attend the G-20 Summit Conference. New Delhi, June 25, 2010.	447	241
110.*	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the G-20 Summit. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	448	242
111.*	Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao, Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla and Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the G-20 Summit. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	451	245

CONTENTS**LVII**

112.	Declaration issued at the end of the Summit Conference of G-20 countries. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	462	—
113.*	Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media onboard his special flight from Toronto to New Delhi while returning from the G20 Summit. June 28, 2010.	495	256
114.	Keynote Address by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the international conference on "International Cooperation in Times of Global Crisis: Views from G-20 Countries". New Delhi, September 17, 2010.	500	—
115.*	Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Seoul for G20 Summit. New Delhi, November 9, 2010.	503	262
116.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to Singh departure for Seoul for the G-20 Summit. New Delhi, November 10, 2010	510	269
117.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on PM's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Seoul, November 11, 2010.	511	270
118.*	Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the G-20 Summit. Seoul, November 12, 2010	519	278
119	The G - 20 Seoul Summit Leaders' Declaration. Seoul, November 11-12, 2010.	524	—
120.*	Media Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh onboard his special flight returning from Seoul to New Delhi. November 12, 2010.	559	283
121.*	Extract relevant to G-20 Summit from the Suo Motu Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on Prime Ministers visits abroad. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	564	288
SAARC			
122.*	Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Thimphu for SAARC Summit. New Delhi, April 22, 2010.	567	291

123.*	Opening Remarks by Foreign Secretary at SAARC Standing Committee Meeting on the SAARC Secretary General's Report. Thimphu, April 25, 2010.	575	299
124.*	Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to media after the meeting of 37th Session of the Standing Committee of the SAARC. Thimphu, April 25, 2010.	577	301
125.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Thimphu for the SAARC Summit. Thimphu, April 26, 2010.	578	302
126.*	Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 32nd Session of SAARC Council of Ministers meeting. Thimphu, April 27, 2010.	579	303
127.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the eve of his departure for Bhutan to attend the SAARC Summit. New Delhi, April 27, 2010.	584	308
128.*	Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 16th SAARC Summit. Thimphu, April 28, 2010.	585	309
129.	Press Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagements at Thimphu. Thimphu, April 29, 2010.	589	—
130.	Thimphu Statement on Climate Change issued by the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC countries. Thimphu, April 29, 2010.	597	—
131.*	Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia" issued on the conclusion of the 16th SAARC Summit. Thimphu, April 29, 2010.	601	314
132.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on "Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan for the 16th SAARC Summit". New Delhi, May 3, 2010.	609	322

CONTENTS**LIX**

133.	Inaugural Address of External Affairs Minister at the International Conference on SAARC@ 25. New Delhi, September 16, 2010.	612	—
SCO			
134.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs S. M. Krishna's visit to Tashkent for SCO Summit. New Delhi, June 9, 2010.	616	325
135.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the plenary session of Tashkent Summit of SCO. Tashkent, June 11, 2010.	619	328
135A.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of SCO Director, Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. New Delhi, September 10, 2010.	621	330
136.	Statement by Minister of Power Sushil Shinde at SCO Meeting. Dushanbe, November 25, 2010.	622	—
ASIA-MIDDLE DIALOGUE			
137.	Address by Minister of State Smt Preneet Kaur at the 3rd Asia- Middle East Dialogue Meeting. Bangkok, December 15, 2010.	625	—
G-15			
138.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of G-15 Summit. Tehran, May 17, 2010.	631	331
139.*	Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers. New York, September 24, 2010.	632	333
CICA			
140.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to Istanbul for 3rd Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit. Istanbul, June 8, 2010.	634	—

SIDS

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|---|
| 141. | Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Review Meeting of the Mauritius strategy for implementation on Small Island Developing States. New York, September 25, 2010. | 636 | — |
|------|---|-----|---|

SICA

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|---|
| 142. | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India-SICA (Integrated System of Central America) Dialogue on the margins of 65th UNGA session. New York, September 27, 2010. | 639 | — |
|------|---|-----|---|

NAM

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|
| 143.* | Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine. New York, September 25, 2010 | 642 | 336 |
| 144. | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at NAM Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meeting. New York, September 27, 2010. | 644 | — |

COMMONWEALTH

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|
| 145. | Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries. New Delhi, January 5, 2010. | 648 | — |
| 146.* | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting. New York, September 27, 2010. | 651 | 338 |

BIMSTEC

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|---|
| 147. | Keynote address by Minister of State Dr Shashi Tharoor "India's North-East and BIMSTEC- A Retrospect". Shillong, April 9, 2010. | 653 | — |
|------|---|-----|---|

PACIFIC ISLAND-FORUM DIALOGUE

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|---|
| 148. | Opening Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the plenary of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' meeting. Port Vila, Vanuata, August 6, 2010. | 661 | — |
|------|---|-----|---|

CONTENTS**LXI**

- | | | | |
|------|--|-----|---|
| 149. | Intervention on Climate Change by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Post-Forum Partners meeting. Port Villa, Vanuata, August 6, 2010. | 662 | — |
|------|--|-----|---|

**SECTION – V
DIASPORA**

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|-----|
| 150.* | Statements issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Various incidents of violence against Indians in Australia. January 2010. | 665 | 343 |
| 151.* | Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the First Meeting of his Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians. New Delhi, January 7, 2010. | 670 | 348 |
| 152. | Speech by the Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the High Commissioner in Zambia. Lusaka, January 7, 2010. | 671 | — |
| 153. | Inaugural Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the inauguration of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. New Delhi, January 8, 2010. | 671 | — |
| 154. | Speech by Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna at the Plenary Session of PIO Ministers and dignitaries from the overseas Indian community. New Delhi, January 8, 2010. | 675 | — |
| 155.* | Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian on the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the speech of Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. New Delhi, January 8, 2010. | 683 | 350 |
| 156. | Speech of Minister of State Shashi Tharoor at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. New Delhi, January 9, 2010. | 684 | — |
| 157. | Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Valedictory Function of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. New Delhi, January 9, 2010. | 688 | — |
| 158. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the conclusion of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2010. New Delhi, January 9, 2010. | 691 | — |

159.	Address by Vice President H. Hamid Ansari to the Indian Community at a Reception hosted by the High Commissioner in Botswana. Gaborone, January 11, 2010.	693	—
160.*	Excerpts relevant to treatment of Indians in Australia from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao under the programme 'Devil's Advocate' at the CNN-IBN TV with Karan Thapar. New Delhi, January 17, 2010.	693	352
161.	Speech by External Affairs Minister at the Reception hosed by the High Commissioner TCA Raghavan for the Indian Community in Singapore. Singapore, March 26, 2010.	695	—
162.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Ambassador in Vietnam. Vientiane, September 9, 2010.	697	—
163.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Ambassador in Combodia. Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 13, 2010.	697	—
164.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the successful conclusion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Durban, South Africa. New Delhi, October 7, 2010.	698	—
165.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of Social Security Agreement with the Republic of Korea. New Delhi, October 19, 2010.	700	356
166.	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Indian Community Reception hosted by the High Commissioner in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, October 28, 2010.	702	—

- | | | | |
|------|--|-----|---|
| 167. | Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy and Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs Dr. A. Didar Singh on the Indian Workers Resource Centre. Dubai, November 23, 2010. | 702 | — |
|------|--|-----|---|

SECTION – VI

(i) SOUTH ASIA—COUNTRIES OF THE SAARC

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|---|
| 168. | 17th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture by Minister of State Dr Shashi Tharoor on "India's Vision of Peace, Security and Development in South Asia". New Delhi, January 11, 2010. | 715 | — |
|------|---|-----|---|

AFGHANISTAN

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|-----|
| 169.* | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on India's Policy towards Afghanistan. New Delhi, February 24, 2010. | 727 | 363 |
| 170.* | Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the bomb blasts in Kabul. New Delhi, February 26, 2010. | 728 | 365 |
| 171.* | Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the telephonic call by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. New Delhi, February 27, 2010. | 729 | 365 |
| 172.* | Response of Official Spokesperson to a query on reports regarding temporary suspension of functioning of Indian Medical Missions in Afghanistan. New Delhi, March 6, 2010. | 729 | 366 |
| 173.* | Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. New Delhi, April 26, 2010. | 730 | 366 |
| 174.* | Statements to the Press by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. New Delhi, April 26, 2010. | 731 | 368 |
| 175.* | Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Afghanistan -India-Pakistan Trialogue organised by Delhi Policy Group. New Delhi, June 13, 2010. | 734 | 370 |

176.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council. New York, June 30, 2010.	741	—
177.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Conference on Afghanistan. Kabul, July 20, 2010.	741	378
178.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate. New Delhi, August 8, 2010.	743	—
179.	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul. New Delhi, August 24, 2010.	744	—
180.*	Joint Statement issued during the visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Zalmay Rassoul. New Delhi, August 25, 2010.	747	381
181.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council. New York, September 29, 2010.	748	—
182.	Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on the situation in Afghanistan at the unga. New York, Novemebr 4, 2010.	748	—
183.*	Statement by Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur at the Afghanistan International Investment Conference. Dubai, November 30, 2010.	749	383
184.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation in Afghanistan at the un Security Council. New York, December 22, 2010.	752	—

BANGLADESH

185.*	Statement by Foreign Secretary on the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. New Delhi, January 10, 2010.	752	387
186.*	Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Banquet hosted in honour of Prime Minister of Bangladesh. New Delhi, January 11, 2010.	753	388

CONTENTS**LXV**

187.*	Joint Communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit to India of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. New Delhi, January 12, 2010.	755	390
188.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh while presenting presenting Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development - 2009 to Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. New Delhi, January 12, 2010.	763	—
189.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the India-Bangladesh 37th Joint Rivers Commission. New Delhi, March 19, 2010.	765	—
190.	Remarks by Finance Minister to media on the occasion of the signing of US\$ One Billion Line of Credit Agreement between EXIM Bank and Government of Bangladesh. Dhaka, August 7, 2010.	767	—
191.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 4th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group. New Delhi, November 11, 2010.	769	—
BHUTAN			
192.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on "Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan for the 16th SAARC Summit". New Delhi, May 3, 2010.	771	399
NEPAL			
193.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Kathmandu. Kathmandu, January 15, 2010.	774	402
194.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the banquet hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Ms. Sujata Koirala. Kathmandu, January 15, 2010.	774	403
195.*	Statement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on meeting between External Affairs Minister and Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dhal 'Prachanda'. Kathmandu, January 16, 2010.	776	404

196.*	Joint Press Statement on the Official Visit of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to Nepal. Kathmandu, January 17, 2010.	776	405
197.	Speech by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the Nepalese President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav. New Delhi, February 16, 2010.	781	—
PAKISTAN			
198.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on exchange of lists of Nuclear Installations by India and Pakistan. New Delhi, January 1, 2010.	783	—
199.*	Response of Official Spokesperson on comments made by the so-called Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. New Delhi, January 1, 2010.	784	410
200.	Excerpts relevant to Pakistan from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao under the programme 'Devil's Advocate' at the CNN-IBN TV with Karan Thapar. New Delhi, January 17, 2010.	785	—
201.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Participation of Pakistani Cricketers in Indian Premier League Cricket, 2010. New Delhi, January 21, 2010.	792	—
202.	Response of Official Spokesperson to a query regarding recent ceasefire violations by Pakistan. New Delhi, January 22, 2010.	793	—
203.	Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media on board his special flight on way to New Delhi from Riyadh. March 1, 2010.	793	—
204.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Reports relating to unresolved humanitarian issues between India and Pakistan pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody. New Delhi, March 6, 2010.	794	412
205.*	Response of Official Spokesperson to a reported statement on Hafiz Saeed. New Delhi, March 7, 2010.	794	412

CONTENTS**LXVII**

206.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs condemning the terrorist attacks in Lahore on March 12, 2010 and rejecting Pakistan's allegation of Indian hand in these attacks. New Delhi, March 13, 2010.	795	413
207.*	Speech by High Commissioner of India in Pakistan Sharat Sabharwal at the function organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations and Pakistan-India Citizens Friendship Forum on the question of Indus Waters. Karachi, April 3, 2010.	796	414
208.	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's meeting with the U. S. President Barack Obama. Washington (D. C.), 11 April, 2010.	806	—
209.*	Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Thimphu for SAARC Summit. New Delhi, April 22, 2010.	806	424
210.	Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Press Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagements at Thimphu. Thimphu, April 29, 2010.	809	—
211.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on his telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. New Delhi, May 11, 2010.	816	427
212.	Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna with Raj Chengappa, Editor-in-Chief of the daily The Tribune published from Chandigarh. New Delhi, May 20, 2010.	816	—
213.*	Reaction of the Government of India to comments made by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at its 37th Foreign Ministers Meeting. New Delhi, May 26, 2010.	821	428
214.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Terrorist Attacks in Lahore on May 28, 2010. New Delhi, May 28, 2010.	821	428
215.	Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Afghanistan-India-Pakistan Trialogue organised by Delhi Policy Group. New Delhi, June 13, 2010.	822	—

216.	Response of Official Spokesperson on nomination of two arbitrators by India in respect of Kishenganga Hydro-electric Project. New Delhi, June 16, 2010.	822	—
217.*	Statement by Official Spokesperson on handing over information to Pakistan on Mumbai Terror Attacks. New Delhi, June 18, 2010.	823	429
218.*	Extract* relevant to Pakistan from the Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary and Secretary (West) on the Prime Minister's visit to Canada. New Delhi, June 22, 2010.	823	430
219.*	Remarks by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at press conference in Islamabad. Islamabad, June 24, 2010.	825	432
220.	Response of Official Spokesperson to terrorist attack in Lahore. New Delhi, July 2, 2010.	828	—
221.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Pakistan for bilateral talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister. Islamabad, July 14, 2010.	829	436
222.*	Opening Statements by Pakistan Foreign Minister and External Affairs Minister S.M.Krishna at the Joint Press Interaction. Islamabad, July 15, 2010.	830	437
223.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to CNN IBN TV. New Delhi, July 16, 2010.	834	—
224.*	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with NDTV. New Delhi, July 16, 2010.	836	441
225.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the TV channel 'Times Now'. New Delhi, July 16, 2010.	840	—
226.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to 'Headlines Today' TV Channel. New Delhi, July 18, 2010.	842	—
227.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by 'News X' TV Channel. New Delhi, July 18, 2010.	845	—

CONTENTS**LXIX**

228.*	Response of Official Spokesperson to ISI-related reports on 'Wikileaks'. New Delhi, July 27, 2010.	850	446
229.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with weekly 'Outlook'. New Delhi, August 6, 2010.	851	—
230.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate. New Delhi, August 8, 2010.	854	—
231.*	Government of India announced 'Aid assistance of USD 5 million for provision of relief material to flood victims in Pakistan'. New Delhi, August 13, 2010.863	863	447
232.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister's telephonic talk with Pakistan Prime Minister to condole the loss of life and property in the recent floods and offer of assistance. New Delhi, August 19, 2010.	864	448
233.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN at the Plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider the humanitarian situation resulting from floods in Pakistan. New York, August 20, 2010.	864	—
234.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in Parliament on India's offer of assistance of US \$ 25 million to Pakistan for flood relief. New Delhi, August 31, 2010.	864	449
235.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister's letter to his Counterpart conveying Eid greetings. New Delhi, September 9, 2010.	866	—
236.*	Response of Official Spokesperson to gratuitous Pakistan statements on J&K. New Delhi, September 17, 2010.	868	451
237.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN, at the launch of the revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan. New York, September 17, 2010.	869	—

238.*	Statement of Official Spokesperson rejecting resolutions on J&K by Pak National Assembly and Senate. New Delhi, September 21, 2010.	869	452
239.*	Statement by Manish Gupta, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN exercising Right of Reply for the first time during the General Debate of 65th session of UNGA. September 29, 2010.	870	453
240.*	Response of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the remarks by Pakistan Foreign Minister regarding Jammu & Kashmir. New York, September 29, 2010.	871	454
241.*	Response of Official Spokesperson to former Pakistan President General Musharraf's statement on Pakistan training for terrorism in J&K. New Delhi, October 6, 2010.	872	455
242.	Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at the Symposium on "The Future of India-Pakistan Relations" at the Pakistan Studies Programme of the Jamia Milia Islamia. New Delhi, October 19, 2010.	873	—
243.*	Response of Official Spokesperson to Pakistan proposal for sending a Judicial Commission to India in connection with the Mumbai Terrorist attack. New Delhi, October 20, 2010.	878	456
244.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on Defence Minister A. K. Antony's statement at the Army Commanders Conference. New Delhi, October 25, 2010.	879	—
245.*	Information supplied to the Lok Sabha in reply to a question regarding international cooperation on terrorism. New Delhi, November 10, 2010.	881	457
246.	Reiteration by India of its request to Pakistan to act on its commitment to bring perpetrators of Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice. New Delhi, November 25, 2010.	882	—
247.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the media on the 2nd anniversary of Mumbai attack. Colombo, November 26, 2010.	883	458

CONTENTS**LXXI**

248.* Extract relevant to Pakistan from the press briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the ongoing visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	884	459
SRI LANKA		
249. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the congratulatory message from Prime Minister to Sri Lanka President Mahind Rajapaksa on his reelection as President for the second term.. New Delhi, January 27, 2010.	887	—
250. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka. Colombo, March 8, 2010.	887	—
251. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs the establishment of Short-Term Indian Chair at the University of Colombo, New Delhi, March 19, 2010.	890	—
252.* Joint Declaration issued during the visit of President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa. New Delhi, June 9, 2010.	891	463
253.* Remarks by Foreign Secretary at media briefing on the State Visit of President of Sri Lanka. New Delhi, June 9, 2010.	900	472
254. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa. New Delhi, June 9, 2010.	902	—
255. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka. Colombo, August 31, 2010.	905	—
256. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka. Colombo, September 1, 2010.	907	—
257.* Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Sri Lanka. New Delhi, November 23, 2010.	909	476

258.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Colombo. Colombo, November 25, 2010.	913	480
259.*	Agreed Minutes of the 7th session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. Colombo, November 26, 2010.	914	481
260.	Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media after the 7th India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meeting. Colombo, November 26, 2010.	925	—
261.	Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Works for the Reconstruction of Northern Railway Lines. Medawachchiya (Sri Lanka), November 27, 2010.	927	—
262.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Consulate General of India at Jaffna. Jaffna, November 27, 2010.	929	492
263.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of Consulate General of India at Hambantota. Hambantota, November 28, 2010.	932	496

SECTION – VI

(ii) SOUTH EAST, EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

264.	Statements issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the various incidents of violence against Indians in Australia. January, 2010.	937	—
265.	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visits of Foreign Ministers of Australia and Norway. New Delhi, March 2, 2010.	937	—
266.*	Statement by the Official Spokesperson commenting on the statement of Australian Prime Minister regarding security in New Delhi during the Commonwealth Games. New Delhi, September 25, 2010.	944	501

CONTENTS**LXXIII****CAMBODIA**

267.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on President's visits to Laos and Cambodia. New Delhi, September 8, 2010.	945	502
268.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on her way to the State visits to Laos and Cambodia on board the Special Flight. September 9, 2010.	951	—
269.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Indian Ambassador. Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 13, 2010.	953	—
270.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni. Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 14, 2010.	956	—
271.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India - Cambodia Business meeting. Phnom Penh, September 15, 2010.	958	—
272.*	Remarks by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the Governor of Siem Reap Province. Siem Reap (Cambodia), September 16, 2010.	961	509
273.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Media on board the Special Flight on her way back from her State Visits to Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia. September 18, 2010.	962	—
CHINA			
274.	Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Book Release function at the Observer Research Foundation. New Delhi, January 7, 2010.	965	—
275.	Official Spokesperson's Response to a question on detention of Indian nationals in China. New Delhi, January 12, 2010.	968	—
276.	Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce after meeting of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Beijing, January 19, 2010.	969	—

277.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs to the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and China. New Delhi, April 1, 2010.	971	—
278.*	Keynote Address by National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon at the seminar organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs & Institute of Chinese Studies Seminar on "India and China: Public Diplomacy, Building Understanding". New Delhi, April 1, 2010.	972	513
279.*	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to China. New Delhi, April 3, 2010.	977	519
280.*	Speech by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) on 'India and China in the 21st Century World'. Beijing, April 6, 2010.	990	532
281.	Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Opening Ceremony of the Festival of India in Beijing. Beijing, April 7, 2010.	997	—
282.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the External Affairs Minister's talks with Chinese leaders. Beijing, April, 7, 2010.	998	539
283.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's meeting with President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the IBSA and BRIC Summits. Brasilia, April 15, 2010.	1006	547
284.	Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chinese President Hu Jintao at the loss of lives in an earthquake in China. New Delhi, April 15, 2010.	1013	—
285.*	Questions relevant to China answered by Foreign Secretary at the Media Briefing on Prime Ministers visit to Bhutan for the SAARC Summit. New Delhi, April 21, 2010.	1014	554
286.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to China. New Delhi, May 25, 2010.	1015	555

CONTENTS**LXXV**

287.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao during the visit of President to China. Beijing, May 27, 2010.	1025	566
288.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on President's meetings in China. Beijing, May 28, 2010.	1034	575
289.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on President's Meetings in Shanghai. Shanghai, May 30, 2010.	1037	—
290.	Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Beijing on the ICCR Chair at Fudan University, China. Shanghai, May 31, 2010.	1047	—
291.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate. New Delhi, August 8, 2010.	1048	—
292.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on defense exchanges with China. New Delhi, August 27, 2010.	1048	579
293.	India - China Trade figures supplied by the Ministry of Commerce to the Rajya Sabha in answer to a question on September 8, 2010.	1049	—
294.*	Extract Relevant to China from the Media Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit. Hanoi, October 29, 2010	1050	580
295.*	Keynote Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inaugural session of 2nd Seminar on India-China Relations organized by the Indian National Congress and Communist Party of China. New Delhi, November 1, 2010.	1055	585
296.	Speech of Defence Minister A. K. Antony while presenting "K. Subrahmanyam" award to Dr. Srikant Kondapalli a scholar of Chinese studies. New Delhi, November 11, 2010.	1060	—

297.*	Media Report of the remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Russia-China-India trilateral meeting. Wuhan (China), November 14, 2010.	1063	591
298.	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on "India-China relations" at Observer Research Foundation Conference on China. New Delhi, December 3, 2010.	1065	—
299.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of Chinese Premier. New Delhi, December 13, 2010.	1071	593
300.*	Opening remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the delegation level talks with Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1083	605
301.*	Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Indian Council of World Affairs welcoming the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1084	606
302.*	Joint Communiqué issued during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1086	608
303.*	Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the ongoing visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1093	615
304.	Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the closing ceremony of Festival of China in India. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1104	—
305.	Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted in honour of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. New Delhi, December 16, 2010.	1106	—
306.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for India Tonight Programme on CNBC TV-18. New Delhi, December 21, 2010.	1108	—

CONTENTS**LXXVII****INDONESIA**

307. Press Release issued by the Cabinet Secretariat of the approval by the Union Cabinet to open a Consulate General of India in Bali (Indonesia).
New Delhi, November 4, 2010. 1118 —

JAPAN

308. Joint Statement between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Planning Commission of India on the occasion of the Fourth Meeting of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue.
New Delhi, April 30, 2010. 1119 —
309. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue.
New Delhi, July 6, 2010. 1127 —
310. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-Japan Foreign Office Consultations.
New Delhi, July 6, 2010. 1128 —
- 311.* Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of Foreign Minister of Japan.
New Delhi, August 20, 2010. 1129 628
- 312.* Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan.
New Delhi, August 21, 2010. 1136 635
- 313.* Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's three-nation (Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam) visit.
New Delhi, October 22, 2010. 1143 643
314. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japanese media prior to departure for Tokyo.
New Delhi, October 24, 2010. 1155 —
315. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the business luncheon hosted in his honour by Nippon Keidanren.
Tokyo, October 25, 2010. 1161 —

316.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction with Japanese Prime Minister. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1166	655
317.*	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception Reception jointly hosted by the Embassy of India, Japan-India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1168	—
318.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's engagements at Tokyo. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1170	657
319.*	Joint Statement of 'Vision for India - Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade' issued during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1179	667
320.*	Joint Declaration between Leaders of India and Japan on the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1188	676
321.	Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan. Tokyo, October 25, 2010	1190	—
322.	Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Japanese Prime Minister. Tokyo, October 25, 2010.	1198	—
323.*	Extract relevant to Japan from the Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister in Lok Sabha on Prime Minister's recent visits abroad. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1200	678
324.	Press Release on the Indian Council of Cultural Relations constituting a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Ryukoku at Kyoto. Kyoto, November 24, 2010.	1202	—
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF			
325.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the State Visit of President of Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak. New Delhi, January 22, 2010.	1203	680

CONTENTS**LXXIX**

326.*	Opening Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the delegation level talks with President of Republic of Korea. New Delhi, January 25, 2010.	1210	688
327.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on the signing of India-South Korea agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology. New Delhi, January 25, 2010.	1211	689
328.*	Joint Statement issued during the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea: 'Towards a Strategic Partnership'. New Delhi, January 25, 2010.	1212	690
329.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in honour of the President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak. New Delhi, January 25, 2010.	1218	—
330.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Sinking of ROK Frigate 'Cheonan'. New Delhi, May 21, 2010.	1220	696
331.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on External Affairs Minister's visit to Republic of Korea. New Delhi, June 16, 2010.	1221	697
332.*	Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Seoul on the Call by External Affairs Minister on President of the Republic of Korea. Seoul, June 17, 2010.	1225	701
333.*	Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Seoul on the 6th meeting of India - ROK Joint Commission. Seoul, June 18, 2010.	1226	702
334.	Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) on 'Strengthening India - ROK Strategic Partnership'. Seoul, June 18, 2010.	1228	—
335.	Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on India and South Korea signing two Memoranda of Understanding to give huge boost to defence cooperation between the two countries. New Delhi, September 3, 2010.	1236	—

336.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of Social Security Agreement with the Republic of Korea. New Delhi, October 19, 2010.	1239	—
337.*	Statements by the Government of India on the fighting between North and South Koreans. New Delhi, November 24, 2010	1239	705
LAOS			
338.	Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on President's visits to Laos and Cambodia. New Delhi, September 8, 2010.	1240	—
339.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on her way to the State visits to Laos and Cambodia on board the Special Flight. September 9, 2010.	1240	—
340.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Indian Ambassador. Vientiane, September 9, 2010.	1240	—
341.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by President of Lao People's Democratic Republic Choummaly Sayasone. Vientiane, September 10, 2010.	1242	—
342.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India - Laos Business Forum. Vientiane, September 13, 2010.	1244	—
343	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Media on board the Special Flight on her way back from her State Visits to Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia. September 18, 2010.	1247	—
MALAYSIA			
344.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (South) on the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak. New Delhi, January 18, 2010.	1247	708

CONTENTS**LXXXI**

345.*	Joint Communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit to India of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. New Delhi, January 22, 2010.	1254	715
346.	Press Release of the Planning Commission on the visit of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia to Malaysia. New Delhi, September 27, 2010.	1259	—
347.	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's three-nation (Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam) visit. New Delhi, October 22, 2010.	1260	—
348.*	Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at media interaction. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1261	720
349.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Global Lecture Series-2010 on "India's Development Experience". Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1263	—
350.	Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the inauguration of Little India at Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1269	—
351.	Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister of Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1271	—
352.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy during Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1272	724
353.*	Joint Statement on the Framework for the India-Malaysia Strategic Partnership. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1280	731
354.	List of Agreements/MoUs signed between India and Malaysia during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.	1285	—
355.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Malaysia. New Delhi, October 27, 2010.	1290	736

356.	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Indian Community Reception. Kuala Lumpur, October 28, 2010.	1292	—
357.*	Extract relevant to Malaysia from the Suo Motu Statement in the Lok Sabha of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Prime Minister's visits abroad. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1294	738
MONGOLA			
358.	Joint Statement issued on the Second Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation. New Delhi, January 11, 2010.	1296	—
MYANMAR			
359.	Press Release issued by the Embassy of India on the India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations. Nay Pyi Taw, March 1, 2010.	1298	—
360.*	Joint Statement issued during the visit of Chairman, State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe. New Delhi, July 27, 2010.	1300	740
361	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the banquet hosted by her in honour of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe. New Delhi, July 27, 2010.	1309	—
362.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. New Delhi, November 13, 2010.	1311	749
NEW ZEALAND			
363.	Press Release on the constitution of an ICCR Chair at Victoria University at Wellington, New Zealand. New Delhi, September 23, 2010.	1312	—
PHILIPPINES			
364.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to the Philippines. New Delhi, March 19, 2010.	1313	—

CONTENTS**LXXXIII****SINGAPORE**

365. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Singapore on the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ICCR and National University of Singapore for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair of Indian Studies.
Singapore, March 25, 2010. 1314 —
366. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre.
Singapore, March 26, 2010. 1315 —
- 367.* Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Singapore on the Visit of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to Singapore.
Singapore, March 26, 2010. 1316 751

THAILAND

- 368.* Statement by Official Spokesperson on developments in Thailand.
New Delhi, April 12, 2010. 1317 752

VIETNAM

- 369.* Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the consultations between Defence Minister A. K. Antony and Vietnamese Defence authorities on enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.
New Delhi, October 13, 2010. 1318 753

**SECTION – VI
(iii) WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA**

- 370.* Joint Communiqué issued by the Ministers of the IBSA countries on the Situation in the Middle East.
Brasilia, April 15, 2010. 1321 —
- 371.* Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the Conference organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs: "India and GCC Countries, Iraq and Iran: Emerging Security Perspectives".
New Delhi, November 20, 2010. 1321 —

372.	Valedictory Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Indian Council of World Affairs Seminar: 'India and the GCC, Iran and Iraq: Security Perspectives'. New Delhi, November 21, 2010.	1328	—
IRAN			
373.*	Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at IDSA-IPIS Strategic Dialogue on India and Iran: an enduring relationship. New Delhi, July, 5, 2010.	1335	758
374.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 16th session of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting. New Delhi, July 9, 2010.	1341	764
375.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi. New Delhi, August 6, 2010.	1342	765
376.*	Media report on the summoning of the Iranian Ambassador to the Ministry of External Affairs to protest Iranian Supreme Leader's statement on Kashmir. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1343	766
KUWAIT			
377.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on the visit of a Kuwaiti Oil delegation. New Delhi, September 28, 2010.	1345	—
OMAN			
378.	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Gulf) on the visit of Foreign Minister of Oman. New Delhi, October 20, 2010.	1346	—
379.*	Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi Abdullah. New Delhi, October 20, 2010	1351	768
PALESTINE			
380.*	Statement issued by the Government of India on the incident involving boats carrying supplies for Gaza. New Delhi, May 31, 2010.	1356	773
381.	Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine. New York, September 25, 2010	1357	—

CONTENTS**LXXXV**

382.	Statement by Dr.[Mrs] Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member Parliament, on Agenda Item 51 - un Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East' at the Fourth Committee of the 65th Session of the unga. New York, November 2, 2010.	1357	—
383.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative on Agenda Item 37 "Question of Palestine" at the UNGA. New York, November 30, 2010.	1357	—
SAUDI ARABIA			
384.	Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Saudi journalists. New Delhi, February 27, 2010.	1358	—
385.*	Statement issued by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. New Delhi, February 27, 2010.	1364	775
386.*	Riyadh Declaration: 'A New Era of Strategic Partnership' issued at the end of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Arabia. Riyadh, February 28, 2010.	1365	776
387.*	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Majlis Al-Shura (Parliament). Riyadh, March 1, 2010.	1370	781
388.	Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the King Saud University. Riyadh, March 1, 2010.	1375	—
389.*	Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media onboard his special flight on way to New Delhi from Riyadh. March 1, 2010.	1378	787
390.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna, in Parliament on "Prime Minister's Visit to Saudi Arabia". New Delhi, March 4, 2010.	1381	790
391.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. New Delhi, April 12, 2010.	1384	—

SYRIA

392.*	Briefing by Secretary (East) Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's Visit to UAE and Syria. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1385	793
393.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to media on board her special flight on way to the UAE and Syria. November 21, 2010.	1390	—
394.	Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Press. Damascus, November 27, 2010.	1390	—
395.	Statement by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy President's engagements at Damascus. Damascus, November 27, 2010.	1392	—
396.	Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet hosted in her honour by Syrian President Dr. Bashar al - Assad. Damascus, November 27, 2010.	1395	—
397.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Syrian - Indian Business Summit. Damascus, November 28, 2010.	1398	—
398.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception. Damascus, November 28, 2010.	1400	—
399.*	Statement by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's engagements in Damascus. Damascus, November 28, 2010.	1402	800
400.*	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil after completing her visit to the UAE and Syria on her special flight on way to New Delhi. November 29, 2010.	1405	803

UAE

401.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Makhtoum. New Delhi, March 11, 2010.	1410	—
------	--	------	---

CONTENTS**LXXXVII**

402.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-UAE Political Consultations. New Delhi, September 21, 2010.	1411	808
403.	Briefing by Secretary (East) Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's Visit to UAE and Syria. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1412	—
404.	Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on way to the UAE and Syria. November 21, 2010.	1412	—
405.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Social and Cultural Centre. Abu Dhabi, November 22, 2010.	1415	—
406.	Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's engagements at Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi, November 22, 2010.	1417	—
407.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Abu Dhabi, November 23, 2010.	1422	—
408.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Islamic Centre. Dubai, November 23, 2010.	1425	—
409.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception. Dubai, November 23, 2010.	1427	—
410.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Dubai International Academic City. Dubai, November 24, 2010.	1430	—
411.*	Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy and Consul General of India Sanjay Verma on President's discussions with UAE Dignitaries. Dubai, November 24, 2010.	1432	811
412.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dubai, November 25, 2010.	1440	—

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 413. | Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil after completing her visit to the UAE and Syria on her special flight on way to New Delhi.
November 29, 2010. | 1442 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

CENTRAL ASIA**ARMENIA**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 414. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Armenia.
New Delhi, November 11, 2010. | 1443 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

KAZAKHASTAN

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| 415.* | Excerpts relevant to Kazakhstan from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference.
Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010. | 1444 | 819 |
| 416.* | Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ERS) on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Kazakhstan.
New Delhi, May 10, 2010. | 1447 | 822 |
| 417.* | Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Media.
Astana (Kazakhstan), May 12, 2010. | 1451 | 826 |

KYRGYZSTAN

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 418. | Press Releases issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the situation in Kyrgyzstan, evacuation of Indians to Bishkek from Southern Kyrgyzstan and their travel to India and provision of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan.
June 14, 2010. | 1453 | — |
| 419. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs felicitating Kyrgyzstan on its historic parliamentary elections.
New Delhi, October 22, 2010. | 1456 | — |

TURKMENISTAN

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 420. | Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.
New Delhi, May 25, 2010. | 1457 | — |
|------|--|------|---|

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| 421.* | Joint Statement issued during the State Visit of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. New Delhi, May 25, 2010. | 1459 | 829 |
|-------|---|------|-----|

SECTION – VII

AFRICA

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| 422.* | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a African Union delegation. New Delhi, March 12, 2010. | 1467 | 835 |
| 423.* | Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the 6th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership 2010 "Developing Synergies: Creating a Vision" New Delhi, March 15, 2010. | 1469 | 837 |
| 424. | Address by Minister of State Dr. Shashi Tharoor at the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership. New Delhi, March 15, 2010. 1473 | 1473 | — |
| 425. | Address by Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur at the Conference organised by ASSOCHAM on "India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture". Patiala, (Punjab), March 27, 2010. | 1478 | — |
| 426. | 'Africa Day' Lecture "India-Africa Relations" by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna. New Delhi, May 26, 2010. | 1480 | — |
| 427.* | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India's participation in 15th African Union Summit. Kampala, July 26, 2010. | 1485 | 842 |
| 428.* | Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of the second-phase of Government of India's Pan African e-Network project. New Delhi, August 16, 2010. | 1486 | 843 |

429.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the inauguration of the Second Phase of Pan African e-Network Project. New Delhi, August 16, 2010	1488	—
430.	Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during his interaction with journalists from Africa. New Delhi, October 12, 2010.	1490	—
431.	Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 62[a] & [b] - Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; 2001-2010: Decade to roll back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa at the unga. New York, October 14, 2010.	1492	—
432.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a delegation of African Regional Economic Communities. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1492	846
BOTSWANA			
433.	Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. New Delhi, January 4, 2010.	1496	—
434.	Media briefing by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Vivek Katju during Vice President's visit to Botswana. Gaborone, January 9, 2010.	1501	—
435.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by Vice President of Botswana Lt. General Mompoti S. Merafhe. Gaborone, January 9, 2010.	1505	—
436.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari, at Indian Community Reception. Gaborone, January 11, 2010.	1508	—
437.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Vice President of Botswana Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe. New Delhi, June 19, 2010.	1509	—

CONTENTS	XCI
CHAD	
438. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Chadian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mahamat Bechir Okormi. New Delhi, September 6, 2010.	1511 —
CONGO	
439. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Congo Basile Ikouebe. New Delhi, March 18, 2010.	1512 —
ETHIOPIA	
440. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the First India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations. New Delhi, March 30, 2010.	1513 —
441.* Extract relevant to Ethiopia from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Seoul, November 11, 2010.	1514 852
442. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting between Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister to discuss bilateral trade. New Delhi, December 2, 2010.	1516 —
443.* Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the first meeting of the India- Ethiopia Joint Commission. New Delhi, December 3, 2010.	1518 854
GAMBIA	
444. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara. New Delhi, August 20, 2010.	1520 —
KENYA	
445. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the visit of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to Kenya. New Delhi, October 14, 2010.	1521 —
LESOTHO	
446. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations of the Kingdom of Lesotho Mohlabi Kenneth Tsekoa. New Delhi, March 9, 2010.	1525 —

MALAWI

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| 447. | Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana.
New Delhi, January 4, 2010. | 1526 | — |
| 448. | Speech of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the President of Malawi Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika.
Lilongwe, January 7, 2010. | 1527 | — |
| 449. | Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Indian Community Reception.
Lilongwe, January 8, 2010. | 1530 | — |
| 450.* | Joint Communiqué issued on the conclusion of the visit of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari to Malawi.
Lilongwe, January 8, 2010. | 1532 | 858 |
| 451.* | Joint statement issued during the visit of Malawian President Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika.
New Delhi, November 3, 2010. | 1534 | 861 |
| 452. | Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in honour of President of Malawi Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika.
New Delhi, November 3, 2010. | 1538 | — |

MAURITIUS

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|-----|
| 453. | Letter from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam on the Labour Party led alliance's success in the elections.
New Delhi, May 7, 2010. | 1540 | — |
| 454.* | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles.
New Delhi, July 7, 2010. | 1541 | 865 |
| 455. | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka in Mauritius for the establishment of a Mahatma Gandhi Chair.
New Delhi, July 9, 2010. | 1546 | — |

MOZAMBIQUE

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 456. | Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Maputo on the visit of Minister of State Dr. Shashi Tharoor to Mozambique.
Maputo, January 14, 2010. | 1547 | — |
|------|---|------|---|

CONTENTS**XCIII**

457.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Sychelles. New Delhi, July 7, 2010.	1549	—
458.*	Briefing by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (E&SA) on the visit of President of Mozambique. New Delhi, September 29, 2010.	1549	871
459.*	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the media briefing during the visit of President of Mozambique. New Delhi, September 30, 2010.	1556	878
460.*	Joint Statement issued during the visit of President of Mozambique Armando Guebuza. New Delhi, September 30, 2010.	1557	879
461.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet in honour of President of Mozambique Armando Guebuza. New Delhi, September 30, 2010.	1563	—
462.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs at the end of the visit of the President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique to India. New Delhi, October 4, 2010.	1566	885
NAMIBIA			
463.	Press Release on the Visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to Namibia. Windhoek, July 15, 2010.	1568	—
NIGERIA			
464.	Press Release on the visit of the Indian Delegation led by Minister of State for Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid to Nigeria to participate in the 50th Independence Day celebrations of Nigeria. New Delhi, October 3, 2010. 1570	1570	—
SEYCHELLES			
465.*	Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Seychelles on the 7th Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission Meeting. Victoria, May 11, 2010.	1571	888

466.	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ESA) on the visits of President of Seychelles James Alix Michel and President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. New Delhi, June 1, 2010.	1571	—
467.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet hosted in honour of the President of Seychelles James Alix Michel. New Delhi, June 2, 2010.	1572	—
468.*	Press Release on the Visit of President James Alix Michel of Seychelles. New Delhi, June 4, 2010.	1574	889
469.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles. New Delhi, July 7, 2010.	1576	—
470.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence to extend cooperation to Seychelles for help in Maritime and Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance operations and capacity building force. New Delhi, July 19, 2010.	1576	891
SOUTH AFRICA			
471.	Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Pretoria on the India-South Africa Foreign Office Consultations. Pretoria, May 18, 2010.	1577	—
472.*	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ESA) on the visits of President of Seychelles James Alix Michel and President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. New Delhi, June 1, 2010.	1578	893
473.*	Statement of Prime Minister to media during the visit of South African President Jacob Zuma. New Delhi, June, 4, 2010.	1589	904
474.*	Joint Declaration issued on the occasion of the visit of President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. New Delhi, June 4, 2010.	1590	905
475.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of South Africa President Jacob G. Zuma. New Delhi, June 4, 2010.	1597	—

CONTENTS**XCV**

476. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet in honour of the President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. New Delhi, June 4, 2010. 1599 —

SUDAN

- 477.* Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level meeting on Sudan. New York, September 24, 2010. 1602 912
478. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the operationalization of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between India and Sudan. New Delhi, October 18, 2010. 1604 —

ZAMBIA

479. Briefing by Secretary (West) On Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. New Delhi, January 4, 2010. 1605 —
480. Speech by Vice President M.Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Vice President of Zambia. Lusaka, January 5, 2010. 1605 —
481. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the engagements of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in Lusaka. Lusaka, January 6, 2010. 1609 —
482. Speech by the Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the High Commissioner. Lusaka, January 7, 2010. 1613 —

**SECTION – VIII
EUROPE****CROATIA**

483. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Visit to Czech Republic and Croatia. New Delhi, June 5, 2010. 1617 —
484. Toast by Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Croatian President. Croatia, June 9, 2010. 1621 —

485.	Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Vice President's Meetings in Zagreb. Zagreb, June 10, 2010.	1623	—
486.	Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the reception hosted by Mayor of Dubrovnik, Andro Vlahusic. Dubrovnik (Croatia), June 11, 2010.	1628	—
CZECH REPUBLIC			
487.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Visit to Czech Republic and Croatia. New Delhi, June 5, 2010.	1629	—
488.	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice President's meeting with President of the Czech Republic. Prague, June 7, 2010.	1630	—
489.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari organised by the Prague Security Studies Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prague, June 7, 2010.	1632	—
490.	Speech by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the banquet hosted in his honour by the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Premysl Sobotka. Prague, June 7, 2010.	1638	—
491.	Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Ceremony hosted by Lord Mayor of Prague Pavel Bem at Old Town Hall. Prague, June 8, 2010.	1640	—
492.	Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Toast at the Working Lunch hosted by Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer. Prague, June 8 2010.	1641	—
493.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Meetings in Prague. Prague, June 8, 2010.	1642	920
FINLAND			
494.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Finland for cooperation in the field of ICT. New Delhi, January 19, 2010.	1648	926

CONTENTS**XCVII****FRANCE**

- 495.* Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's meeting with French President Sarkozy on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit. Washington (D.C.), April 13, 2010. 1649 927
496. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Paris on the Cultural Festival of India in France (Namaste France-2010-2011). New Delhi, April 20, 2010. 1652 —
497. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on 'India -France Foreign Office Consultations'. New Delhi, May 4, 2010. 1665 —
498. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meetings with British Prime Minister and French President on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Toronto, June 26, 2010. 1655 —
- 499.* Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Europe West) on visit of French President. New Delhi, December 1, 2010. 1656 931
- 500.* Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media at the Joint Press Interaction. New Delhi, December 6, 2010. 1664 939
- 501.* Joint Statement issued during the visit of French President Nicolas Sarkozy-"INDIA-FRANCE: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE". New Delhi, December 6, 2010. 1666 941
- 502.* Agreements signed during the visit of the President of France New Delhi, December 06, 2010. 1676 951

GEORGIA

503. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations. New Delhi, April 1, 2010. 1678 —

GERMANY

504. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the German President Dr. Horst Kohler. New Delhi, February 2, 2010. 1679 —

505.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on collaboration between India and Germany in the Knowledge Sector and Cooperation in Infrastructure. New Delhi, October 8, 2010.	1681	—
506.*	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Europe West) on the visit of German Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle. New Delhi, October 15, 2010.	1683	953
507.*	Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany. New Delhi, December 7, 2010.	1689	960
508.*	Statement by the Prime Minister before his departure for Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany. New Delhi, December 9, 2010.	1694	965
509.*	Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction in Berlin. Berlin, December 11, 2010.	1696	966
HUNGARY			
510.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Peter Balazs. New Delhi, January 19, 2010.	1698	968
511.	Press Release of the Embassy of India at Budapest on the visit of Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur to Hungary. Budapest, November 3, 2010.	1699	—
ICELAND			
512.	Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Presentation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 to the President of Iceland Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. New Delhi, January 14, 2010.	1700	—
513.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at Banquet in honour of the President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. New Delhi, January 14, 2010.	1701	—
514.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of the President of Iceland. New Delhi, January 15, 2010.	1704	—

CONTENTS	XCIX
KOSOVO	
515.* Reaction of the Official Spokesperson on the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. New Delhi, August 8, 2010.	1705 970
NETHERLANDS	
516. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in the Hague on the MoU signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, Netherlands for establishment of Council's Long-Term Chair for the study of Contemporary India. The Hague, June 3, 2010.	1705 —
NORWAY	
517. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Foreign Ministers of Australia and Norway. New Delhi, March 2, 2010.	1706 —
POLAND	
518.* Condolence Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski in an air crash. New Delhi, April 11, 2010.	1707 971
519. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Central Europe) on the visit of Polish Prime Minister. New Delhi, September 6, 2010.	1707 —
520.* Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. New Delhi, September 7, 2010.	1712 972
521. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Culture on the signing of a Cultural Cooperation Programme with Poland. New Delhi, September 8, 2010.	1714 —
RUSSIA	
522.* Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) on the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. New Delhi, March 11, 2010.	1716 974
523.* Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. New Delhi, March 12, 2010.	1723 981
524.* List of Agreement(s)/MOUs signed during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to India (March 11-12,2010) New Delhi, March 12, 2010.	1725 983

C

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

525.*	Press Statement issued by the Department of Atomic Energy on the India-Russia Agreement on construction of Reactors of Russian design in India. Mumbai, March 13, 2010.	1726	984
526.	Condolence Message from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Russian President on terrorist attack in Moscow. New Delhi, March 29, 2010.	1727	—
527.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the 10th meeting of the India - Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Technical Cooperation. New Delhi, October 7, 2010.	1728	985
528.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) Ajay Bisaria on India-Russia Joint Economic Commission Meeting. New Delhi, November 16, 2010.	1730	987
529.*	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 16th Session of the India-Russia Economic Joint Commission meeting. New Delhi, November 18, 2010.	1736	993
530.*	Felicitations from External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Russian Foreign Minister on the 110th anniversary of Mumbai Consulate. New Delhi, November 21, 2010.	1742	999
531.*	Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) on visit of Russian President Medvedev. New Delhi, December 19, 2010.	1742	999
532.	Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Russian News Agencies. New Delhi, December 20, 2010.	1752	—
533.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting of the Fourth India - Russia Forum on Trade and Investment and signing of India-Russia Protocol on Trade and Investment. New Delhi, December 20, 2010.	1756	—
534.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the speech of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to the India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment. New Delhi, December 20, 2010.	1761	—

CONTENTS	CI
535. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the signing of the Contract to Design and Develop the Fifth generation Fighter Aircraft. New Delhi, December 21, 2010.	1763 —
536.* Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev: 'Celebrating a Decade of the India- Russian Federation Strategic Partnership and Looking Ahead'. New Delhi, December 21, 2010.	1764 1010
537. Fact sheet on Indo-Russian documents concluded during the Annual Summit 2010. New Delhi, December 21, 2010.	1773 —
538.* Opening statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction with Russian President. New Delhi, December 21, 2010.	1778 1020
SLOVENIA	
539. Remarks by Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur at the Bled Strategic Forum on 'Global Outlook for the Next Decade'. Bled (Slovenia), August 29, 2010.	1780 —
SWEDEN	
540. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the establishment of ICCR Chair at Lund University, Sweden. New Delhi, July 13, 2010.	1783 —
SWITZERLAND	
541. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Telephonic conversation between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. New Delhi, March 31, 2010.	1784 —
TURKEY	
542.* Joint Declaration between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of India during the visit of the Turkish President on Terrorism. New Delhi, February 9, 2010.	1785 1023
543.* Joint Declaration on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of India. New Delhi, February 9, 2010.	1786 1024

544.	Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Turkish President Abdullah Gul. New Delhi, February 9, 2010.	1788	—
U.K.			
545.	Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the newly elected British Prime Minister David Cameron congratulating him on his assumption of Office. New Delhi, May 12, 2010.	1790	—
546.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meetings with British Prime Minister and French President on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Toronto, June 26, 2010.	1791	1026
547.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Prime Minister of U. K. David Cameron. New Delhi, July 28, 2010.	1795	1030
548.	Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at his meeting with the UK Business Delegation. New Delhi, July 29, 2010.	1803	—
549.*	Joint Press Statement issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron. New Delhi, July 29, 2010.	1805	1036
550.*	Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during Press Conference with UK Prime Minister. New Delhi, July 29, 2010.	1809	1039
551.	Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted by him in honour of the UK Prime Minister David Cameron. New Delhi, July 29, 2010.	1810	—

SECTION – IX

AMERICAS

(i) NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

552.*	Press Release on the Establishment of India Chair at the University of Toronto. New Delhi, January 8, 2010.	1817	1045
-------	--	------	------

CONTENTS**CIII**

553.* Excerpts relevant to Canada from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference. Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010.	1818	1046
554. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna reacting to letters written by the Canadian High Commission in India to some retired/serving officers of the Indian security forces while denying them a Visa to visit Canada. Bengaluru, May 27, 2010.	1820	—
555.* Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Prime Minister's visit to Canada. New Delhi, June 22, 2010.	1822	1048
556. Press Release on the establishment of an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the York University in Canada. New Delhi, June 23, 2010.	1831	—
557.* Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media after his talks with the Canadian Prime Minister Harper. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	1832	1057
558.* Joint Statement issued during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Sing to Canada. Ottawa, June 27, 2010.	1834	1059
558-A. Media Note issued by the Prime Minister's Office - Agreement between India and Canada for Co-operation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and other areas. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	1837	—
559. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Canadian Prime Minister. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	1840	—
560. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during interaction with Indo-Canadian Parliamentarians. Toronto, June 28, 2010.	1843	—
561. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the First Annual India - Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and nvestment. New Delhi, September 25, 2010.	1845	—

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

562.	Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao at the India Initiative at the Centre for a New American Strategy and the ASPEN Institute 'The United States and India: Chartering the Future Course'. New Delhi, January 12, 2010.	1847	—
563.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of US Defence Secretary Robert N. Gates. New Delhi, January 20, 2010.	1857	—
564.*	Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the telephone call by President Barack Obama to Prime Minister to condemn Pune blast. New Delhi, February 18, 2010.	1858	1064
565.*	Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Woodrow Wilson Centre on "Two Democracies - Defining the Essence of India-US Partnership". Washington (D. C), March 15, 2010.	1858	1064
566.*	Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's meeting with the U. S. President Barack Obama. Washington (D. C.), 11 April, 2010.	1870	1076
567.	Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of U. S Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns. New Delhi, May 24, 2010.	1877	—
568.	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 28, 2010.	1878	—
569.*	Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to USA for Strategic Dialogue. New Delhi, May 30, 2010.	1879	1084
570.	Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at the 35th Anniversary Summit of the US-India Business Council on "India-US Partnership: Shaping the future through Innovation". Washington (D. C.), June 2, 2010.	1882	—

CONTENTS**CV**

571.* Opening Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. at the Press Conference after the Plenary Session of the India-US Strategic Dialogue meeting. Washington (D.C.), June 3, 2010.	1888	1087
572.* Joint Statement issued after the conclusion of U.S.- India Strategic Dialogue. Washington (D. C), June 3, 2010.	1991	1090
573.* Remarks of External Affairs Minister at the reception hosted in his honour by Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton. Washington (D.C.), June 3, 2010.	1900	1100
574.* Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the annual dialogue on 'India US Strategic Partnership' at Brookings Institution. Washington (D. C.), June 4, 2010.	1901	1101
575. Response of Indian Ambassador to the United States Meera Shankar on a question regarding visit of the National Investigative Agency team to USA. Washington (D. C.), June 11, 2010.	1908	—
576.* Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Obama before their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. Toronto, June 27, 2010.	1909	1108
577. Press Release on the visit of U. S. National Security Advisor General James L. Jones' visit to India. New Delhi, July 15, 2010.	1911	—
578. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-US Agriculture Dialogue. New Delhi, September 17, 2010.	1912	—
579. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting of India - USA Trade Policy Forum to discuss trade and investment relations between India and the United States. New Delhi, September 22, 2010.	1913	—
580. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the visit of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to the United States and his call on the US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton. New Delhi, October 8, 2010.	1914	—

581.	Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the concluding session of the FICCI-Brookings Dialogue on 'U.S.-India Strategic Partnership'. New Delhi, November 2, 2010.	1916	—
582.	Press Release issued by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on 'Indo-US Relationship needs to move beyond Transactional Issues'. New Delhi, November 2, 2010.	1921	—
583.*	Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama. New Delhi, November 4, 2010.	1922	1112
584.	Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the United States President Barack Obama. New Delhi, November 8, 2010.	1935	—
585.*	Joint Statement issued during the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama. New Delhi, November 8, 2010.	1937	1125
586.*	Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media at the Joint Press Conference with President Barack Obama. New Delhi, November 8, 2010.	1948	1136
587.*	Address by Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha M. Hamid Ansari at the Meeting of Members of Parliament held under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group in honour of the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama, at Central Hall, Parliament House. This was followed by the speech of U.S. President. New Delhi, November 8, 2010.	1950	1138
588.*	Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the visit of U.S. President Barack H. Obama. New Delhi, November 19, 2010.	1963	1151
589.	Interview of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar for the CNN-IBN TV. New Delhi, November 21, 2010.	1965	—
590.	Response of Official Spokesperson on the issue of Wikileaks. New Delhi, November 30, 2010.	1976	—

CONTENTS

CVII

- 591.* Message of condolence of the Government of India on the demise of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. New Delhi, December 14, 2010. 1976 —

(ii) SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA**ARGENTINA**

592. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India Buenos Aires on the Visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to Argentina. Buenos Aires, May 26, 2010. 1979 —

BRAZIL

- 593.* Joint Statement issued on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Brazil. Brasilia, April 15, 2010. 1980 1157

CHILE

594. Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chilean President Dr. Michelle Bachelet at the loss of life in the earthquake and announcement of a contribution of US \$ 5 million towards the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. New Delhi, March 5, 2010. 1985 —
595. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chilean President Sebastian Pinera Echenique on the successful rescue of 33 trapped miner after 69 days. New Delhi, October 5, 2010. 1986 —

COLOMBIA

596. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Minister of State Shashi Tharoor to Colombia. Bogotá, January 19, 2010. 1986 —

HAITI

597. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the "International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti" at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. New York, March 31, 2010. 1989 —
- 598.* Announcement by the Government of India of a relief assistance of US \$ one million to Haiti for the earth quake-affected people of Haiti. New Delhi, January 14, 2010. 1990 1163

MEXICO

- | | | | |
|-------|---|------|------|
| 599. | Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Mexican Foreign Minister Ms. Patricia Espinosa. New Delhi, August 16, 2010. | 1991 | — |
| 600.* | Extract Relevant to Mexico from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. Seoul, November 11, 2010. | 1998 | 1165 |

SECTION – X

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|------|
| 601. | Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the 2010 Substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. New York, March 30, 2010. | 2003 | — |
| 602. | Press Release issued by the Permanent Mission of India at the UN on the election of Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. New York, April 27, 2010. | 2007 | — |
| 603. | Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Brasilia on the visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to Rio de Janeiro for the Third Global Forum of Alliance of Civilisations. Brasilia, May 29, 2010. | 2007 | — |
| 604. | Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the High Level Segment of the 2010 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations. New York, July 2, 2010. | 2008 | — |
| 605. | Press Release issued by the Permanent Mission of India at the UN on the Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur to New York. New York, July 2, 2010. | 2011 | — |
| 606.* | Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs about gratuitous Remarks on J&K attributed to UN Secretary General in a section of the media. New Delhi, August 3, 2010. | 2012 | 1170 |

CONTENTS**CIX**

607.	Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit. New York, September 22, 2010.	2012	—
608.*	Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the G-4 Ministerial Meeting. New York, September 24, 2010.	2017	1171
609.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament. New York, September 24, 2010.	2019	1173
610.*	Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at 65th session of UNGA. New York, September 29, 2010.	2021	1174
611.	Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao Permanent Representative of India to The Conference on Disarmament Geneva at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly. New York October 6, 2010.	2028	—
612.*	India's Election to the United Nations Security Council Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India's election to United Nations Security Council. New Delhi, October 12, 2010.	2032	1182
613.*	Press Conference by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on India's election to UN Security Council. New Delhi, October 12, 2010.	2035	1185
614.*	Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the United Nations General Assembly. New York, October 21, 2010.	2045	1195

SECTION – XI**INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

615.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, During the Informal Plenary: Exchange 2 of the Fourth Round of Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council Reform and Related Matters at the 64th UNGA. New York, January 19, 2010.	2051	—
------	---	------	---

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 616. | Intervention by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.
New York, January 27, 2010. | 2055 | — |
| 617. | Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77.
New York, January 26, 2010. | 2057 | — |
| 618. | Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the Group of 77 on Brainstorming on Climate Change: Exchange of views on the Post-Copenhagen process and the way forward at the UNGA.
New York, February 3, 2010. | 2059 | — |
| 619. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Sixteenth Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.
New York, February 4, 2010. | 2062 | — |
| 620. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative on the Thematic Debate on "Transition and Exit Strategies in Peacekeeping" at the Security Council.
New York, February 12, 2010. | 2065 | — |
| 621. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [c-34].
New York, February 23, 2010. | 2069 | — |
| 622. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.
New York, February 26, 2010. | 2074 | — |
| 623. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 46 - Global Road Safety Crisis at the UNGA.
New York, March 2, 2010. | 2077 | — |
| 624. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Implementation to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at the 54th Session of Commission on the Status of Women.
New York, March 5, 2010. | 2080 | — |

CONTENTS**CXI**

625.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting of the Plenary of the United Nations General Assembly to Hear a Briefing by the Secretary-General on his Recent Visit to Chile, at the Trusteeship Council Chamber. New York, March 10, 2010.	2084	—
626.	Statement by Ambassador m.s. Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India on the Situation in Afghanistan and unama at the Security Council. New York, March 18, 2010.	2085	—
627.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, during the Plenary Session of the Fourth High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at the UNGA. New York, March 24, 2010.	2088	—
628.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, 26 March 2010.	2090	—
629.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the "International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti" at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. New York, March 31, 2010.	2092	—
630.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Represenative, on Agenda Item 4 - General Debate of National Experience in Population Matters: Health, Morbidity, Mortality and Development at the 43rd Session of the UN Commission on Populaton and Development. New York, April 13, 2010.	2094	—
631.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" at the U. N. Security Council. New York, April 16, 2010.	2098	—
632.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India During the Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council on the Implementation of the Measures Set Out in the Note by the President of the Security Council [s/2006/507]. New York, 22 April, 2010.	2100	—

633.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, April 26, 2010.	2103	—
634.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on the Committee on Information. New York, April 27, 2010.	2106	—
635.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Charged' Affaires a. i. of India at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Role and Responsibilities of the General Assembly in the Process of Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the UN. New York, 28 April 2010.	2109	—
636.	Extempore remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India on Agenda Item No. 126 - "Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War : Special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the war" at General Assembly Hall. New York, May 6, 2010.	2112	—
637.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, at the Informal Meeting on the 2010 Review of the Peacebuilding Commission at the General Assembly Hall. New York, May 10, 2010.	2114	—
638.	Intervention by Vijai Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, on the occasion of SIDS Day/ Preparatory Meeting for the 5-year review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation during CSD-18. New York, May 10, 2010.	2117	—
639.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council at the UN Security Council. New York, May 11, 2010.	2120	—
640.	Intervention by Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, in the Round Table: Mining for Sustainable Development—High Level Segment-CSD 18. New York, May 12, 2010.	2123	—

CONTENTS**CXIII**

641.	Intervention by Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, in the Round Table on "Strategies for Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management", High level Segment - CSD 18. New York, May 13, 2010.	2125	—
642.	Extempore Remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations during the informal meeting of the General Assembly Plenary. New York, May 14, 2010.	2127	—
643	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Briefing by the World Bank on the World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development. New York, May 17, 2010.	2129	—
644.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Items 48 and 114: Consideration of the Secretary General's Report on "Human Security" at the UNGA. New York, May 21, 2010.	2132	—
645.	Remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, June 2, 2010.	2134	—
646.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 44-Implementaton of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on hiv/aids at the UNGA. New York, June 9, 2010.	2136	—
647.	Remarks by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, 11 June 2010.	2140	—

648.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, During the Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council on the Agenda Item "Children and Armed Conflict". New York, June 16, 2010.	2143	—
649.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, June 16, 2010.	2145	—
650.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, June 18, 2010.	2149	—
651	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 104 - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [High Level Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime] at the UNGA. New York, June 21, 2010.	2153	—
652.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Thematic Debate on "UN Peacekeeping: Looking into the Future" at the UNGA. New York, June 22, 2010.	2156	—
653.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, 28 June 2010.	2159	—
654.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council. New York, June 30, 2010.	2162	—
655.	Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Agenda Item 114: Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit [Adoption of Resolution A./64/L.56 on System Wide Coherence] at the UNGA. New York, July 2, 2010.	2165	—

CONTENTS**CXV**

656.	Statement by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs at the High Level Segment of the 2010 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations. New York, July 2, 2010.	2166	—
657.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on the Thematic Debate on "Protection of Civilians" at the UN SC. New York, July 7, 2010.	2169	—
658.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, July 7, 2010.	2173	—
659.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, July 12, 2010.	2175	—
660.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. New York, July 13, 2010.	2178	—
661.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India At the Security Council Debate On Peacekeeping. New York, August 6, 2010.	2181	—
662.	Intervention By Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri Permanent Representative at the Informal Interactive Dialogue of the UN General Assembly on "Early Warning, Assessment and the Responsibility to Protect". New York, August 9, 2010.	2184	—
663.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to consider the Humanitarian Situation resulting from the Floods in Pakistan. New York, August 20, 2010.	2189	—

664.	Statement by Anupam Ray, Acting Permanent Representative - on Debate on the Situation in Somalia [Piracy] at the Security Council. New York, August 25, 2010.	2192	—
665.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 115 United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy at the UNGA. New York, September 8, 2010.	2195	—
666.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the launch of the Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan. New York, September 17, 2010.	2198	—
667.	Statement by Mr. S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High-level Plenary Meeting on Millennium Development Goals. New York, 22 September, 2010.	2200	—
668.	Statement by Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister, Environment & Forests, at the Panel on "The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets", High Level Meeting of the 65th session of the General Assembly on Biodiversity. New York, September 22, 2010.	2205	—
669.	Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, at the High Level Meeting on 'Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations'. New York, September 24, 2010.	2208	—
670.	Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High Level Meeting on Sudan [Read out by Ambassador Harsh V Shringla, Joint Secretary] at the UNGA. New York, September 24, 2010.	2209	—
671.	Intervention by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the "Group of Fifteen" (G-15) countries (Read on his behalf by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative). New York, September 24, 2010 .	2211	—

CONTENTS**CXVII**

672.	Statement by S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High Level Review Meeting of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable -II on "Enhancing International Support for Small Island Developing States". New York, September 25, 2010.	2213	—
673.	Statement by S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, at the Ministerial Meeting of the Nam Coordination Bureau. New York, September 27, 2010.	2216	—
674.	Statement by S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting. New York, Septemebr 27, 2010.	2218	—
675.	Statement by Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, at the 34th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77. New York, September 28, 2010.	2220	—
676.	Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the General Debate of the 65th Sesssion of the UNGA. New York, September 29, 2010.	2222	—
677.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council. New York, September 29, 2010.	2222	—
678.*	Statement by Manish Gupta, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN exercising Right of Reply for the first time during the General Debate of 65th session of UNGA. New York, September 29, 2010.	2225	1212
679.	Statement by Adi Sankar, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN, on Agenda Item 27 - Social Development [a] Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Twenty-fourth Special Session of the General Assembly [b] Social Development, Including Questions Relating to the World Social Situation and to Youth ageing, disabled persons and the family [c] follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assebly on Ageing [d] United Nations Literacy Decade - Education for all at the Third Committee of UNGA. New York, October 5, 2010.	2226	—

680.	Statement by Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 140 - Administration of Justice at the United Nations at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 6, 2010.	2230	—
681.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 108 - Report of the Secretary-General of the Work of the Organization at the UNGA. New York, October 6, 2010.	2234	—
682.	Statement by Vidya Charan Shukla, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 6, 2010.	2239	—
683.	Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the General Debate of the First Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 6, 2010.	2243	—
684.	Statement by Rajnath Singh, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 107 - Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 6, 2010.	2246	—
685.	Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda item 105 - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice & Agenda Item 106 - International Drug Control at the Third Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 7, 2010.	2251	—
686.	Statement by Dr. Pradip Choudhary, Counsellor, at the Permanent Mission at the UN on Agenda Item 76- Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission at Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 8, 2010.	2255	—
687.	Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on General Debate of the Sepcial Political and Decolonization Committee of UNGA [fourth committee]. New York, October 11, 2010.	2258	—

CONTENTS**CXIX**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 688. | Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 77-Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the Work of its Forty Third Session at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 11, 2010. | 2261 | — |
| 689. | Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 18 - Macro Economic Policy Questions: [A] International Financial System and Development & [c] External Debt Sustainability and Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 11, 2010. | 2265 | — |
| 690. | Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 85 - the Rule of Law at the National & International Levels at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 13, 2010. | 2268 | — |
| 691. | Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 28 [a] Advancement of Women [b] Implementation of the Outcome of the 4th World Conference on Women and of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at the Third Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 13, 2010. | 2271 | — |
| 692. | Statement by Vidya Charan Shukla, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 24 - Eradication of Poverty & other Development Issues - Plenary Devoted to Follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit at the UNGA. New York, October 13, 2010. | 2275 | — |
| 693. | Statement by Adhi Sankar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 50-International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the General Debate of the Special Political & Decolonization [fourth] Committee of UNGA. New York, October 13, 2010. | 2277 | — |
| 694. | Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 62[A] & [B] - Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa at the UNGA. New York, October 14, 2010. | 2282 | — |

695.	Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 19 Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Finance for Development and the 2008 Review Conference at the Second Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 14, 2010.	2286	—
696.	Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 64 - Promotion And Protection of the Rights of Children [b] Follow-up to the Outcome of the Special Session on Children at the Third Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 15, 2010.	2289	—
697.	Statement by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Member of Parliament, on Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons at the First Committee of UNGA. New York, October 15, 2010.	2292	—
698.	Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 84 - Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 18, 2010.	2297	—
699.	Statement by Shanta Kumar Member of Parliament , on Agenda Item No 11 - "Sports for Peace and Development" at the UNGA. New York, October 18, 2010.	2301	—
700.	Statement by Mr. Janardan Dwivedi, Member of Parliament, on the Agenda Items of Global Agenda for Dialogue Among Civilizations and Culture of Peace at the UN General Assembly. New York, October 18, 2010.	2303	—
701.	Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 23 - Groups of Countries in Special Situations: [A] Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and [b] Specific Actions Related to the Particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation at the Second Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 18, 2010.	2308	—

CONTENTS**CXXI**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 702. | Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, at the First Committee Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons, at the UNGA.
New York, October 19, 2010. | 2312 | — |
| 703. | Statement by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 68 - 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 UNGA.
New York, October 19, 2010. | 2316 | — |
| 704. | Statement by Shanta Kumar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 22 - "Globalization & Interdependence: Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence" and [b] Preventing and Combating Corrupt Practices and Transfer of Assets of Illicit Origin and Returning Such Assets, in Particular to the Countries of Origin, Consistent with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, at the Second Committee of the UNGA.
New York, October 20, 2010. | 2319 | — |
| 705. | Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs on Agenda Item Nos. 9 & 13- Report of the Economic and Social Council and Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields at the UNGA.
New York, October 20, 2010. | 2323 | — |
| 706. | Statement by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 54 - "Questions Relating to Information" at the Fourth Committee of the UNGA.
New York, October 20, 2010. | 2327 | — |
| 707. | Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 107-Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the Working Group of the Sixth Committee of UNGA.
New York, October 20, 2010. | 2332 | — |

708.	Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 131 - Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations at the Fifth Committee of UNGA. New York, October 21, 2010.	2335	—
709.	Statement by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Member of Parliament on Agenda Item 24 - 'Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: [A] Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty [2008-2017] at the Second Committee of UNGA. New York, October 21, 2010.	2338	—
710.	Statement by Bajju Ban Riyan, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 81 - Consideration of Prevention of Transboundary Harm From Hazardous Activities and Allocation of loss in the case of such harm at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 21, 2010.	2343	—
711.	Statement by Mr. Janardan Dwivedi, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 79 - Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Sixty Second Session [Part - 1, Chap i-iiiiv and xiii] at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 26, 2010.	2346	—
712.	Statement by Dr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, Debate on Peacekeeping at the Fourth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 26, 2010.	2349	—
713.	Statement by Dr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, Debate on Peacekeeping at the Fourth Committee of the UNGA. New York, October 26, 2010.	2356	—
714.	Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 41-"Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Against Cuba", at the UNGA. New York, October 26, 2010.	2364	—
715.	Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 17-'Information Communication Technologies for Development' in the Second Committee of UNGA. New York, October 26, 2010.	2367	—

CONTENTS**CXXIII**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 716. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Open Debate on the 10th Anniversary of Adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 at the UN Security Council.
New York, October 26, 2010. | 2370 | — |
| 717. | Statement by Shanta Kumar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 68 - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, [b] Human Rights Questions, Including Alternative Approaches for Improving the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, [c] Human Rights Situations and Reports of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives, at the Third Committee of the UNGA.
New York, October 28, 2010. | 2375 | — |
| 718. | Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 49 - Effects of Atomic Radiation in the General Debate of the Special Political & Decolonization [fourth] Committee of UNGA.
New York, October 28, 2010. | 2378 | — |
| 719. | Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 134 - Human Resources Management at the Fifth Committee of UNGA.
New York, October 28, 2010. | 2382 | — |
| 720. | Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on Agenda on Item 26 - Agriculture Development and Food Security - at the Second Committee of the UNGA.
New York, October 28, 2010. | 2385 | — |
| 721. | Statement by Bajju Ban Ryan, Member of Parliament, on Agenda on Item 70 - Report of the International Court of Justice at the UNGA.
New York, October 28, 2010. | 2388 | — |
| 722. | Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 70 - Report of the International Law Commission - Chapter V "Expulsion of Aliens", Chapter VI: Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties, Chapter VII: Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.
New York, October 29, 2010. | 2391 | — |

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 723. | Statement by Govindrao, Member of Parliament, on "Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture" at the UNGA.
New York, October 29, 2010. | 2394 | — |
| 724. | Statement by Gopinath Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 79-Report of the International Law Commission, Chapter viii: Obligation to Extradite or Prosecute, Chapter X : Treaties Overtime, Chapter XI: The Most Favored Nations Cluase, Chapter XII: Shared Natural Resoruces at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.
New York, November 1, 2010. | 2399 | — |
| 725. | Statement by Dr. [Mrs] Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 51-UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East at the Fourth Committee of the 65th Session of the UNGA.
New York, November 2, 2010. | 2403 | — |
| 726. | Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 20-Suitainable Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA.
New York, November 2, 2010. | 2406 | — |
| 727. | Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 21 - "Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements [Habitat II] and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme [UN-Habitat]" at the Second Committee of the UNGA.
New York, November 2, 2010. | 2409 | — |
| 728. | Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 61-Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Questions Relating to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and Humanitairan Questions at the Third Committee of the UNGA.
New York, Novemebr 3, 2010. | 2412 | — |
| 729. | Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 66-Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination, Agenda Item 67- Rights of Peoples of Self-Determination at the Third Committee of the UNGA.
New York, November 3, 2010. | 2415 | — |

CONTENTS**CXXV**

730.	Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 63 - Report of the Human Right Council at the UNGA. New York, November 3, 2010.	2419	—
731.	Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 18 ([a] Macroeconomic Policy Questions: International Trade and Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA. New York, November 4, 2010.	2422	—
732.	Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the UNGA. New York, November 4, 2010.	2424	—
733.	Statement by Gopinath Munde, Member of Parliament, on Peacebuilding Fund at the Annual High-level Stakeholders Meeting of the UNGA. New York, November 4, 2010.	2428	—
734.	Statement By Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament, at the 2010 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities at the UNGA. New York, November 8, 2010.	2430	—
735.	Statement by R.K. Singh Patel, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 140 - Administration of Justice at the Fifth Committee of the UNGA. New York, November 10, 2010.	2432	—
736.	Statement by Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 29 - Report of the Security Council; and 119 - Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other Related Matters at the UNGA. New York, November 11, 2010.	2434	—
737.	Statement by Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 161 - Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA. New York, November 11, 2010.	2438	—
738.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, on Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council at the Security Council. New York, November 15, 2010.	2441	—

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 739. | Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative of India at the special commemorative event to pay tribute to the late Secretary-General of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Mr. Néstor Kirchner (organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, in its capacity as President of UNASUR) at the UNGA.
New York, 15 November 2010. | 2444 | — |
| 740. | Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on [a] Agenda Item 13- Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and followup to the outcomes of the major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields [b] Agenda Item 115 - Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit-notes by the Secretary-General and [c] Agenda Item 120 - Strengthening of the United Nations System - Notes by Secretary-General at the UNGA.
New York, November 23, 2010. | 2445 | — |
| 741. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 37 "Question of Palestine" at the UNGA.
New York, November 30, 2010. | 2448 | — |
| 742. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 117: Implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations & Agenda Item 118: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the UNGA.
New York, December 6, 2010. | 2450 | — |
| 743. | Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 116 - Follow-up to the Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the UNGA.
New York, December 9, 2010. | 2453 | — |
| 744. | Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 124 Global Health and Foreign Policy on Behalf of Asian Group at the UNGA.
New York, December 9, 2010. | 2456 | — |

CONTENTS**CXXVII**

745.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Annual High-Level Conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund at the 65th Session of the UNGA. New York, December 14, 2010.	2460	—
746.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the "IBSA - Joint Statement": Open Consultations on Enhanced Cooperation at the UN. New York, December 14, 2010.	2461	—
747.	Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Commemorative Meeting on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of The Adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and peoples on behalf of Asian Group, at the UNGA. New York, December 14, 2010.	2465	—
748.	Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the plenary on the 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, December 14, 2010.	2467	—
749.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative on the debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the UNSC. New York, December 17, 2010.	2471	—
750.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the United Nations Security Council. New York, December 22, 2010.	2475	—



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - I

GENERAL

001. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Introduction of "Tourist Visa-on-Arrival" facility for tourists from Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore.

New Delhi, January 1, 2010.

To facilitate bonafide foreign tourists who plan their tours at a short notice, Government of India has decided to introduce "Tourist Visa-on-Arrival" for a period of one year for citizens of five countries viz. Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore on an experimental basis w.e.f. 1.1.2010. Tourists from the said countries can also procure their visas from the Missions / Posts in the normal course.

2. The said "Tourist Visa-on-Arrival" with a maximum validity of 30 days with single entry facility shall be granted by the Immigration Officers at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata airports to start with.

3. The grant of a "Tourist Visa-on-Arrival" shall be regulated as per the guidelines prescribed in the Visa Manual.



002. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Fourth R. N. Kao Memorial Lecture.

New Delhi, January 19, 2010.

Intelligence for the World of Tomorrow

I am honoured to be invited today to deliver this lecture to commemorate an iconic personality who dedicated his life to the service of the Republic and created structures deemed essential for the security of the state and the promotion of its essential interests. In another age or another system of governance, he would be honoured suitably in a pantheon of Immortals. We as a people, however, are diffident in matters relating to some aspects of the functioning of the State and prefer a discreet veil to a public acclaim.

It tantalises imagination but does not add to the compendium of knowledge for succeeding generations.

We remember Rameshwar Nath Kao today for his work and for his engaging personality. In regard to the former, I cannot help recalling a couplet by an Arab poet of the 10th century:

These are our works, these works our souls display

Behold our works when we have passed away.

I personally cannot claim to have known Kao saheb well but do recall an occasion, in early 1980, when I happened to sit next to him on a journey from Bombay to Delhi. He spoke in chaste Urdu, discussed the happening in Iran, and was candid enough to acknowledge that like most other people he had not anticipated the revolutionary changes.

Ramjee Kao created an organisation, negotiated rather than confronted inter-agency contentions and achieved a historic success. He could also be indulgent to a fault. Those who worked closely with him have described Kao as a complex mix of objectivity and subjectivity in matters concerning human relationships. A peer in a position to assess from a distance described him as a fascinating mix of physical and mental elegance, and one who was shy to talk about his accomplishments.

Kao's business in life was intelligence, more specifically external intelligence. Its relevance is in no need of commentary. We can go as far back as Kautilya, or even earlier, to perceive its importance. In fact, the methodological sophistication exhibited in Kautilya's chapters on the secret service and internal security can be read with benefit even today. The same holds good for Sun Tzu's chapter on secret agents. He highlights the relevance of 'foreknowledge' and concludes with the interesting observation that 'there is no place where espionage is not used.' Over centuries the ambit of intelligence, and the craft itself, expanded and enriched itself in response to requirements. Techniques were refined and technology opened up qualitatively different vistas. In the 20th century individual agents on specific assignments gave way to regular agencies. Fascination with the unknown also brought forth a vast amount of literary output that combined fact and fiction, working powerfully on public imagination and even lending respectability to questionable acts. There is

merit in C.P. Snow's observation that "the euphoria of secrecy does go to the head."

Intelligence, by definition, is primarily directed at anticipating happenings. Intelligence information, by its very nature, is a glimpse of reality. It is often inconclusive because the methods of acquisition are at times surreptitious. On the other hand, the probabilities of reality that can be established by intelligence information are necessary and sufficient to enable national decision-makers to make reasonable judgments about courses of action. While intelligence information is at times incomplete, good intelligence often has made the difference between victory and defeat, life and death. By the same token, faulty intelligence leads to failures of varying degrees. Over time, reasons for failure are analysed and classified. These range from overestimation to underestimation, lack of communication, unavailability of information, received opinion, mirror-imaging, over-confidence, complacency, failure to connect dots and subordination of intelligence to policy. Case studies on each of these abound; they are a sobering reminder of Karl Popper's observation that "the more we learn about the world, and the deeper our learning, the more conscious, specific and articulate will be our knowledge of what we do not know."

The qualities that go to make a good intelligence operative have been defined in all systems of governance. A medieval classic called it "delicate business involving some unpleasantness" to be "entrusted to the hands and tongues and pens of men who are completely above suspicion and without self-interest, for the weal or woe of the country depends on them." In an interesting passage in his book, the formidable Mr. Allen Dulles observed that "a good intelligence officer must have an understanding of other points of view, other ways of thinking and behaving, even if they are quite foreign to his own." Record shows that this is easier said than done even in normal times. The ability to assess what Trotsky called "changes in mass consciousness in a revolutionary epoch" is rarely acquired by those who collect and analyze intelligence. The reason for this would seem to lie in insufficient comprehension of the nuances of a changing situation, inadequacy of coverage and inability to challenge working assumptions.

Other problems emerge as occupational hazards. Compulsive secrecy tends to become obsessive and impacts the personality of the individual. An intelligence organization, one observer has noted, tends to be a self-

sufficient society to which "the outside world becomes more and more remote and its realities less and less important." Rob Johnston, who conducted an ethnographic study of the U.S. intelligence community in 2005, observed that "within the intelligence community, more organizational emphasis is placed on secrecy than on effectiveness." Making a judgment about open source versus secret information, a professional concluded that ninety percent information comes from the former and only ten percent from the latter. "The real intelligence hero", he wrote, 'is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond."

The need to strike a balance between secrecy, openness and efficacy on a continuous basis is thus essential. Much greater coordination is required to maximize results in complex situations. The time-honoured formula of "need to know" has to be modified by the requirement of the "need to share". The point was driven home by an eminent leader very recently: "I'll never fault anybody for not having full intelligence, what I will fault is when we have full intelligence that's not shared."

II

Beyond the confines of professional competence, the question of intelligence is intrinsically linked to the nature of challenge perceived by a society. It tends to be based on past experience and on assumptions that seem logical. This is essential but not sufficient and its relevance now is increasingly open to question. The resulting dilemma was aptly expressed a few years back by the historian and jurist Philip Bobbitt:

"Now it happens that we are living in one of those relatively rare periods in which the future is unlikely to be very much like the past. Indeed the three certainties ...about national security - that it is national (not international), that it is public (not private), and that it seeks victory (not stalemate) - these three lessons of the past are all about to be turned upside down by the new age of indeterminacy into which we are plunging."

Bobbitt went on to assert the need to appreciate "the essential ambiguity" of attacks to which societies may be subjected to and as a result of which strategies of retaliation and deterrence may become less useful. In such a world, he added:

"We must move our thinking from threat-based strategies that rely on knowing precisely who our enemy is and where he lives, to vulnerability-based strategies that try to make our infrastructure more slippery, more redundant, more versatile, more difficult to attack."

This conceptual shift, from threat-based to vulnerability-based strategies, would necessitate a comprehensive reorientation of the work of the State and therefore of its intelligence apparatus, its objectives and its work methods. Some of this is already underway in the light of the experience of the first decade of the 21st century; this, however, have been pragmatic and halting since the requisite paradigm shift in thinking is yet to be put in place. The extent and speed with which it is done may well determine success or failure in the foreseeable future.

To develop the argument further, I would like to borrow the definition of the term vulnerability from the meaning given to it in the terminology of computer security. There it is referred to as a weakness which allows an attacker to reduce a system's Information Assurance. This happens at the intersection of three elements: a system susceptibility or flaw, an attacker's access to the flaw, and an attacker's capability to exploit the flaw. In societal terms, this would read as (1) flaw or susceptibility (2) existence of an enemy or a threat (3) ability of the threat to exploit the flaw. Such a framework would necessitate going beyond the traditional approach to a comprehensive assessment of both the susceptibility of the target and the capability of the opposing force.

A complicating factor of increasing relevance is the changing nature of the actors on the global stage. In addition to nation-states, it now includes a mix of non-state entities, benign and malignant. In the absence of effective multilateralism, the relative power of these non-state actors has increased to reflect the fragmentation of interests.

The conclusion is inescapable that in the world of tomorrow, the nature of intelligence required for comprehensive security would be qualitatively different. This would have implications for the methodology of acquiring and analysing it. As a first step, it would necessitate a wider understanding of target areas. Much too often, governmental intelligence efforts have focused on politico-military and economic intelligence. While its relevance

cannot be questioned, its sufficiency can be. The reason is obvious. Most often, the standard check list does not go beyond or behind the super-structure, does not look at societal realities, pays inadequate attention to other people's ways of thinking and behaving. Intelligence services, as David Kay of the Iraq Survey Group put it, "don't do a very good job of trying to understand the soft side of societies."

Nor does the check list takes a good look at the national security implications of non-traditional threats including cyber-attacks, attacks on food and water security, bio-terrorism, pandemics or worst case apocalyptic visions of the future. It has, for instance, been assessed that in a post-pandemic world dangerous patterns of inter-state behaviour may emerge and seriously endanger security of states.

The ambit of intelligence, consequently, has to be comprehensive. It is to be assessed simultaneously on three planes: state-centric, society-centric and environment-centric. The dynamics of these may be different and may require different tools of analysis. The resulting conclusions may be fluid, complex and contradictory and thereby challenge the analytical skills of the operative to bring forth options that can be comprehended and acted upon. Access to these skills, if not available in-house, would necessitate review of security rules that generally govern the functioning of intelligence organisations.

III

A particularly serious problem relates to the misuse of intelligence. The classic instance in recent times is the process leading to the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The July 2004 Report of the US Senate Select Committee on Pre-War Intelligence Assessment of Iraq revealed that "group think dynamics" led the intelligence community to interpret ambiguous evidence as conclusive and ignore in the process established mechanisms to challenge assumptions and group think. Closer to the mark was the secret Downing Street Memo of July 23, 2002 in which the head of British intelligence reported after discussions in Washington that "intelligence and facts were being fixed around policy" of regime change. The Iraq Enquiry now in progress in London is shedding more light on this.

These instances can be multiplied. They are not the monopoly of one nation or set of nations. They are revealed earlier in open societies and less so in

closed ones. They have led to follies and catastrophes. Failures propel thinking in the direction of correctives and reforms. They focus analysis on the political or economic pressures at work in individual societies. These, together, propel thinking in the direction of accountability and necessitate oversight. Both are considered unwanted and bothersome by intelligence communities for reasons that range from secrecy and operational efficiency to downright contempt for any individual, body or arrangement that endeavours to assess their functioning. The problem nevertheless exists and was posed by an expert in precise terms:

How shall a democracy insure its secret intelligence apparatus becomes neither a vehicle for conspiracy nor a suppressor of the traditional liberties of democratic self-government?

It is hardly necessary to remind an Indian audience that ministerial responsibility to the legislature, and eventually to the electorate, is an essential element of democratic governance to which we are committed by the Constitution. The methodology of this is in place for most aspects of governmental activity; the exceptions to it pertain to the intelligence and security structure of the state.

How then is oversight and accountability ensured?

The traditional answer and prevailing practice, of oversight by the concerned minister and Prime Minister and general accountability of the latter to parliament, was accepted as adequate in an earlier period but is now considered amorphous and does not meet the requirements of good governance in an open society. Concerns in the matter have primarily arisen on two counts: (a) the nature and extent of supervision over intelligence services exercised by the political executive and (b) the possibility and scope of misuse of these services by the political executive. Both concerns emanate from the absence of specific accountability, on these matters, to the legislature.

The problem is not a new one and has been faced by other democratic societies. In late 1970s opinion in the United States reached the conclusion that "oversight of the Intelligence Community is essential because of the critical importance of ensuring the nation's security, as well as checking the potential for abuse of power." As a result, two congressional committees were established in 1976 and 1977. Despite this, the 9/11 Commission

Report of 2004 found the congressional oversight of intelligence "dysfunctional" and recommended structural changes. A similar exercise was conducted in the United Kingdom through the Intelligence Services Act 1994 that established the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the intelligence services. Other countries like Canada, Australia, South Africa, Norway, Germany, Argentina, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania have also put in place similar mechanisms of public accountability.

It has been argued that the scope of the mandate of the parliamentary intelligence oversight committee is crucial for its success. Three models of the mandate can be identified: (a) comprehensive to include both policy and operations, as in the U.S. and Germany (b) limited to matters of policy and finance, as in UK (c) focused on human rights and rule of law, as in Norway. The basic purpose of all three is to ensure that government policy in a given field is carried out effectively within the boundaries of the law. For this reason, it is felt that without access to some operational detail, an oversight body can have or give no assurance about the efficacy or the legality of the intelligence services.

Given these models of calibrated openness to ensure oversight and accountability, there is no reason why a democratic system like ours should not have a Standing Committee of Parliament on intelligence that could function at least on the pattern of other Standing Committees. Since internal and external intelligence do not in our system report to the same minister, the possibility of entrusting this work to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs may not meet the requirement.

In the same spirit, and keeping with the practice of other democracies such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the concerned agencies should make public their mission statement outlining periodically their strategic intent, vision, mission, core values and their goals. Existing models range from periodic executive review of the mission statement to statutory definition of the function of these agencies. Furthermore, and in step with the globalised information architecture, there is a case for greater openness with regard to the history of intelligence institutions. We need to study initiatives taken elsewhere and determine the extent to which we can proceed in the matter.

The shortcomings of the traditional argument, of leaving intelligence to the oversight of the executive, became evident in the Report of the Kargil Review Committee and its sections on Intelligence in its Findings and Recommendations. It identified flaws, acknowledged the absence of coordination and of "checks and balances", and noted the absence of governmental correctives. The Report referred to relevant systems in major countries but did not include in it their systems of oversight and accountability.

Some correctives were introduced pursuant to the establishment of the National Security System and the report of the Group of Ministers on the reform of the national security system in its entirety. These improvements enhanced internal accountability and coordination but did not go far enough and did not put in place a more open system of public accountability. In the discussions that followed the publication of the Kargil Review Committee Report, and apart from inter-agency spats and the blame game, one informed commentator described it as a "substantive contribution in educating our Parliament and public opinion" aimed at "introducing transparency in this sensitive sector."

Arguments of this nature tend to be condescending. They ignore the time-honoured formula which is the bedrock of democracy: that "instead of looking on discussion as a stumbling block in the way of action, we think it an indispensable preliminary to any wise action." They belittle the capacity of elected representatives to be responsible in matters of national security. Also overlooked is the fact that depending on the fall of the electoral dice, these same representatives are transformed into the political executive entrusted with the responsibility of supervising the work of intelligence agencies.

The contention that openness and public discussion would compromise the secrecy essential for intelligence needs to be examined carefully. Operational secrecy is one aspect of the matter and has to be maintained. The legislature, nevertheless, is the organ of the state that allocates funds and is therefore entitled to insist on financial and performance accountability. The practice of subsuming allocations is not conducive to transparency; it may even encourage misuse. The proposed Standing Committee could fill this void; it could also function as a surrogate for public opinion and thus facilitate wider acceptance of the imperatives of a situation.

Given the nature of emerging threats to human security, a wider sampling of opinion would in fact facilitate better comprehension of the issues and of possible remedies to attain total national power and comprehensive defence.

IV

Let me conclude by saying that in a fast changing world, the challenges facing intelligence practitioners are enormous. Can they adapt their organizations, policies and practices to a world in which there is a qualitative change in the notion of security and in the nature of threats? Both compel a paradigm shift in procedures and objectives; so does the imperative of accountability in terms of democratic norms of good governance. Each of these needs to be factored into the work patterns of the intelligence operative of tomorrow. A timely synthesis would pave the way for success.

I thank Shri K. C. Verma and the Research and Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat for inviting me today.



003. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the Conference titled "An International Dialogue between Islam and Oriental Religions", at the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

New Delhi, February 20, 2010

Islam and Oriental Religions

Religious discourse is a ponderous subject. I claim no competence in it. Inter-faith dialogue is seemingly simpler but is in reality equally obtuse. Here, too, I claim no expertise. Both frighten away the novice and make the initiated cautious. Despite this, I succumbed to Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan saheb's request to present myself in your midst today. Temptation, said George Bernard Shaw, should not be resisted:

*Rang-e-sharaab se meri neeyat badal ga-ie
Waaiz ki baat reh ga-ie, saaqi ki chal ga-ie*

The organisers of this conclave are to be congratulated for taking up a subject that is in dire need of open discussion in our country. My personal inclination would be to dispute the title. It imposes a geographic definition on a theme that transcends geography. It categorises faiths or belief systems in terms of their region of origin. It severely limits a reading of the history of inter-faith dialogues.

This "Oriental" distinction is significant in view of the results of the survey of the world's Muslim population done by the Pew Research Centre. It revealed that two-thirds of the world's 1.57 billion Muslims live in Asia. Islam, indeed, is as much an Oriental religion.

Be that as it may, and taking the subject on face value, I presume the intention is to examine the interaction of Islam with religions that originally emanated from the Indic and Sinic societies. These would principally be Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism in India, Zoroastrianism in Iran and Confucianism and Taoism in China. One reason for this could be that while there has been an on-going dialogue between Islam, Christianity and Judaism in recent times, the same is not the case with other faiths mentioned above. Another reason, equally valid, is the religious diversity of the Indian society and the consequent need for a dialogue with the religious Other.

It is to be noted that all these faiths emerged in the Eurasian landmass and the vast majority of their adherents are to be found in geographically contiguous regions. Together they constitute over two-thirds of the world's population. The normal business of living brought them together from time to time in the past and does so today. Such social intercourse may include religious dialogue but is not necessarily synonymous with it. The frequency and intensity of this interaction varied with time and place. Despite the abridgement of distances due to modernisation, urbanisation and globalisation, the disappearance of traditional channels and modes of communication have impacted adversely on this interaction.

Inter-faith dialogue has emerged as a prominent civil society initiative between nations and groups in the post-Cold War world, amidst the "Clash of Civilisations" debate and the raging ethnic and religious

conflicts in various parts of the globe. The "The Alliance of Civilizations" initiative under United Nations auspices connects people and organizations devoted to promoting dialogue among political, religious, media and civil society leaders, particularly between Muslim and Western societies. Other such dialogue frameworks include the Cordoba Initiative on improving Muslim-West relations, the Madrid Dialogue Conference that was a Saudi-Spanish effort, the Assisi interfaith work of the late Pope John Paul II and the Common Word initiative of Muslim scholars.

Despite the significant progress achieved, the record shows that inter-faith dialogue has remained confined to the select few and has not percolated to the public at large.

Religion, in a generic sense, covers both the articles of faith or creed and a set of rituals emanating from them. The two are connected but not synonymous. Furthermore, all systems of faith also promulgate certain universal values and principles of human conduct that are similar to each other. On a metaphysical plain thinking about Creator, the Purpose of Creation, and the relationship between the Creator and the Created often tends to run along parallel lines and reaches proximate conclusions. Once that level is reached, commonalities prevail:

Hum muwahhid hain hamara kaish hai tark-e-rusoom

Millatain jab mit ga-een ajzaa-e-eeman ho ga-een

Dialogues and discussions between adherents of different faiths have always taken place and are not a modern day novelty. Occasionally, they have been state-induced; more often, they emanated from individual or group initiatives.

This backdrop helps us address a set of questions. To what extent did this contact help the process of mutual understanding, particularly an understanding of each other's religions and systems of belief? What were the points of convergence and divergence? To what extent were these influenced by politics and state craft? What conclusions can be drawn from it? Above all, what needs to be done today?

II

The first, and unquestionably the most important in the Indian context, is the contact between Islam and Hinduism. This was not a single point happening in space and time and response patterns were not uniform. In southern India Islam as a faith came through traders and had little difficulty in being accommodated. The story was different elsewhere in the sub-continent where Islam was often identified with rulers; here too, however, response patterns varied and their homogenisation does no service either to history or to proper understanding.

It is a truism that all social orders are impacted upon by belief systems as well as by politics. In order therefore to comprehend the interaction between the two, it is essential to distinguish between (a) a religious action that is politically relevant or conditioned and (b) a political action that is religiously relevant or conditioned. A good many examples in both categories can be found in history as well as in current practices.

An early example of Muslim perception of Hinduism is to be found in the Central Asian scholar Abu Rehan Alberuni's account written in the early years of the 11th century. He candidly admitted the dissimilarities between the adherents of the two faiths, highlighted "the deeply rooted hatred" resulting from the invasion of Mahmud of Ghazna, and then went on to dwell on the essence of Hinduism:

"The Hindus believe with regard to God that he is one, eternal, without beginning and end, acting by free will, almighty, all-wise, living, giving life, ruling, preserving: one who in his sovereignty is unique, beyond all likeness and unlikeness, and that he does not resemble anything nor does anything resemble him."

In a similar vein Amir Khusro in the 14th century said the Hindus are among those good people who believe in God who is omnipotent and omniscient and is "pure Truth and inimitable Reality."

Another example of this approach was Dara Shikoh's *Majma-ul Bahrain* wherein he concluded, with regard to Indian monotheism, that "he did not find any difference, except verbal, in the way they sought and comprehended Truth." (*Juz ikhtilaaf-e-lafzi dar daryaaft o shenaakht-e-Haq, tafaawati na deed*).

In the 20th century, Muhammad Iqbal went even further in a popular poem, Hindustani bachon ka qaumi geet:

*Wahdat ki lai suni thi dunya ne jis makaan se
Mir-e-Arab ko aai thandi hawa jahaan se
Mera watan wahi hai, mera watan wahi hai*

These should have signalled a mutual appreciation of two systems of belief. The Mughal Emperor Akbar and his Prime Minister Abul-Fadl came close to such an appreciation. However, compulsions of statecraft directed the majority of rulers in an opposite direction. As a result, identities were principally sustained through the cultivation of prejudices rather than through spiritual and social values. Politics contributed to it in great measure. Rulers were motivated by political and economic considerations; principles of their faith rarely guided their actions. The result of this approach was twofold: on one plane, the coming together of people in daily life impacted on habits and customs and induced acceptance of each other; on another, they lived together separately.

The chasm was sought to be bridged by the Sufis who, as one scholar put it, took religion from the classes to the masses; another described it as "a walking incarnation of inter religious dialogue". This achieved degree of success, had its imprint on the Bhakti movement, left some mark on perceptions but did not alter the wider picture. Over time, the negative perceptions congealed.

It is evident, therefore, that despite adequate knowledge and good intentions, misperceptions were allowed to prevail. Their impact on Indian society is in no need of commentary.

The need of the hour is to seek a more effective approach to further mutual understanding.

III

A beginning has to be made with the first principles of social order. This is a set of values that regulate social intercourse and dispense justice. These values, in a religiously homogenous society, are generally taken from religion or conditioned by religious precepts; in a non-homogenous

one, however, the only available and acceptable course is to seek values common to all faiths, is subscribed to by the votaries of all faiths, and is not overtly offensive to any segment. Every society in its political manifestation accepts these common values; it also subscribes to a set of secular values. The historian Edward Gibbon dwelt on this in the context of ancient Rome in its republican period; his words remain relevant:

"The various modes of worship were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosopher, as equally false; and by the magistrate, as equally useful. And thus tolerance produced not only mutual indulgence, but even religious concord."

Our requirement today is no different. We need to go beyond tolerance; the imperative for religious concord in a framework of equality is evident and compelling. This would be achieved only through a sustained, candid and uninterrupted dialogue without a syndrome of superiority or inferiority and with the objective of locating common values conducive to the maintenance of ethical standards essential for social harmony and furtherance of common objectives. The process of locating these values would bring forth other commonalities. Experience over time of shared public space and common national resources in everyday interaction, and mechanisms that blur boundaries through management of differences, would assist the process.

The quest for common values would not be a substitute for religions. All it would do is to locate a minimum of basic values on which consensus exists or can be developed; these would include faith in the unity of humankind and equality among human beings, contemplation, penance, ascetic living, justice, charity, truthfulness, help to poor and needy, contentment, self respect, tolerance and promotion of social peace and stability.

These values unite, they do not divide; they foster love, not hatred. Because they are embodied in all faiths, they transcend formal boundaries. Together, they would involve a commitment to a culture of peace, respect for life and non-violence, justice and social solidarity, truthfulness and human equality.

Commitment is one aspect of the matter, practice is another. The latter has to go beyond the circle of the select few and percolate to the masses. In the final analysis, we will be judged not by what we say, but by what we do. To do this meaningfully, institutional arrangements would be helpful; these would be means to an end, not the end itself.

IV

Today's conference is the beginning of a process debating how to foster dialogue between various faiths in East and South Asian societal contexts. It is an affirmation that the process starts through cooperation among religious, cultural, political, educational, and media establishments with a view to consolidate ethical values and encourage progressive social practices.

Prof. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in his epic study of Indian Philosophy has concluded: "The twin strands which in one shape or another run through all the efforts of the Indian thinkers are loyalty to tradition and devotion to truth...The different views are not looked upon as unrelated adventures of the human mind into the realm of the unknown or a collection of philosophical curiosities. They are regarded as the expression of a single mind, which has built up the great temple, though it is divided into numerous walls and vestibules, passages and pillars."

Inter-faith dialogue should proceed on this Indian heritage that we have inherited. This heritage has no specific religious, linguistic or cultural label and no attempt should be made to keep it exclusive or make it exclusionary. The inclusiveness of our constitutional ideals derives its inspiration from this heritage and any process that further strengthens it is good for the nation and needs to be encouraged.

The message from this Conference should be loud and clear:

*Aa ghairiyat ke parde ek baar phir utha dain
Bichroan ko phir milaa dain, naqsh-e-duie mitaa dain*

I thank Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan for inviting me to inaugurate this Conference and wish its deliberations all success.



004. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Inauguration of the Indian Association of International Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

New Delhi, April 6, 2010

I am delighted to be here today. The JNU has for decades occupied a place of pride amongst institutions of higher learning, has contributed and continues to contribute in good measure to academic pursuits and to the national discourse, and has justified Jawaharlal Nehru's vision for a university.

I also recall with some nostalgia my own short but productive association as a Visiting Professor some years back with the Centre of West Asian and African Studies of the SIS.

Let me begin with a confession. When Professor Mattoo first mentioned the idea of having such a body, I related to him my own experience in 2005 of trying to bring together on one platform all those working on or interested in contemporary West Asia. The effort failed, despite an initial spurt of activity and a helping hand from many well meaning individuals.

This state of affairs, clearly, is unsatisfactory.

My purpose was to caution, not to dissuade. While a miniature has its own artistic value, a wider canvass allows for more space, perhaps more creativity. I am glad he and others associated with the initiative went ahead; today's gathering is evidence enough of their success.

The need for an association of international studies is self evident; its absence, in fact, invokes questions. Could the latter be attributed to a mind-set flaw that propels us as a people to be considerate to the pardesi but indifferent to pardes?

Be that as it may, and whatever be the reasons, the harsh reality is that despite impressive statistical data, the study of international affairs in our country is episodic, emotive and inadequate, propelled much too often by a propensity to conform rather than be driven by the logic of evidence.

Someone once said that nations, like men, have their infancy. This can no longer be true of present-day India. We have had six decades to develop,

to mature, and to find our place in the comity of nations. Facts tell the story eloquently: we have a population of 1.2 billion, an economy of over a 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.

Does this lead us to comprehensive power or what the Americans have called smart power -the capacity to combine elements of both in ways that are mutually reinforcing? Its objective, quite obviously, would be to enhance national power, to be an active and effective participant in global decisions, and in the implementation of those decisions. 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.

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 tools, particularly language skills, 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.

How well are we prepared to shoulder this responsibility? How do we fare in comparison to our peers among players on the global stage?

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 the one being launched today, where concerned scholars and researchers from all parts of the country could exchange ideas and experiences, would be of great relevance. It would be of lasting service to Indian scholarship, and to the conduct of Indian diplomacy, if this Association could identify the deficit areas, bring forth immediate and near term course corrections, and raise public awareness about the imperative necessity of chartering a more purposeful course in international studies.

I thank the Vice Chancellor for inviting me on this important occasion. I wish the Association all success and I congratulate the JNU for having taken this important initiative.

Realism in international studies is an unavoidable necessity. Good scholarship should, nevertheless, factor in what Hedley Bull called "the limitations of our own imagination and our own inability to transcend past experience."

Last but not the least, scholarship of international affairs should also be a rewarding pursuit and be able to provide a livelihood for those who opt for it. In a recent interaction with students of JNU, many students who have specialised in various aspects of international studies remarked that they were unable to find suitable and rewarding employment opportunities. The newly established universities, think-tanks and specialised centres of study and the globalising footprint of Indian business and industry should provide new avenues for employing scholars of international studies.



005. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit Conference.

Washington (DC), April 12, 2010

Please See Document No.57.



006. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Defence College.

New Delhi, April 27, 2010.

I am happy to be here today to join you in commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the National Defence College. Through five decades of sustained work the College has earned reputation and respect amongst its peers in the world.

The primary purpose of the establishment of the NDC was to instruct senior service and civilian officers in the 'wider aspects of higher direction and strategy of warfare.' It represented a systemic attempt to synergize the various dimensions of a principal objective of social order, that is, to seek security and develop the capacity to face challenges to it.

The meaning and content of these concepts has evolved with time and human progress. Security today is viewed as human security. It goes beyond state security in the traditional sense and encompasses environmental protection, resource security, sustainable development, basic amenities, good governance, social justice, and human rights. War too now has a meaning that transcends the one given to it in textbooks of strategy or international law. Concepts like inter-polarity, hybrid wars and networked adversaries have acquired relevance and are re-shaping strategies and tactics.

The collective impact of these perceptions dilutes the traditional paradigm and induces a comprehensive review of concepts and practices. Such an approach excludes compartmentalized thinking.

The challenge for the strategist therefore is to think beyond the obvious, visualize the improbable perhaps even the impossible. A tsunami, a pandemic, a global financial meltdown, a volcanic eruption of the type witnessed in Iceland earlier this month are indicative of the type of challenges that national planners may have to confront in addition to the traditional ones. Each of these would necessitate inter-agency planning and implementation.

Here lies the relevance of institutions like the NDC where a pooling of knowledge and experience is intended to shed new light on questions of comprehensive security and to bring forth policy options.

Equally important are the "higher direction" aspects of the Course and the question of management and leadership. These are critical to success in any organization. Captain Liddell Hart, a strategic thinker of an earlier era, penned a passage that to me has continuing relevance. Allow me to share it with you; it may, or may not, resonate:

A study of history, past and in the making, seems to suggest that most of mankind's troubles are man-made, arise from the compound effect of decisions taken without knowledge, ambitions uncontrolled by wisdom, and judgments that lack understanding... Men who are helped to authority by their knowledge continually make decisions on questions beyond their knowledge. Ambition to maintain their authority forbids them from admitting the limits of their knowledge, and calling upon the knowledge that is available in other men.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Developments in the last two decades have changed the world and the way we interact with it nationally and globally. The end of the Cold War, the induction of new technologies, the implications of globalization, the debate about the place of state sovereignty in world politics have, together, undermined in varying degrees the foundations of the pre-1990 world.

Alongside, the receding horizons of science have given a new profile to genomics and neuroscience, offering a new definition of human nature and leading, in the view of some competent observers, to the possibility of "promethean powers to repair and even redesign that nature."

It is here that two questions of immense importance confront us: What is the nature of the threat today? How prepared are we, nationally and globally, to cope with the implications of the changes that events and our own actions have unleashed?

An answer to the first question is inextricably linked to our perception of insecurity. Beyond traditionally politico-military threats, any impediment to national development to achieve an inclusive and equitable society would be considered a threat. The dimensions of human security were spelt out by the UNDP many years back. More recently, the India Social Development Report 2005 used six indices to make an India-specific assessment. Correctives to some of these lie in the domestic sphere while some others are of a regional or global nature and can only be addressed through wider cooperation.

A sober assessment would show that the national will and national capacity is being impacted adversely by the sub-national and the supra-national. The state, as Professor Barry Buzan has observed, "is less important in the new security agenda than the old one. It still remains central, but no longer dominates either as the exclusive referent object or as the principle embodiment of threat."

How is this to be achieved? What are the pitfalls?

The challenge, in the first place, is to craft methodologies by which the state can still act effectively within constraints, be they of national law or of multinational covenants. This is possible because increasingly trans-national threats to common good are evoking collective responses. Heightened awareness has helped. The trends are clear even if the pace is uneven.

Secondly, while providers of security are primarily state actors, the threats to security of states is increasingly moving beyond the sovereign space to include non-state, sub-state or trans-state actors. The technological changes and quicker communication and transportation have become force multipliers to such non-state actors. The instrumentalities available to State actors to deal with such threats have to be adapted or modified accordingly since traditional deterrence models may not be effective when confronted with cellular organizations and their decision making structures.

Thirdly, it is important to acknowledge conceptually and in empirical terms that security of states and security of societies is not necessarily synonymous since there can be state actors that disregard accepted norms

of good governance and thereby induce insecurity. This gives rise to doctrines on intervention. Recourse to it complicates matters and causes untold hardship to affected societies. A societal or political version of nano-medicine that seeks out a diseased tissue and pathogens and spares healthy tissue from collateral damage is yet to emerge.

Finally, and given the experience of the first decade of this century, the "multi-polar" world that is tending to emerge encapsulates within its fluidity opportunities as well as risks and therefore calls for careful navigation.

Friends

"Few countries of the world", according to the Annual Report for 2009-2010 of the Ministry of Defence, "face the range of security concerns that India faces today." Addressing these concerns, internally and externally, remains a matter of the highest priority. Institutions like the National Defence College contribute to the national effort. The NDC deserves appreciation for its structured study of dimensions of national security in our increasingly complex global environment. The officers who have graduated from here have contributed to it in good measure. The College can be justly proud of its Alumni.

I am confident that the next fifty years of the National Defence College would be equally productive. I wish the College, its faculty and staff, and all the officers, success in their endeavour and I thank Lt. Gen. Prakash Menon for inviting me to this function.



007. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration Ceremony of Passport Seva Kendra. Bengaluru, May 28, 2010.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri B.S.Yeddyurappaji,

Members of Parliament,

Members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council,

Mayor of Bengaluru,

Colleagues from the Ministry of External Affairs, Passport Office and Passport Seva Kendras, Government of Karnataka and Tata Consultancy Services,

Friends from media,

ladies, gentlemen and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the Passport seva Kendras in Bengaluru, Mangalore and Hubli. Today's inauguration marks a red letter day in the quest of my Ministry to bring about quantum improvement in the quality of Passport services to our citizens. This also marks the culmination of a long and arduous process of changing a 50-year old system in line with today's needs. This change involved a study of the existing processes, study of the procedures being followed in other countries, adapting these best practices to India. This was not an easy task. There were challenges and difficulties which needed to be surmounted before the system could be opened to the public.

There were a few important factors that drove our team of dedicated colleagues in their mission to implement the Passport Seva Project. The process of economic liberalization and reforms envisioned by Shri Rajiv Gandhiji and pursued with dedication and redoubled vigour by the central government since the early 1990s, brought about high growth rates and also integrated our country more closely into the rapidly globalising world. The resultant opportunities and the growing proportion of the youth in our county pushed the demand for passports to unprecedented levels. Between 1958 and 2006, the number of passport applicants increased 133 times

and between 2006 and 2010, the number of passport applicants almost doubled.

This increase in the workload meant that citizens faced delays and difficulties in obtaining passports despite extensive simplification of the processes, opening of new passport offices, opening of new channels for submission and some computerization. It became clear to the Ministry that mere growth in capacity would not suffice to meet this challenge. Hence, the Ministry of External Affairs undertook the Passport Seva Project with the aim to dramatically increase the productivity.

The Project involves:

- setting up of seventy seven state of the art Passport Seva Kendras across the country in the first phase,
- a 14x 7 call centre operating in 18 languages,
- capturing biometrics of all applicants,
- more counters and increased public dealing hours,
- connectivity of the system to the district police headquarters to ensure faster police verification,
- status updates to the citizens through SMS and email,
- uniform procedures and transparent and time bound completion of all processes.

Live trials have revealed that these measures have indeed led to a quantum improvement in the speed of processing of passport applications.

The Passport Seva Project is a path breaker in more than one way. It involves several innovations. It is the first National Level Project capturing biometrics, and has set up the first Government Call centre run in 18 languages. Other hallmarks of the project include bringing together the best of the government and the private sector for the benefit of the citizens in a security sensitive project; performance linked incentives for Government staff; and retention of strategic control by the government in an IT project.

The passport system is totally dependent on the State Police for the verification of the antecedents of the applicants. While all Police Verification

proformas of the applicants will flow to the district police headquarters electronically, the verification will still be done manually. Ministry has enhanced the amount payable to the State Government from Rs 100/- to Rs 150/- per verification. I would like to request the State Government, through the good offices of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the senior police officials present, to extend their fullest cooperation to the Passport Office to get all police verification done expeditiously for the benefit of the residents of Karnataka State.

We have only taken the first step now and have a long way to go. The journey will involve learning through the challenges that lie ahead. I am confident that with the unstinted cooperation of the staff, the able project leadership team at the helm, and an experienced Service Provider in Tata Consultancy Services, we would be able to quickly move to the next phase of the project.

Such a large project would not have been possible without the support of a multitude of agencies, each playing its part. I would take this opportunity to thank the Department of Information Technology and the bodies working under its supervision like NIC, STQC and CDAC, Tata Consultancy Services, NISG, the officials of the CPV Division of my Ministry, India Post, Karnataka Police, the Project Management Unit and most importantly, all officers and staff of passport office Bengaluru.

I am pleased to inform this august gathering and the citizens through the media that next month we will launch the project in Chandigarh. After these pilot locations go full steam and are certified by an independent authority, the project will be rolled out across the country. I solicit your cooperation in fulfilling our commitment to bringing world class services to the citizens of this great country.

Thank You.

Jai Hind.



008. Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the 9th IISS Asia Security Summit.

Singapore, June 5, 2010.

"New Dimensions of Security"

Thank you for asking me to speak to this increasingly important dialogue forum on global and Asian security and defence. Singapore is the dialogue's natural home, as the fulcrum of the most interesting and exciting part of the world for practitioners and theorists of defence, security affairs and international relations.

I was asked to speak on new dimensions of security. To do so at a time of unprecedented and rapid change in the international situation, and when we are in the midst of a transition, requires courage and some foolhardiness. But the attempt must certainly be made. The price is too high of not understanding the changes around us and of failing to adapt to or manage that change.

Today's situation

We live in a time when the global and regional balance of power is shifting rapidly, as a consequence of economic shifts and technological change. And the region of the most rapid change is Asia. Uncertainty in the international system is higher than it has been for a long time. We can debate whether the unipolar moment is past, passing, or poised to return, or whether this is a "non-polar" world. But there is no question that Asia is witnessing the simultaneous rise of several powers, each convinced that its position relative to the others will improve rather than worsen in years to come. And this shift occurs when decades of globalization have integrated economies of the major powers and made them, to a degree unknown in history, dependant on the outside world for their continued prosperity and even regime stability. By one account emerging economies, which accounted for about 27% of global GDP in 1995, will now produce a little more than half of global GDP this year. The geopolitical consequences of the world economic crisis include an acceleration of past trends towards multi-polarity, while strengthening the interdependent nature of the present international economic and political system.

What this means in practice is that to a greater extent than before transnational peace and security can be regarded as global public goods, in the sense that no single state can deliver them on its own. We are used to thinking of global public goods as a clean environment, health, knowledge and property rights. But like other public goods, everyone depends on peace and security, and neither the market nor the wealthiest or strongest person can do without them. As power is increasingly widely distributed in the international system between states, and even to some non-state actors, peace and security have become global public goods in the sense that no state can create order or deliver peace and security on their own.

While the new dimensions of peace and security can increasingly be thought of as global public goods, this is not to say that there is less incentive for competition among states for power, influence, and resources, with the goal of determining or affecting the behaviour of other state and non-state actors. The nation-state is still the basic unit of international security. Sovereignty and territorial integrity remain the foundation of the international system, as do traditional security concerns and zero-sum competition between nation states. But such competition continues, with its attendant risks, within boundary conditions imposed by the globalised and interdependent nature of our security. This is more than just saying that in a globalised world both security challenges and their answers are global. This is to argue that security has acquired new transnational dimensions because of recent geopolitical, technological and economic developments, and that these have to be dealt with differently from traditional security concerns.

New Dimensions of Security

In this light, let us look at some of the new transnational dimensions of security in a little more detail. A listing of the new dimensions of security today would include:

- Thwarting the spread of weapons of mass destruction: The world may now be at a "proliferation tipping point" in terms of both nuclear weapons and the militarisation of space. For India, clandestine proliferation networks in our neighbourhood have already adversely affected our security. The risk of nuclear weapons or of other weapons of mass destruction falling into extremist or terrorist hands

is real and must be factored into our thinking. It is clear that a new non-proliferation paradigm is necessary to deal with issues of nuclear security caused by the rise of non-state actors and their links to formal or organized structures in weak states. Today, India is the only nuclear weapon state to announce an unequivocal no-first-use commitment, and to declare that a world without nuclear weapons will enhance our security.

- Fighting terrorism; anarchy on land and sea has been empowered by new technologies, as piracy and cross-border terrorist attacks have shown. The Indian experience of cross-border terrorism shows the complexity of what we are dealing with. The 26/11 attacks on India were planned and organised in one country, where the attackers were trained, the logistics and communications support chain extended over at least seven countries, and the attack was carried out in our country. Terrorist groups are networked to an unprecedented extent and it is no longer possible to segment them by origin or ideology or targets. Located as we are in India beside the epicentre of global terrorism, we are acutely aware of the value of collaborative counter-terrorism efforts and of the need for more to be done.
- Energy security and stability: The politics of energy, which is linked to climate change as well, will be a key to global stability. Limited physical availability of hydrocarbon resources and the high energy import dependence of several major powers is a recipe for resource nationalism and competition. Technological solutions available today have not prevented this competition for hydrocarbon fuels from becoming sharper.
- Slowing climate change: Fortunately, Copenhagen has brought some sanity into the overblown rhetoric about climate change as a global challenge to the very existence of humanity requiring us to transcend inter-state rivalries and narrowly defined economic and trade interests. As each group of states asserted their interests with tenacity in Copenhagen, it became clear that there is no alternative to the heavy lifting of international negotiations within the UN process to arrive at an equitable outcome that takes into account the differing interests of the states concerned.

Some geopolitical and security effects of climate change are becoming apparent, changing the environments in which we will operate, (perhaps even opening up the Arctic passage, for instance), and in adverse impacts on human security. Migration, water stress and food shortages are likely consequences and will most affect the poor and weak and those least capable of mitigating or adapting to climate change. National plans like India's National Missions provide a robust response within the limits of one state. But there is no escaping the need for a matching and equitable international response, based on the UNFCCC. For countries like ours many proposed international actions sounds like a cap on development or an attempt to perpetuate an unsatisfactory distribution of the limited carbon space. Equity and a cooperative mindset are essential if we are to find cooperative solutions that this problem requires. But to treat climate change as a security issue at this stage, especially after the Copenhagen experience, would be to add an unnecessary layer of complexity to an already difficult task.

- Maritime security: Apart from the 90% of global commerce in goods and 65% of world oil supplies that are carried by sea, today 95% of internet traffic is carried by undersea cables. Over a hundred thousand ships pass through the sea lanes near India each year. We in India had a stark reminder of threats from the sea when Mumbai was attacked by terrorists from Karachi on 26/11/08. Sitting in Singapore beside the Straits of Malacca we need no reminding of the importance of the oceans. I mention these facts because they remind us of the common interest of littoral and other major powers in keeping these sea lanes open and free. And yet most of the debate among strategists on this issue is phrased solely in adversarial terms, as a zero sum game.

Efforts to keep vital sea lanes open from Suez and Hormuz to the US west coast are presumably in the common interest of all the littoral and user states of these oceans. India has begun a process of consultation and cooperation among littoral navies in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium. To be truly effective, this effort needs to encompass the entire Indian-Pacific oceanic domain. India would be happy to work with the other littoral states and naval powers in

this domain to see how we can address the threats at sea from terrorists, pirates, proliferators and organized crime. The experience of working together against such transnational threats may encourage the navies concerned to higher transparency and build confidence among them. Such mutual confidence is essential today, when there is such a rapid accretion of strength of several regional navies.

- Managing the security of the global commons: outer space, the oceans, cyber space, and global transport and communication networks. Today there is hardly any aspect of our lives that is not touched by outer space or by IT. As this intensifies, we have seen a steady technological shift in favour of the offense over the defence in both domains. There are major issues regarding the placement of weapons in space and of weapons designed to attack space based assets. Military uses of space based assets for intelligence, reconnaissance and communication are a reality. We are at the point where rules of the road are required as soon as possible.
- Cyber security is also a problem that recognizes no boundaries or rules today, at a time when ICTs are critical enablers in communication, development, infrastructure, security and defence. Cyber security may actually be the exception to the rule that these new dimensions of security require collective international effort. Cyber attacks are global, occur at the speed of light and skip the battlefield. Conventional deterrence or suasion is therefore relatively ineffective in this battle-space, and there is a premium on offence at these high rates of operational manoeuvre. Cyber security threats have reached the stage of undermining public confidence and of sowing distrust among nations. And yet, dealing with this challenge is largely left to effort by individual nations. If there are arms control approaches available to deal with these threats, they are yet to even be widely discussed in the international community.

In effect we are speaking here of the security of the global commons, "that which no one state may own or control and which is central to life". The very definition of the global commons has been expanded by technology to include outer space and cyber space in what are

natural assets beyond national jurisdictions. Cyber security is a good example of national public goods, (and "bads"), going global.

Only collective effort can meet such common challenges. They require new global partnerships involving those powers with the capacity to address the issues. As new powers emerge they are becoming stakeholders in the global system. In each of the areas mentioned above, new paradigms are necessary to cope with the changes wrought by technology and shifts in the balance of power. And not one of them can be addressed satisfactorily without a new paradigm. The world order defined by WWII or Cold War victors no longer suffices.

In this interdependent world of intertwined security, great powers will be defined by their use of power and not just by its accumulation. If the essence of power is to affect the behaviour of your adversaries, today the nature of security makes a degree of cooperation with potential adversaries necessary. Of course, there is space within interdependence for the great rivalries that characterize great transitions; but their form and nature have changed in time, space and nature, and in their effect.

The Asian dimension

We sometimes bemoan the fact that rapid shifts in the balance of power among nation-states in Asia are unmitigated by institutions or collective arrangements for security. And yet that may actually turn out to be to our advantage. While sclerotic Cold War institutions in other regions seek new roles for themselves, Asia is free to build the open, inclusive, plural and flexible architecture required to deal with these new transnational dimensions of security. Whether Asian states will be able to build such a security architecture will be a real test of our wisdom and skill. Asia has shown an ability to create new models of rapid economic growth, and of pragmatic coexistence despite political divergence and pluralism.

The question is whether we can also show such innovation in dealing with the new dimensions of security as well. A promising beginning has been made in the proposed ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting+8 that is planned for later this year. ASEAN must remain the bedrock on which this region

deals with these issues. India looks forward to working with Singapore and other partners in ASEAN on traditional and new dimensions of security in the broader region which affect the world.

The Way Forward

It is probably easier to say what we should avoid in the way forward as we try to deal with these new dimensions of security.

We must avoid the tragedy of the commons, where multiple individuals, acting independently and solely and rationally consulting their own self interest, will ultimately deplete a shared limited resource even when it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen.

The existing organs of power in the international system should be rebuilt to reflect today's realities. For international peace and security this would require restructuring and expanding the UN Security Council.

We also need to build new structures that can cope with new dimensions of security such as the power of non-state actors. We need to build structures that are inclusive and flexible enough to avoid the inadequacies of existing international organizations. Logically speaking, these structures would counter the nature of the threats that we face and be networked. As we have shown in responding to piracy off the Horn of Africa, improvisation is often more successful than rigid approaches might have been. The security situation around the Straits of Malacca offers a striking example of the success that results from cooperative effort by like-minded countries.

And, most important, we need to build the habits and experience of cooperation that will enable us to deal with the unpredictable challenges that will certainly confront us. Our navies have made a beginning, showing us the way.

We in Asia are still learning as we go. India will participate actively and constructively in this process.



009. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Kalyani Shankar for the All India Radio.

New Delhi, August 12, 2010.

Interviewer (Shrimati Kalyani Shankar): Welcome to this programme, Mrs. Nirupama Rao. Parliament is rocked with the issue of Commonwealth Games controversy. Are you worried about the image of India abroad in view of the controversy regarding the Commonwealth Games and what kind of damage control exercise could be undertaken?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Let me say as far as the Commonwealth Games are concerned, the Games are a matter of national pride and prestige. Naturally, we all look forward to hosting them successfully. As far as the participating countries and delegations are concerned, the Government has kept them fully briefed about all the issues, about infrastructure and security to assure them that preparations are on track and we are committed to holding a very successful Commonwealth Games.

Interviewer: The problem now is that we are not ready. That is what the controversy is all about. But are you confident that we will be somehow able to manage?

Foreign Secretary: When the hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports spoke in the Lok Sabha yesterday and he briefed the hon'ble Members about the state of preparedness for the Games, he indicated that almost all the stadia, other sports venues, and the Games Village facilities are ready. So, I think the nation has been kept fully in the picture about the fact that the preparations are going ahead and that we are committed, as I mentioned at the outset, to holding a very successful Commonwealth Games.

Interviewer: Have you received any concerned queries about preparations?

Foreign Secretary: No, let me say that we, as I said earlier, maintain a very close and very regular communication with all the participating countries. Our Missions abroad are publicizing the fact of the Games

through the local media in those countries. Our Missions are collaborating with the local India Tourism Offices wherever they are. And a special effort is being made also to publicize these games through events that we will hold in some Commonwealth countries during the celebration of our Independence Day.

Interviewer: Mrs. Rao, you had been part of the delegation which went to Pakistan last month along with EAM for Pakistan and Indian Foreign Ministers' talks which are seen or perceived as a failure. Have you received any communication from Pakistan? When will the Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi visit India resuming the talks again?

Foreign Secretary: I would by no means describe our External Affairs Minister's visit to Islamabad in July as a failure because it was not a failure. Our relations with Pakistan are complex. As you know, you have to be aware of the last sixty years in our ties. Each visit or meeting that we undertake is part of a long process which no one believes is going to be easy. What this visit did was to help us promote understanding of each other's point of view on issues of mutual concern. Now, despite the fact that there were differences on a few issues and I do not deny that given the complexity of this relationship, one must be aware of the fact that differences cannot be bridged in one meeting alone. But we had a good understanding on many other issues, and Foreign Minister Qureshi has accepted EAM Shri S.M. Krishna's invitation to visit India at a mutually convenient date which we will decide through diplomatic channels. Subsequent to the meeting also, both sides, and we have heard this from Pakistan also, that they believe that dialogue is the most effective means to tackle outstanding issues and, as I have said on many occasions previously, any interruption in the dialogue or an abandonment of dialogue does not serve the interest of either country.

Interviewer: So, what would be the next meeting's agenda?

Foreign Secretary: I will not prejudge agendas or outcomes as far as the next round of talks with Pakistan is concerned. Let me say there is an invitation, a standing invitation from our Minister of External Affairs to Foreign Minister Qureshi of Pakistan to visit India to continue this process of dialogue.

Interviewer: About 26/11 we have been talking to them. We have been telling them they should do something about punishing the culprit. But after your visit and till now, is there any forward movement in that?

Foreign Secretary: Trial of the Mumbai suspects who are in the custody of Pakistan is still to be completed, and that process has been very slow, and we have remarked on the glacial pace of that process previously also. So, what I am telling you is nothing new. We have time and again emphasized to Pakistan that it is our expectation, it is our hope, and it is our desire that this process moves forward because Pakistan has also acknowledged that the masterminds and the handlers involved in the Mumbai terror attacks came from Pakistan. Therefore, there is action to be undertaken by Pakistan to bring those culprits to justice. And public opinion in India is naturally very concerned about it. The degree of alienation that our people in India feel about Pakistan because of the fact of terrorism that has been promoted and encouraged from that country's soil directed against India, is very real and palpable, and I think Pakistan should understand the force of Indian public opinion on this issue.

Interviewer: How much of WikiLeaks information was known to India and what use will it be to continue the dialogue with Pakistan while Pakistan-sponsored terrorism continues?

Foreign Secretary: The role of official agencies from Pakistan in encouraging terrorism against India is something that we have been speaking of and drawing attention to for a long time now. It is not just that the WikiLeaks came up with that revelation. It has been known to us for a long time. And Pakistan has from time to time made the commitment to us that it will not permit the pursuit and encouragement of terrorism from territory under its control or, from Pakistani territory. So, I think what we have done over the last few occasions when we have had the opportunity to raise these issues with Pakistan is to make it very clear to them that the atmosphere for the pursuit of our dialogue with that country can never be really conducive until and unless they stop the encouragement of terrorism against India. So, this dialogue that we have had with Pakistan has served the purpose of putting across

our deepest concerns to Pakistan on this issue. I think it is the best option available to us.

Interviewer: Do you expect a change in the attitude of the United States towards Pakistan after the WikiLeaks leak, now that there is some hard evidence against Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: We have had a very useful and productive dialogue and a very frank dialogue with the United States about our concerns on terrorism emanating from Pakistan. I think the United States is fully aware of the concerns that we have in this regard, and our cooperation and our dialogue with the United States on counterterrorism issues has been, as I said, very productive and useful. Now there is of course the context of the war against terrorism that the United States is engaged in in Afghanistan and the role that they see for Pakistan in this context. But let me say that a lot of people speak of the dependence that countries have on Pakistan in this regard. I think more and more the world community is coming to understand the nature of terrorism emanating from Pakistan, the need for Pakistan not to adopt a selective approach when it comes to dealing with terrorist groups on its territory. The British Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron referred to it very very eloquently during his recent visit here.

Interviewer: Are you worried about the increasing dependence of the US on Pakistan for getting out of Afghanistan? Where does that leave India?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe that our development partnership with Afghanistan is a zero sum game. Afghanistan, as I have said earlier also, is a very fiercely independent country. And the kind of takeaway we have had from meetings with the Afghan leadership in the recent past is that they are very zealous about guarding their independence, and in ensuring that the progress that has been made in Afghanistan over the last nine years is not eroded in any manner. This is progress in the field of development, in the field of gender issues, women particularly, that is an issue that concerns all of us. For India, Afghanistan is a neighbor. So, let me say that being friends as we are with Afghanistan, and this is a very deep friendship, we are confident about our profile in

Afghanistan and the fact that our interests there are well recognized by the Afghan Government and by the international community.

Interviewer: Mrs. Rao, when will the US President Obama visit India? Are the dates finalized? What would be the highlight of his visit?

Foreign Secretary: When our Prime Minister visited the United States in November last year on a state visit at the invitation of President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh invited US President Obama to visit India. President Obama has accepted this invitation and the visit is to take place in early November 2010. This will be the first visit of President Obama after he became President of the United States. So, it is a very important visit and I am sure it will be a very definitive visit in the context of the growing strategic global partnership between India and the United States. During this visit we will discuss not only bilateral issues but regional and global issues of mutual interest. The programme and other details for this visit are being decided in consultation with the Government of the United States. There has been a steady improvement of our relations with the US over the last decade and we intend to move ahead on a broad range of issues. We have constantly heard from our friends in the United States that our rise, our progress, our development is good for the world, is good for the United States; and that given India's orientation towards peace and stability in world affairs, and our democracy, our rule of law, that the United States and India share a balance of values. So, that is the underpinning for this relationship. So, I think there is potential in this relationship beyond our present imagination. The scope is truly immense for the relationship between two of the world's largest democracies who share similar values.

Interviewer: How long will the visit be?

Foreign Secretary: As I said, the programme and other details are being decided at this moment.

Interviewer: Mrs. Rao, the Nuclear Liability Bill is all ready and the Government wants the Bill to be passed this Session. What would be the next step?

Foreign Secretary: The passage of the Bill, as in when it is completed, would enable the expansion of the generation of nuclear energy in our country. This would include cooperation with a number of countries. Basically what we have felt is that we should have the domestic legislation that conforms to international standards to deal with civil liability in the case of any future nuclear incidents. That is what Government is doing and that is why we have proposed the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Bill, 2010, which was placed before Parliament in May and is currently under consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee concerned.

Interviewer: Our National Security Advisor Mr. Shivshankar Menon visited China sometime ago. When will the next round of border talks take place?

Foreign Secretary: We do not have dates on the next meeting of the Special Representatives to discuss the boundary question between India and China. But as you know, we have had thirteen rounds of these talks so far. The last round took place in August 2009. We have achieved some concrete results in this process, especially in 2005 when our countries signed the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the settlement of the India-China boundary question. Our National Security Advisor Mr. Shivshankar Menon has been appointed by our Prime Minister as the Special Representative for India at these talks. We are confident that the next round of the Special Representatives' talks will be held soon.

Interviewer: There are some concerns about China not issuing visas to Kashmiris. China on its part has also expressed concerns about the Chinese labour not getting visas and the businessmen not getting visas. Are these concerns addressed now?

Foreign Secretary: As you are aware, the nature of our interaction with China has grown enormously over the past few years; and in particular economic exchanges between India and China have grown exponentially. As far as the issue of visas which you mentioned for Kashmiris, for citizens of India who are domiciled or belong to the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, you know our point of view has

been put across very clearly to the Chinese that we do not accept this policy of stapled visas to our citizens who belong to Jammu and Kashmir. The Chinese Government has been informed very clearly that we reject that policy. As far as the visa regimes for both India and China are concerned, these are being constantly adjusted to meet the growing requirements of travel between our two countries because these regimes have to take into account the tremendous growth in our economic exchanges. But today I believe there are no significant problems apart from the issue that I mentioned earlier about the stapled visas.

Interviewer: What about the Iran pipeline? How do we balance our relationship with Iran along the United States?

Foreign Secretary: You are talking about the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. Our relations with the United States and our relations with Iran are independent of each other and you should not hyphenate them. As far as the pipeline is concerned, India is very interested in cooperation with Iran including in the oil and gas sector. To put that in context, especially in terms of the import of crude which we require for the growing economy, Iran is an important supplier. Issues of pricing, transit fee, transportation tariff, point of delivery, project structure, and security would apply when it comes to the pipeline. This is a multilateral project. It would naturally involve protracted discussions as all aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries. So, we are going to discuss this further - the bilateral aspect of this, the India-Iran cooperation in this regard - when we meet within the Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas that we have with Iran, and that is likely to be convened later this year.

Interviewer: Thank you very much for being with us, Mrs. Rao.



010. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Third Conference of Indian Heads of Missions.

New Delhi, August 26, 2010.

The third Conference of Indian Heads of Missions (HOMs) is being held in New Delhi from 27-29 August, 2010. The preceding conferences took place in December 2008 and August 2009. The Conference will be inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna on 27th August morning. This would be followed by an address to the HOMs by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. One Hundred and Nineteen HOMs from Indian Embassies and High Commissions around the world will attend the conference.

The Heads of Missions will call on the President and the Vice President of India. They would also be addressed by the Finance Minister, Raksha Mantri, Home Minister, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of State for External Affairs, President of ICCR and the National Security Advisor.

The HOMs will participate in a series of interactive sessions covering a wide spectrum of foreign policy issues, including developments in our immediate and extended neighbourhood, relations with key nations and regions, as well as, regional and international issues of importance to India.

The HOMs will also interact with distinguished personalities from business and industry, including Mr. Gurcharan Das and Ms. Indra Nooyi, during sessions being organized by CII and FICCI.



011. Inauguration of the 3rd Indian Heads of Mission conference.

New Delhi, August 27, 2010.

The third Conference of Indian Heads of Missions (HOMs) commenced today at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

Welcoming the 119 High Commissioners and Ambassadors from across the world, **Foreign Secretary Smt Nirupama Rao**, remarked that they represented a transforming and transformational India. The country's economy was resilient enough to register one of the highest economic growth rates in the world even in the midst of the global financial crisis. The fact that a majority of our population was under 25 years of age gave us an empowering advantage.

India had always attached high priority to the development of close ties with the countries in its neighbourhood, based on the fundamental principles of equality and mutual respect and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns. It was our responsibility to meet the challenges of managing a complicated and sensitive relationship with our neighbours in a mature and balanced manner.

Foreign Secretary also noted that India was today a member of an increasing number of multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements, including NAM, G-77 and G-15 on the one hand and recent initiatives like G-20, G-4, BRIC, IBSA, BASIC and EAS on the other. It is this quantum jump in the levels of our global engagement that has given us our greatest opportunities while at the same time presenting to us some significant challenges.

The intersection of the domestic environment for national development and the state of health of our neighbourhood relationships had never been as sharply defined as it was today. How do we align our foreign policy objectives with the country's fundamental security and developmental priorities? How do we combine a firm commitment to our core national values with dynamic, flexible, adaptation to changes in the international environment? How do we ensure that our periphery remains peaceful and free from tension so that our economy can grow even more rapidly? How

do we deal with the threats of transnational terrorism especially that which emanates in our close neighbourhood? How can the Ministry of External Affairs best adjust to the exponential increase in demands on its expertise, experience, time and resources? The debate on the nuclear liability bill, the targets set for electricity generation from nuclear energy, and the steady expansion of dialogue with key partners on cooperation in nuclear energy had shown how foreign policy and domestic priorities were exceptionally inter-twined, indicating that our work was increasingly interconnected with that of other departments of government.

India's growing international profile, said Foreign Secretary Rao, had brought new responsibilities and challenges in the transaction of diplomacy and an organisational complexity, that was redefining the traditional role of a Head of Mission.

The External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna, formally flagged off the 3rd Conference of the Indian HOMs. He commended Indian diplomats for functioning abroad in alien, often difficult and sometimes harsh and adverse conditions, in volatile and even violent zones, with professionalism and commitment.

EAM underlined that aspirations of *aaam admi* - the common man, should remain at the core of our foreign policy oriented to providing an external enabling environment for the country's transformation through inclusive economic growth.

Salient Excerpts from EAM's address

"External prerequisites for sustained high economic growth over medium to long term include more foreign investment, and meeting our growing energy needs. The agreements that India has concluded in the recent past in the field of civil nuclear energy, and the Nuclear Liability Bill represent fruits of such efforts. We are rapidly evolving economic content of our growing partnerships, including those with industrialized nations such as the US, the UK, France, Russia and Germany. Of particular relevance in this regard will be our Look East policy which is aimed at further developing our multi-faceted relations with the South East Asia, the East Asia and the Pacific.

'Security' represents a vital cluster of our priority. Our interests lie in a peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood. We believe that dialogue can address all outstanding issues, and have seen from 2004-'07 the potential of such a process with Pakistan. Given the complexities of our relationship with Pakistan, we have advocated a step-by-step, graduated approach. We have conveyed to Pakistan that credible and effective action by Pakistan on our terrorism-related concerns, including the investigations and trial in Mumbai terror attack, would be the most important confidence building measure.

In the context of our pursuit of prosperity and cooperation in the neighbourhood, I cannot overemphasise that India's commitment to discharging its responsibilities in SAARC in an asymmetrical and non-reciprocal manner has revitalized SAARC in recent years.

I am also happy to mention two important initiatives which we have vigorously pursued. Coincidentally, both of these crossed important milestones yesterday: the South Asian University began its first academic session and the Parliament passed the Nalanda University Bill.

Over the years, India's development cooperation has emerged as an important component of our foreign policy. Our partners appreciate that India's contributions to their wellbeing emanate not from a state of affluence or surpluses. Our small development projects represent an innovation both in terms of targeting and delivery model. We are successfully replicating this approach in several countries, even as international development institutions have commended this model. India's projects in Africa, such as the prestigious Rs.540-crore Pan-African e-Network project, help achieve e-connectivity in the important fields of tele-education and tele-medicine and hold enormous promise.

Indian diaspora is an important aspect of the responsibility of our Missions. Estimates suggest that India will be the largest contributor to the world's workforce -around 136 million people - over the next ten years. Indian investments and business are today creating or protecting a significant number of jobs in Europe and America.

There are other people-centred services, which carry enormous weightage in terms of public perception of our Ministry. Primary among them are

passport and Haj. We issue over 50 lakh passports annually. The Mission Mode Project to establish 77 Passport Seva Kendras was launched with the objective of improving the delivery of passport to applicants. Preparations for Haj this year are now progressing well. The Ministry will continue to remain active in ensuring that about 1.5 lakh Haj pilgrims from India are able to perform their sacred duty in the best possible manner".

Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram shared his thoughts on India's security environment and challenges with the HOMs. He also spoke about the multi-pronged strategy adopted by the Ministry to counter the challenges.

MOS for External Affairs, Smt Preneet Kaur and National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon also addressed the HOMs and responded to a number of questions.

In the evening, CII organized an interactive session for the visiting diplomats where they had a useful exchange of views with Indian industrialists.



012. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Heads of Indian Missions.

New Delhi, August 27, 2010.

In his inaugural address to the Heads of Missions today at Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister observed that foreign policy was basically aimed at pursuing India's national interests. Indian diplomats were facilitating the creation of an international environment that was conducive to India's progress, development and attainment of its external goals.

Outlining his vision of India, the Prime Minister said that the foremost national goal was to remove poverty and accelerate the pace of economic development. We were building modern infrastructure which would stand up to the challenge of a fast moving economy. The nation was also focusing on human resource development, as it was the quality of human resources

that determined the standing of a country in the comity of nations. By the same token, Science and technology was a major factor of power and wealth of a nation. India had to have the ability to master technology, he emphasized.

The Prime Minister remarked that India was among the fastest growing economies in the world, which despite the global melt down in 2008-09, had returned to a growth path of 8.5%. Energy availability was critical to attaining a 9-10% growth rate, as 1% growth needed 0.8% increase in energy availability. Foreign policy had a very important role in securing India's energy needs.

Reflecting on the international environment PM noted that we were living today in an increasingly inter-dependent world. India needed an open trading system and wanted to emerge as a major trading nation in the world. G20 had become a key forum for discussing and shaping international economic and financial policies. Foreign policy had also to pay more attention to functioning of G20.

India sought a peaceful and tranquil international environment, as well as, very good relations with all countries, especially with our neighbours and major powers. Foreign policy should also be oriented towards East and South East Asia which were poised for a sustained growth rate in the 21st century. He remarked that India, by and large had good relations with her neighbours. We were engaging them without looking at reciprocity, in our own enlightened interest.



013. Excerpts from the address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Combined Commanders' Conference.

New Delhi, September 13, 2010.

The Nation is proud of the selfless devotion to duty displayed by the officers and men and women in uniform and on behalf of the Nation, I convey our gratitude to each and everyone of you and your families.

The Indian Armed Forces are a hallmark of professionalism and national integration. Your contributions during times of natural disasters across the country, and most recently in Leh, have been invaluable. They have saved precious lives and brought relief and hope to the worst affected. In Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East you have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with civil authority to protect the Nation's vital interests.

Our Armed Forces deserve the best and I wish to assure you that the Government will make every effort to ensure this. No country can make progress without ensuring its security and territorial integrity.

As our economy grows and our technological capabilities expand we must set higher standards for the modernisation of our defence forces. It is not enough for us to keep pace with change. When it comes to defence capability, we must be ahead of the technology curve. Defence modernisation, however, is a complex task. If it is to be effective it must involve the full chain starting with updating our war fighting doctrines to meet new threats to our security, preparation of appropriate staff quality requirements and creating a broad-based production and delivery infrastructure on the ground.

The other integral part of our defence preparedness is border infrastructure. This involves not just our land borders but also ensuring appropriate coastal security. Several measures have been taken and are underway but it is important that all Ministries and Departments work in close coordination to ensure timely implementation of existing plans. It is necessary to approach this task with a sense of urgency.

In the ultimate analysis the strength of a nation flows from the strength of its institutions, its values and its economic competitiveness. If India is looked

upon today with respect and seen as a force for the future it is because of the stable and orderly fashion in which we are transforming the lives of our people. Transformation on such a scale, within the framework of a democratic and pluralistic society, has not been seen in the world before. If we succeed, our example will have repercussions for the new global order.

We have always prided ourselves on preserving our strategic autonomy, and this is an article of faith for us. India is too large a country to be boxed into any alliance or regional or sub-regional arrangements, whether trade, economic or political. If we are to sustain a growth rate of 9 to 10 percent in the foreseeable future, we require foreign capital inflow, both portfolio and direct investment, the best of modern technology and access to markets of the advanced economies. We have to modernise our infrastructure. For all this, we need to maintain healthy relations with all major powers.

In global terms, we are witnessing a shift of economic and political power to Asia. The Asia-Pacific region, including South East Asia, needs much more attention by us, and this must seep into our defence and foreign policy planning as never before. There is a palpable desire on the part of the countries of this region to enhance cooperation with us which we must reciprocate.

Some of our toughest challenges lie in our immediate neighbourhood. The fact is that we cannot realise our growth ambitions unless we ensure peace and stability in South Asia.

The countries of the Gulf, West Asia and Central Asia are our natural partners. We have tangible interests in these regions, among which energy security is one of the most important. We have to ensure adequate availability of commercial energy to support our growth targets. This requires not only diversification of the sources of our energy imports but also the widening of our overall energy mix. It is in this context that we need to operationalise our nuclear energy option, which holds great promise and is a necessity.

The unrest in the State of Jammu & Kashmir over the last few weeks is a matter of concern. The youth of Kashmir are our citizens and their grievances have to be addressed. We have to ensure better delivery of services and generate avenues for economic advancement for the people

of that State. We are willing to talk to every person or group which abjures violence, within the framework of our Constitution.

In the North-East, the situation in general is better today than it was in the recent past, but some areas of concern still remain.

Naxalism is a serious challenge to our internal security. We will do all that is necessary to protect each and every citizen of our country, and deal firmly with those who resort to violence. This is a collective task involving the Centre and the States. At the same time we have to accelerate our development efforts in the naxal affected areas and make our administrative machinery more sensitive and responsive to local concerns.

The Indian economy has weathered the global economic crisis of 2008 better than most of the large economies of the world. We have the advantage of a continental sized economy and a large internal market, but our challenge will be to ensure that our growth is balanced across all regions and reaches all sections of our society. Given our young demographic profile, we will also have to ensure access to good quality education and health services to all. We have put in place a National Skill Development Mission to empower our youth which will yield positive results.

The Armed Forces have and must continue to serve as a shining example for all citizens of India. As leaders of a modern military, each of you has an important role to play in the transformation of the services. The country expects much from you and looks to you for your continued leadership. The country will consistently accord priority to issues related to equipment, training and welfare of our soldiers and ex-servicemen. We will do all that is necessary to ensure that the armed forces attract the best talent in the country. I would also like you to know that the sacrifices of the men and women of the Armed Forces will never go in vain.

I wish to once again place on record my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your professionalism and competence. I wish you the very best in the service of the Nation and greater glory to the mighty Indian Armed Forces.



014. Address by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at South Asia Initiative, Harvard University on "India's Global Role".

Boston, September 20, 2010.

Mr. Michael D Smith, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Dr Sugata Bose,

Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to be here today. Coming back to Harvard - and all the wonderful memories it brings back of the year I spent in 1992-93 as Fellow at the Center for International Affairs or the Weather-head Center as it is now called, and an earlier stint when my husband was Edward Mason Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1983-1984 - is truly a pleasure and a privilege. When I came to America for the first time, it was to Harvard, and Harvard became my introduction to America. I shall always treasure that connection.

The annual Harish C. Mahindra memorial lecture series has become one of the most talked-about events in Harvard promoting exchanges with South Asia specialists and public figures from South Asia as also in understanding the challenges facing the region. Harish Mahindra has been justifiably compared to someone like a prince of Florence, truly a Renaissance figure, a man who personified the true spirit of intellectual and entrepreneurial endeavour and who knew the beauty of life. In this context, the topic of this evening's discussion, "India's Global Role", has a resonance and topicality that will, I am sure, prove to be a catalyst for an even greater involvement between Harvard and India.

Of late, India's global role has been mentioned frequently against the backdrop of what we would call a shift of economic power to Asia. Today, it is almost de rigeur to speak of the dynamic Indian growth story despite the ravages of the global economic crisis. But, to put our arms around the Indian experience, you have to go beyond just the factor of fast economic growth. And that would lead us onto the quest of India's

attributes and its enduring stability as a modern and democratic nation state.

We are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of India's Constitution, this year. I believe that all those who have studied India's evolution since our independence in August 1947 would agree that the most important, and indeed the most durable, element of India's profile as a modern nation state is its democratic orientation. Pratap Bhanu Mehta who taught here at Harvard, spoke recently of the deeper virtues from which our Constitution sprang, and I quote: "an ability to combine individuality with mutual regard, intellectualism with a democratic sensibility, conviction with a sense of fallibility, ambition with a commitment to institutions, and hopes for a future with due regard for the past and present". Ideally, I should like to think that these attributes are as valid in their application to India's global role in the 21st century, as they were to the founding fathers of our Constitution. Our democratic transformation and the empowerment of millions of Indians who moved from being subjects of a colonial power, to citizens of the world's largest democracy, is in itself an epic story. Indeed, the Indian model of democratic governance together with its economic strength and dynamism, propels the promise and the potential of India's role on the global stage.

When we talk of India's economic transformation, we expect India, at an average growth of a minimum of 7.5% growth in GDP per year to achieve a ten-fold increase in per capita income in the next 30 years and join the ranks of the developed countries; at this rate of growth, by 2020, we should be able to be categorized as a middle income developing country. We do not underestimate the challenges we face of meeting the education, health, energy and infrastructure needs of our population. 66% of our population live in the rural sector which at present contributes only around 20 per cent of our GDP. The issue of increasing agricultural productivity, planning urban growth, ensuring sustainable development while controlling and reducing emissions intensity as a proportion of our GDP, reducing income inequalities, meeting the surge in education demand and ensuring that education access becomes a driver of equality, increasing power generation, and

building infrastructure - roads, railways, airports and ports - better management of water resources, are all challenges we have to meet on the road ahead. We have to ensure that growth is inclusive, equitable and empowers the most disadvantaged sections of our population. This approach has shaped and defined India's role on the global stage today, as the policies we seek to articulate and endorse internationally are based on our own domestic experience.

Sixty years into India's life as a vibrant democracy, what is the transformation we see in India's global role? One of my distinguished predecessors, Shri M.K. Rasgotra put it succinctly when he said that the "transformation of India into one of the world's leading economies, a responsible nuclear weapon power with demonstrated scientific and technological competence, and a stable democracy is a truly phenomenal achievement of our time". What were the well-springs of India's foreign policy as we began life as an independent nation? Issues such as decolonization, the creation of an Afro-Asian community of like-minded countries, the emphasis on the principles of peaceful co-existence based on mutual respect between nations, striving for an equitable global system for socio-economic development, initiatives towards global disarmament and a robust participation in United Nations peacekeeping activities can be said to have shaped the initial imprint left by India on global affairs in the last five decades of the twentieth century. These issues are not irrelevant to our participation in global affairs today. Driving our foreign policy priorities and our desire for strategic autonomy are factors of external security, internal security, the need for sustained economic growth, our energy security, maritime security and access to technology and innovation. Further, India is too large a country to be dovetailed into alliance type of relationships. In order to modernize our country we need to, and we have succeeded in, forging well-rounded strategic partnerships with all major powers.

We have a keen sense of our potential to be a great power by virtue of our population, our resources and our strategic location. A fundamental goal of India's foreign policy is to create an external environment that promotes the fulfilment of our economic growth targets and ambitions. And, these include three dimensions - capital inflows, 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 a country like India. 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.

Speaking to our Ambassadors from around the world recently, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh spoke of the critical need to remove mass poverty in India for which we need a fast expanding economy. Where our global role, and our foreign policy comes into this growth story is to ensure that we create an environment, an external environment that is conducive to an increased flow of capital into the country. We also need to make increasing use of modern science and technology to boost our development profile - the import of such technology therefore becomes an important constituent in our quest to accelerate the pace of our socio-economic development. In our search for energy security, we must look not only at West Asia, but farther afield, to Africa, and to Latin America so that we can develop hydrocarbon resources in these regions and also import such resources for the successful pursuit of our development goals.

Any visualization 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 rapid growth and the impact 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 advantage of building networks of inter-connectivity, trade, and investment so that prosperity can be shared and that the 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 fulfil our common objectives of economic development. A peaceful neighbourhood is mandatory for the realization of our own vision of economic growth.

The close and contiguous geographies we share with our seven neighbours who together with us make up the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation or SAARC, compel increasing

acknowledgement and recognition of the common destiny we share when it comes to issues such as food security, health, poverty alleviation, climate change, disaster management, women's empowerment, and economic development. Today, with sustained high economic growth rates over the past decade, India is in a better position to offer a significant stake to our neighbours in our own prosperity and growth. We have made unilateral gestures and extended economic concessions such as the facility of duty free access to Indian market for imports from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We have put forward proposals multilaterally within the framework of the SAARC where we have assumed asymmetric responsibilities.

However, our vision of an enhanced South Asian cooperation for development is challenged by violent extremism and terrorism, which originates in our region and finds sustenance and sanctuary there. Terrorists have repeatedly sought to undermine our sovereignty, security and economic progress, aided and abetted by forces beyond our borders. Terrorist attacks on our embassy in Kabul and the horrendous Mumbai attacks of November 2008 once again demonstrated the barbaric face of terrorism. Terror groups implacably opposed to India continue to recruit, train and plot attacks from safe havens across our borders. There is increased infiltration from across the border. Open democratic societies such as India face particular challenges in combating the threat of terrorism. It is also clear that the threat from terrorism cannot be dealt with through national efforts alone. The global nature of the threat has been recognized widely. Global efforts to tackle the problem also need to be intensified. It is time that the international community works towards early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that was tabled at the UN over a decade ago in 1996. We must act jointly and with determination to meet the challenges posed by terrorism and to defend the values of pluralism, freedom, peaceful co-existence and the rule of law.

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. Despite this threat, we understand well the Kautilyan advice that a great power loses stature if it remains

bogged down in neighbourhood entanglements. We are determined to persevere in our dialogue with Pakistan in order to resolve outstanding issues so that our region will be stable, and so that the rationale of economic development in an atmosphere of peace, for all of South Asia remains our steadfast goal.

Let me briefly also speak about Afghanistan. We are supportive of the US efforts to fight terrorism in Afghanistan and to bring stability there. We have a direct interest in Afghanistan, not because we see it as a theatre of rivalry with Pakistan but because of the growing fusion of terrorist groups that operate from Afghanistan and Pakistan and their activities in India. Indeed, developments in Afghanistan over the past few years have demonstrated in ample measure that peace, security and prosperity in today's world is indivisible, and that therefore, the international community in Afghanistan must stay the course.

Indian assistance to Afghanistan amounting to over US\$ 1.3 billion has helped build vital civil infrastructure, develop human resources and capacity in the areas of education, health, agriculture, rural development, etc. Our development partnership, which has received wide appreciation of the Afghan people, has been guided primarily by the needs of the Afghan government and people. We stand by this commitment despite the grave threat under which our personnel and people are working in Afghanistan to transform the lives of ordinary Afghan people.

China is our largest neighbor and the rise of China is a reality that faces the entire world, today. The question asked is whether our relationship with China will be one dominated by increasing competition for influence and for resources as our economic needs grow. I believe the proposition should not be exaggerated in a way that it overshadows all attempts to rationalize the relationship between India and China. The reality is that India and China have worked hard over the last two decades to deepen dialogue and bilateral relations in a number of fields. Peace and tranquility have prevailed in the India-China border areas, despite the unsettled boundary question. Our trade with China is growing faster than that with any other country. Therefore, we need not see our relations with China as being only competitive. The complicated history of the outstanding

boundary question entails that discussions to resolve it cannot be of short duration with easy fixes. As our Prime Minister has said, India and China will continue to grow, simultaneously, and our policies will have to cater to this emerging reality. China's growing ability to project its military strength, its rapid military modernization, and its very visible economic capabilities, introduce a new calculus in the security situation in our region. We are also alert to the continuing and close security relationship between China and Pakistan. These factors serve to further underscore the complexity of the India-China equation, today.

This brings me to global and regional commons that surround us. India is an Indian Ocean country. The Indian Ocean has a palpable human dimension, as one Indian strategic analyst put it recently, given the fact that millions of people from Saudi Arabia to India to Indonesia, live in close proximity of the Ocean. The demography of its littoral States and the hydrocarbon energy index associated with it give the Indian Ocean a distinctive identity. The strategic relevance of this area derives from the vast hydrocarbon resources in West Asia, the connectivity provided by the Suez-Malacca route, and the geo-political imperatives flowing from this reality. Non-state threats to maritime security are also on the rise from piracy and smuggling. All major powers today have a vested interest in keeping the sea lanes open given the demands of trade, commerce and energy flows that will only increase in coming years. Dialogue and cooperation are thereby essential to evolve a stable transparent maritime security system so as to ensure that a cooperative framework is evolved for the management of the Indian Ocean and its resources.

It is a well-accepted fact that the world is witnessing a shift of economic and political power to Asia. We believe that there is a need to evolve a balanced, open and inclusive framework for Asian countries and major non-Asian players to interact and cooperate to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges. Our "Look East" policy, articulated in 1992, has enabled us over the past two decades to integrate our geo-economic space with our neighbours in South East Asia. The ASEAN Regional Forum has provided a useful model for such cooperation based on dialogue and consensus in diverse areas such as counter terrorism, trans-national crimes, maritime security, disaster relief, pandemics and

nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Our participation in events such as the East Asia Summit has enhanced our role in our continent, which in turn influences our global role today. As the world witnesses the resurgence of China and India, and the balance of global political and economic power shifts to Asia, we are determined to ensure that there is more interaction between India and South East Asia and East Asia. The new, transnational dimensions of regional security also demand that we build an open, inclusive, plural and flexible architecture to deal with them.

Rules of the road are also required for managing the security of the global commons - which cover outer space, our oceans, cyberspace and global transport and communication networks. New dimensions of security like cyber security require to be addressed internationally especially since information technology has become critical to our needs in development, infrastructure, defence and security.

Coming to the central themes of India's global role today, the focus is naturally directed at India's participation in the architecture of global governance, as represented by the United Nations. Our priority in upholding the United Nations system has been a leitmotif of our foreign policy and our global role. However, the world today is a very different one from that at the end of the Second World War. In the United Nations system, there is today a majority view in favour of reform of the United Nations, and especially its major organs like the Security Council, which is responsible for collective peace and security. India has been at the forefront of this move, seeking an enhanced global role as a permanent member of the reformed Security Council, commensurate with its size, capabilities, contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and impeccable track record in upholding the UN system. On global economic issues, India has worked with our international partners to address the complex challenges to revive the global economy. The 2008 global economic and financial crisis triggered the further evolution of the G20, of which India is a key constituent. At the Pittsburgh Summit, the G-20 was designated as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. We see the G-20 process as a move towards a more representative mechanism to manage global economic and financial issues. The Group has taken some positive steps in this direction, for instance by committing

a shift in IMF quota share to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. Simultaneously, the new global realities require that we revisit and reorganize existing governance models which were put in place over six decades ago.

India is often mentioned in the context of the ongoing Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations being conducted in the WTO. Our commitment to the WTO, which we joined as a founder-member in January 1995, is rooted in our global approach to international trade. India was one of the 23 original members of the GATT, which preceded the WTO, and played an influential role in shaping the non-discriminatory, equitable, rule-based system that the WTO today represents. It is a measure of our commitment to this vision that in September 2009, India took the initiative to convene a mini-Ministerial meeting of WTO members in New Delhi to break the deadlock in the negotiating process, which has resumed in Geneva since last December. Even as we discuss the shape of the next era of integration of world markets, India is proactive in upholding the integrity of the WTO system, inspiring other countries to join her in implementing the objectives of the WTO Agreement.

A major issue facing the international community today is climate change. The issue is critical for us as the steps we take will need to be intrinsically linked with the growth prospects and development aspirations for 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 GHG 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. We are concerned that the developed countries often tend to ignore, implicitly, the huge adaptation challenge that we face with climate change. Today we spend 2% to 2.5% of our GDP on meeting adaptation needs, but this is not adequate. There is need for stable and predictable financing from the developed countries, and this we believe should not solely rely on market mechanisms but, rather, on assessed contributions. There is also need for a global mechanism whereby climate friendly technologies can be disseminated to the developing countries. We need to redouble efforts in these multilateral negotiations, especially after last year's Copenhagen Conference, to ensure full,

effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and to conclude these negotiations with a balanced, comprehensive and above all, an equitable outcome, with equal emphasis on all four pillars - mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

Many of you here today have followed the debates swirling around the agreement on civilian nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States signed in 2008. Some have sought to undermine this major initiative by calling into question India's policy on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The constructive and forward-looking approach that was adopted towards India in September 2008 by 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 UK. 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 collaboration. It is equally important to see the relevance of these developments in the context of India's energy requirements and challenges of climate change.

I think it would be important to underline that India is fully cognizant of the safety and security implications arising from the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are working together with our partners to help reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation. We believe that the challenges of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security have to be addressed. We have been affected by clandestine nuclear proliferation in our neighbourhood. We are naturally concerned about the possibility of nuclear terrorism given the security situation in our neighbourhood. We have, therefore, taken the lead at the UN General Assembly on an effective law-based international response including on WMD terrorism. India has joined the Russia-U.S. led Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The first Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama in April 2010 was an important milestone in our efforts.

You are well aware of India's long-standing commitment to global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We have identified some initiatives that I believe could be explored further as building blocks

of a new global, verifiable nuclear disarmament framework. These include: a global agreement on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states; measures to reduce nuclear danger through de-alerting, reducing salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and preventing unintentional or accidental use; a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction.

I also wish to briefly comment on our bilateral relations with the US. Despite being fellow democracies and sharing common values, we failed to realize the potential in our relations on account of differences during the cold war. That changed slowly in the nineties and gathered momentum in the first decade of this century. The conclusion of the bilateral civil nuclear agreement in 2008 was a major milestone. Today, the range and the depth of our bilateral relations and strategic global partnership is truly transformational in nature as described by Secretary Clinton. There are, as President Obama defines it, new wellsprings in our cooperation with each other. Today we are not only discussing issues such as strategic cooperation, counter terrorism, defence, high technology, civil nuclear and space sectors cooperation but also a broad range of development issues that directly and positively impact on the lives of our citizens including cooperation in education, health, agriculture, weather forecasting, innovation, etc. We are also engaging with each other and cooperating on most major global issues as also on capacity building in third countries. Ours is a defining and enduring partnership. This November, President Obama will visit India and we believe that this visit will enhance the depth of our understanding on a number of issues of vital importance, bilaterally, regionally, and globally.

I would not like to conclude without referring to the role of the growing Indian diaspora in the projection of India's global, national and foreign policy interests. In countries like the United States, and the UK, the diaspora has increasingly demonstrated the effectiveness of its voice and its capability to advance the Indian interest. The projection of Indian power globally is in many ways energized by the demonstrable success and achievements of the diaspora.

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 regions like Africa. Education, agriculture, capacity building in a number of areas, private sector investments, trade and communications outreach, define our relations with a number of African countries today. Apart from this, the unleashing of our managerial and entrepreneurial talent has also seen the expansion of Indian industry's global horizons - with investment outflows from India to North America and Europe being around 14 billion US dollars in 2008 alone. 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 vehicles for enhancing India's global influence today.

In sum, India's global role today is determined by the calculus of our national interests, our interest in ensuring the flow of capital, technology and innovation to further accelerate our 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 with our region, and that to sustain our growth trajectory we need an environment that is free from transnational threats like terrorism. India has consciously sought to engage and develop its partnerships with both its neighbours and also the major powers in this process, with the strategic aim of ensuring that the balance of interests thus created ensures that we are able to better deal with the challenges that confront us and that we derive tangible political, economic and security 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 its enormous diversity, its contributions to global peace and security, and its 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 Dr Sugata Bose and his colleagues at the South Asia Initiative at Harvard for having invited me to speak here this evening. Thank you.



015. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Asia Society on 'India in the 21st century: Strategic Imperatives'.

New York, September 28, 2010.

Dr Vishakha Desai, President of the Asia Society,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to address you today. The Asia Society has a well deserved reputation for bringing about a closer understanding between Americans and Asians. In recent years, with the advent of globalization, it is all the more important for organizations like the Asia Society to ensure a continuing dialogue between our two peoples. I am also happy to note that the Asia Society has a presence in Mumbai. This is reflective of the synergy which exists between the Society and India.

I referred to globalization. India is at the vortex of the changes which go with this phenomenon. What are the major drivers responsible for India's international dynamics today? First and foremost, we are the world's largest functioning democracy. You would have heard this on countless occasions. But this very fact is so fundamental to India's existence, progress and the role on the international stage that it is worth all the attention and reiteration. This year we are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of our Constitution, which is the bedrock of our democratic system. The Indian Constitution is flexible enough to accommodate these changes, and our success in empowering women, in creating a grass-roots structure of political democracy through the village councils or panchayats, in providing equity for the most socially disadvantaged, through appropriate amendments to our Constitution illustrates this.

The second attribute of modern India is the success and sustainability of our economic reforms and growth. Initiated in 1991, these reforms have created the trillion-dollar Indian economy, which is today the second fastest growing major economy in the world. A corollary of our democratic, rule-of-law based system, and our rapid economic growth, is the fact that India has become an attractive investment destination, especially for investors

from the United States. I have been personally privileged to have participated in this process when I was Chief Minister of Karnataka, which is today home to so many major investors, including from the US.

Today, the range and the depth of our bilateral relations and strategic global partnership with the United States is truly transformational in nature. We are not only discussing issues such as strategic cooperation, counter terrorism, defence, high technology, civil nuclear and space sectors cooperation but also a broad range of development issues that directly and positively impact on the lives of our citizens including cooperation in education, health, agriculture, weather forecasting, innovation, etc. We are also engaging with each other and cooperating on most major global issues as also on capacity building in third countries. Ours is a defining and enduring partnership. This November, President Obama will visit India and we believe that this visit will enhance the depth of our understanding on a number of issues of vital importance, bilaterally, regionally, and globally.

A third feature of India is its energetic and dynamic people, many of whom have distinguished themselves, both in India and abroad, on the wide canvas of human endeavour. It would not be out of place to recognize the special role played by the Indian diaspora in influencing the emergence of modern India. Here at the Asia Society, we see this fact in the persona of Dr Desai, and her other colleagues of Indian-origin. The Indian-American community is lauded as one of the most dynamic and influential groups in the United States, and not without reason.

While an ancient civilization, India today is a predominantly young country. Observers of India have referred to our "demographic dividend", especially the fact that in coming decades of the 21st century, as the population of many major economies ages, this younger population of India would be expected to form the bulk of the global work-force.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The strategic imperatives for India in the 21st century flow naturally from these attributes. The foremost priority 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 peace, security, and socio-economic development, in which we participate willingly and substantially, mirror democratic ethos.

Our Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has often articulated his vision of a prosperous and stable India, at peace with herself and her neighbours. We have close linkages with our seven neighbours who, along with us, comprise the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation or SAARC. We are also conscious of the common destiny of South Asia, especially when dealing with issues such as food security, health, poverty alleviation, climate change, disaster management, women's empowerment, and economic development. India has undertaken major policy initiatives in her relations with other SAARC members. These include unilateral gestures such as the facility of duty free access to Indian market for imports from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We have put forward proposals multilaterally within the framework of the SAARC where we have assumed asymmetric responsibilities.

We give special importance within SAARC to our bilateral programmes of assistance and cooperation with Afghanistan, which joined the SAARC at its New Delhi Summit in April 2007. Indian assistance to Afghanistan amounting to over US\$ 1.3 billion has helped build vital civil infrastructure, develop human resources and capacity in the areas of education, health, agriculture, rural development, etc. Our partnership has been guided primarily by the needs of the Afghan government and people.

Beyond the South Asian region, we are engaged in developing broad-based relations with our largest neighbor, China. Despite our unsettled border issues, peace and tranquility have prevailed along the Sino-Indian border. Today, our trade with China is growing faster than with any other country. Our relations with Russia are a key pillar of our foreign policy, and we regard Russia as a trusted and reliable strategic partner. Ours is a relationship that not only stands independent of any other, but whose significance has grown over time. Our partnership covers areas such as defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment.

Our objectives for peace and stability are challenged by violent extremism and terrorism which find sustenance and sanctuary in our region. Terrorists have repeatedly sought to undermine our sovereignty, security and

economic progress, aided and abetted by forces beyond our borders. Terrorist attacks on our embassy in Kabul and the horrendous Mumbai attacks of November 2008 demonstrated the barbaric face of terrorism. Terror groups implacably opposed to India continue to recruit, train and plot attacks from safe havens across our borders. There is increased infiltration from across the border.

Our relationship with Pakistan has been complicated by the issue of terrorism and the need for Pakistan to take effective action to prevent the territory under its control from being used for terrorism directed against India. We are determined to persevere in 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.

Open democratic societies such as India face particular challenges in combating the threat of terrorism. This is a challenge that requires greater regional and international cooperation, and at the United Nations we have proposed a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as long ago as in 1996. We believe that this is an imperative for the international community, so that we act jointly and with determination to meet the challenges posed by terrorism, and to defend our shared values of pluralism, freedom, peaceful co-existence and the rule of law.

Our experience of working within the United Nations since its inception has shown 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.

Achieving global disarmament, and securing our world against the threat of non-proliferation, is a linked strategic imperative for India. We believe that the challenges of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security have to be addressed. We have been affected by clandestine nuclear proliferation in our neighbourhood. The constructive and forward-looking approach that

was adopted towards India in September 2008 by 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 UK. 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 collaboration. It is equally important to see the relevance of these developments in the context of India's energy requirements and challenges of climate change.

Many among you have followed the debates around "climate change", especially during last December's Copenhagen Conference of the United Nations. As a large, rapidly industrializing country, the issue of Climate Change is of core strategic interest to India. The issue is critical for us as the steps we take will need to be intrinsically linked with the growth prospects and development aspirations for 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 GHG 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. It is an imperative for us, with our large and vulnerable population, to ensure full, effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and to conclude these negotiations with a balanced, comprehensive and above all, an equitable outcome, with equal emphasis on all four pillars - mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

Turning to India's strategic imperatives as a member of the global economic and trade architecture, I would refer to our constructive engagement with the Bretton Woods institutions, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and our experience in using these financial institutions in our task of nation-building for over six decades. Today, as India participates as an equal partner in the G20, which has been designated as the main forum for dealing with international economic issues, our experience has proved very relevant in putting forward our vision of the future orientation of these institutions. It is with this perspective that India has called for a review of the existing structure of the Bretton Woods institutions, and we believe that in this century, this is an objective which we will be able to

achieve, not least because the centre of gravity of the global economy has shifted to Asia.

Similarly, in the area of international trade, India has been at the centre of the current round of multilateral negotiations under the mandate of the Doha Development Agenda to ensure that the World Trade Organization continues to be relevant in creating an equitable, rule-based international trading system. We desire to make the most of the opportunities that globalization has thrown up through a process of negotiated sustainable liberalization, while ensuring that the rules of the international trading system that we have jointly agreed to under the WTO Agreement are respected and upheld. This becomes a strategic imperative for us in confronting protectionist sentiment among some of our major trading partners.

In parallel, we have joined hands with major emerging economies across the world in creating new, mutually beneficial economic structures that will serve our strategic interests in the decades ahead. The India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) has become a significant vehicle for comprehensive trilateral cooperation between three large democratic countries that share common values and are engaged in the development process to improve the lives of their peoples. It is significant that IBSA cooperation is not limited to governments, but engages the civil societies of the three countries. Similarly, we believe that the Brazil, Russia, India, China forum, known as BRIC, can contribute constructively towards sustainable global economic growth, given the fact that together, these countries span 25.9% of the world's total geographic area, contain 40% of the world's population and contribute 22% of the world's GDP, measured in PPP terms.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our ambitious "Look East" policy is already making India an integral part of the geo-economic landscape of South East and East Asia. With our immediate neighbour in ASEAN, Myanmar, we share civilizational bonds, geographical proximity, culture, history and religion. Apart from a boundary that stretches over more than 1640 kilometers and borders four North-Eastern states of India, there is a large population of persons of Indian origin in Myanmar. Bilateral relations are reflective of these multifarious and traditional linkages.

Our successful "pan-African e-Network Project", which is the biggest project in distance education and telemedicine ever undertaken in Africa, is creating new linkages between India and Africa. Our initiatives under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation or ITEC programme, with a special focus on human resource development, have enabled an Indian footprint in the societies of Central Asia, South East Asia, Africa and Latin America. India is thus truly engaged with the world.

I have touched upon some of the major strategic imperatives and directions for India in this century. Within this broad framework are the details of initiatives we have taken in the past few years, including our policy towards our immediate neighbours. In a century widely billed as "Asia's Century", India is moving steadily and surely to secure the imperatives of peace and development, of a shared destiny of mankind.

Thank you.



016. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for Scholars.

Washington (D. C.), October 8, 2010.

"It is an honour for me to be here today in Washington at the famous Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars. I would like to thank Mr. Hamilton, President and Director of the Centre, for inviting me to speak before this distinguished audience.

I understand that this Institute has a long and illustrious tradition of promoting informed dialogue for a better appreciation of international issues and developments and to anticipate emerging trends and contribute to formulation of new policies. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my own thoughts on the emerging global economic architecture and about the relationship between our two countries - India and the United States.

Once in a few decades, it appears as if the world is at a cross-road, when the path that it chooses to tread becomes critical for progress in the well-

being of its people and fundamental changes in international rules and institutions to guide the process become imperative. Neither the process of change nor its outcomes are linear. There are always concerns, uncertainties and choices to be exercised from competing alternatives and objectives. The process is indeed challenging. Today, we are at one such juncture in our lives.

Following the global financial crisis since late 2007 and one of the deepest downturns that the world has witnessed in recent times, we are compelled to rethink some of our traditional principles of economic and financial policy making. For the first time after the second World War, nations have been forced to come together to explore and discuss the need for collective action, the need to regulate finance in a globalized world and the need to reform the international economic architecture. When that happens there is hope!

As we meet here today, the world economy is showing visible signs of emerging from the global slowdown. The pace and shape of the recovery across countries, both in the developed and the emerging world, is however varied and perhaps uncertain in some instances. At home, we have done better than what was perhaps anticipated. While we have got certain things right, there are others that need our attention and follow-up, both at the international as well as the national levels.

Let me start by recollecting some of the lessons and issues that we need to keep in our mind as we collectively find solutions to address them and move towards a new international economic architecture.

Foremost, we have seen that markets with no regulatory supervision are prone to asset price or debt bubbles that lead to cyclical fluctuations in economic activity. Unlike in the past, in the present age of globalization such fluctuations are more likely to have serious cross-border social and economic implications. Governments and central banks therefore have to play a key role in supervising and regulating markets, collectively and individually in their respective economies.

Secondly, greater attention needs to be given to transmission channels of contagion, the herd behaviour of investors, excessive risk-taking during boom years and risk aversion during crisis. The effort to identify and strengthen institutions that are considered 'too big to fail' and 'too

interconnected to fail' is part of the effort to limit systemic fallout of contagion.

Thirdly, curbing speculative activities in the areas of credit and price derivatives, for example, requires pro-active domestic oversight and regulation, as well as global coordination.

Fourthly, unfettered growth of the financial sector can have dangerous implications for the real economy, as was seen during the recent crisis, when the financial sector crisis spilled into the real sector. Financial sector innovation should serve the objective of real sector development and promote financial stability.

Finally, for sustained growth and stability global structural imbalances have to be addressed, sooner rather than later. The huge build up of reserves in some countries and deficits elsewhere, massive trade surpluses in some and deep trade deficits in others are not sustainable. More nations need to come forward and share the responsibility to contribute to global prosperity. The critical gaps in international policy making and regulation, in risk management and international development cooperation need to be bridged.

There is a need for pursuing effective international cooperation and strengthening institutional mechanisms that support and sustain equitable global development. International financial institutions need to reflect in their functioning the realities on the ground. Indeed, if there is one lesson to be drawn from our recent experience, it is that we need to be vigilant in tracking economic developments at the global level as well as in our respective domestic constituencies.

Even as we make progress on several fronts, including on the issue of global economic monitoring and governance, the question is how much should we regulate and where do we draw the line?

If we do not regulate economic activity at all, we can have poor people getting trapped in debt and a repeat of the crisis of 2007. On the other hand, if we over regulate, we will kill innovation and harm economic growth. The solution to these dilemmas is not easy. The U.S. has tried to address some of these concerns with its new Dodd-Frank legislation. We, in India are also exploring new ideas in financial regulation that protect the vulnerable but allow markets to flourish. There is a lot that can be learnt

from the best practices in one part of the world to guide policy response in the other.

At this point, I must draw your attention to a rather unique developmental approach by India in recent years. We are not waiting any more for the phenomenon of 'trickle down' to happen with our significant growth trajectory. Instead, India has embarked on one of the largest efforts in history for direct entitlement of the poor and massive asset creation in the rural sector. It is also rolling out 100,000 'IT kiosks' with an eye on 'e-governance', 'e-education', 'e-health', telemedicine - as many as 83,635 have already been rolled out in rural India.

We have passed the 'right to education' bill, allocated \$24.3 billion in the last three financial years for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and \$10.7 billion on Bharat Nirman project for rural power, roads, drinking water, telecom, irrigation and housing. Our substantive GDP growth will be accompanied by direct inclusion of the underprivileged, who will in turn contribute to our rising growth trajectory.

The current phase of globalization has shrunk the world and made boundaries between countries irrelevant. At one level, it has reduced us to a single entity, such that developments in one part of this global entity have pronounced implications on the other part.

This crisis has shown us the pitfalls of an unquestioning dependence on the functioning of liberal markets to sustain and enhance human well-being. Yet we have also seen how these very markets have been the means to bring unprecedented prosperity to a large part of the world over an extended period of time. They have opened up real possibilities for many of us in the developing world to make genuine progress in addressing some of our persistent problems of poverty, livelihood, health, education and security.

I believe that globalization has the potential to benefit us all, through greater trade, more specialization and the flow of capital from where there is a glut and the returns to capital are low to where there is a shortage of capital and the returns to capital are high.

The U.S. more than any other country, has demonstrated to the world what can be achieved by having an open economy and keeping the channels of trade and business open. There is a lesson in this for all of us.

Indeed, we need to move on and have an early conclusion of the Doha trade round.

The designation of the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation has brought together advanced and emerging market economies at the same table on an equal footing. This has been a major step in the direction of improving global governance and shared responsibility for larger public good. We welcome this and commend the US and other developed nations in taking and supporting this step. Indeed, it is not surprising that the G20 could concert the decisive response to enable the world economy to move on the path to recovery.

The G20 spearheaded a commitment to implement coordinated macroeconomic policies, including fiscal expansion of US \$ 5 trillion and the use of unconventional monetary policy instruments. It took the initiative to significantly enhance financial regulations, notably by the establishment of the Financial Stability Board and strengthened the International Financial Institutions, including the expansion of resources and the improvement of precautionary lending facilities. We need to persist with and strengthen this mechanism as we move forward to create a more dynamic and equitable economic architecture for global trade and sustained growth.

I believe that economics and economic relations are important, but it is essential to recognize that these relationships are embedded in a certain geo-political reality. We have to be realistic and manage global geo-politics to create the pre-conditions for economic prosperity. Nations working together both regionally and globally can become critical forces for geo-political peace in the world and for creating the social and political pre-conditions without which no nation can grow and prosper.

There are dangers and risks of disruption in the world that we have to be attentive to at all times. Consider the Straits of Malacca. More ships pass through this corridor carrying goods and freight, than any other comparable sea-corridor in the world. If a war or a terrorist attack disrupts this trade route, the entire global economy will be plunged into a crisis. This is an area of interest not only to the neighboring nations, such as India, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia but to the whole world.

Managing political tensions, creating multiple stake-holders with interest in peace are essential to prevent such disruptions and political turmoil.

Given our shared interest in peace and stability in Asia, India and the United States can work together to promote this objective.

The friendship between our nations is built on deep, shared values, and the commitment to democracy and secularism. We are both multi-racial and multi-cultural societies that have found strength in our diversity and in our convictions. In addition, we now have important economic inter-connections, based on trade, investment and the movement of people. This has led to increasing warmth between our nations.

With gradual economic reforms, pursued through a broad based domestic political consensus, so essential in democracies, India is now an open, competitive market economy whose engagement and integration with the global economy has been growing rapidly. Trade between India and the United States has more than doubled between 2004 and 2008, with both trade in goods and services being broadly balanced. As Indian companies seek to position themselves better in the global market place, they have invested over \$25 billion between 2004 and 2009 in the US, creating jobs and prosperity, just as US companies have been doing in India. India's growth is primarily domestic demand-driven and not export-led. With the Indian economy expected to grow between 8 to 10% over the coming decade, the opportunities for business engagement with India will multiply manifold. Sustained high growth will catapult India into one of the three largest economies in the coming decades. The Indian economy will be one of the nodes of global economic momentum and stability.

The nuclear agreement between our nations and what it can do to alleviate the demand for greater energy and electricity is a significant symbol of our collaboration. The 10th of October, 2008, when our two nations signed the Agreement for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, must go down as an important date in history. In October 2009, the Indian Government announced its intention to set up Light Water Reactor (LWR)-based plants in cooperation with the US at Chhayamithi Viridi in western India and at Kovvada in southern India. While this has created further scope for business interaction between our two nations, it has also improved the possibility of lighting up more homes and bringing water and energy to the Indian farmers.

There is also a lot of scope for collaboration between India and the U.S. in the area of education. Both India and the United States have comparably

large higher education systems. In India there are 15.6 million students; in the U.S. there 19.7 million students. There is also a lot of flow of students between the two nations though this is largely in one direction-from India to the U.S. In 2008 there were 3,146 American students in India and around 100,000 Indian students in the U.S.

Academic interaction between nations is a source of soft-power relations between nations. It builds the flow of knowledge and technology and contributes to peace. I am glad there is so much academic interaction between our nations but the scope for building up more is immense. I do want India to be a hub of global education and to have many more American students coming to India for education.

Indian students and their families are today hungry for more knowledge education. America is a world leader in terms of higher education and research and can contribute to our efforts. Cooperation between India and the United States in this sector will be mutually beneficial, building expanding and durable links between our peoples which will be the connecting tissue of our relationship.

We live today in a small world. There is need for greater international cooperation to manage global challenges. These can not be tackled by any single country alone. A strong partnership between India and the United States would be vital in this process. In this context let me mention how delighted I am at the prospect of welcoming President Obama to India next month. We recall his hospitality to India last November, when our Prime Minister was made the first state guest. President Obama had said that the US-India partnership would be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century. I share this sentiment and that our country is ready to take this friendship forward. I am sure that his visit will strengthen cooperation between India and the United States and lay out a vision for our strategic partnership based on our shared values and our shared interests."



017. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during the ceremonial send off to Haj pilgrims.

New Delhi, October 12, 2010.

Smt. Shiela Dikshit Ji, Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi

Shri Sultan Ahmed Ji, Honourable Minister of State for Tourism

Smt. Mohsina Qidwai Ji, Honourable Member of Parliament and Chairperson,

Haj Committee of India

Honourable Ministers of Delhi,

Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly and Haj Committees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salaam Alekum

It gives me great pleasure to greet the pilgrims embarking on the pious pilgrimage for performing Haj this year. This pilgrimage is a precious gift from the Almighty Allah and is a privilege for which every Muslim yearns.

Government of India attaches the highest importance to facilitating this important religious obligation of our Muslim brethren. We pay close attention to the arrangements in India and in Saudi Arabia. This year, we faced some difficulties which you all aware of. I am happy to tell you that with the grace of the Almighty Allah, your good wishes and the cooperation we received from all quarters, we were able to overcome those difficulties. As a result, the preparations for the Haj pilgrimage were brought back on track well in time. It is indeed a matter of satisfaction for all concerned to see these flights leave on schedule.

The Ministry of External Affairs extensively coordinates with all concerned provision and improvement of facilities for pilgrims in India and all the points in Saudi Arabia, I also wish to put on record my appreciation for the cooperation we receive from other agencies.

I am happy to tell you that a record number of 1,25,000 Haj pilgrims will be traveling through the Haj Committee on 525 return flights. A further 45,431

pilgrims are traveling through private tour operators. Bhopal and Goa have been added as new embarkation points from this year, in addition to the existing 19.

While I wish all the pilgrims the very best in this journey of faith, I also request them to pay adequate attention to the aspects of their security and well-being, on which they are briefed by the concerned officials.

I would also assure you that all through the pilgrimage, the welfare of the pilgrims will be constantly in our thoughts. I am also sure that their prayers will include wishes for the welfare, peace and prosperity of their country and compatriots.

Once again, on behalf of the government of India and on my personal behalf, I offer my heartiest greetings to all of you and I extend my best wishes for a very successful Haj. May Almighty Allah reward you with a perfectly accomplished Haj. *Ameen.*



018 Address by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the inauguration of the Manekshaw Centre and Seminar on the "Role of Force in the Strategic Affairs" on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the National Defence College.

New Delhi, October 21, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here to inaugurate the Manekshaw Centre as well as the seminar on "Role of Force in Strategic Affairs", organized as a part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Defence College. As NDC has been able to successfully foster a culture of strategic thinking and analysis, it has emerged as a premier institution of strategic studies in India. Its training courses attract the best and brightest. Its ability to engage not only the defence personnel, but also civilian officers, is a tribute to the multi-dimensional approach of its training. It can count

among its alumni officers from various countries across the globe. Their participation has enriched the quality of NDC courses. Its alumni have risen to the highest positions in their careers and in their countries. We have amongst us His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and we are proud that he attended the 45th Course of the National Defence College and I warmly welcome him.

I would like to begin by congratulating the brave personnel of our Armed Forces, who risk their lives to defend our freedom. We have had a number of Officers, who throughout their careers showed the way, through their sterling qualities. One can never forget the leadership provided by the Late Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw, who led by example at a crucial time in the military history of our nation. It is a matter of immense pride to the nation that our Forces are professional, and have time and again displayed their dedication and valour. Many of them have even made the supreme sacrifice. They remind us that we cannot take our security for granted.

I understand that this Seminar will take a holistic look at various aspects of national security and strategic issues, including the changing nature of warfare, role of force, the existence of non-state actors, nuclear deterrence and international responses to war. I am confident the deliberations at this event will significantly contribute to our understanding of changing requirements of security in the 21st Century.

India is a peace loving nation. Historically, we have never coveted territory nor have we been an expansionist power. We have no aggressive intent. Our strategic doctrine is derived from our civilisational values of peace, tolerance and mutual co-existence. We wish to live in peace and harmony with our neighbours based on mutual respect, non-interference in each other's affairs and in accordance with principles and Charter of the United Nations.

Our objective, as indeed that of other nations, is the progress and prosperity of the country. Our primary challenge is the eradication of poverty, disease and illiteracy that afflict millions of our people. However, no nation can prosper without its borders being secure and security

remains the basic edifice on which developmental pursuits are built. We need to be adept at managing the constantly changing nature of warfare and threats to our national security. A strong defence and an effective deterrence are essential to preserve peace. Hence, we have to remain alert for any eventuality and provide our Armed Forces the necessary resources to deter any aggression or threat, even as we pursue the goal of creating an external environment that is conducive to our development process.

Given the size of our country and our economy, it is but natural that India should have global interests and a significant stake in ensuring that the international system is stable and conducive to peace and prosperity. We believe that greater international co-operation is the best way to secure this objective.

Our greatest strength is the moral force that we bring to bear on global stage. It is India's commitment to democracy, rule of law, pluralism and our values that have enabled us to earn the world's respect. The protection of the values that India stands for is a matter of national priority. Threats to these basic concepts need to be addressed. One of the foremost threats that the civilized world is confronted, with is from terrorism and India has been its victim. As the horrendous attacks in Mumbai demonstrated two years ago, terrorist groups have become more sophisticated and are able to use advanced technology and equipment in their objective of killing innocents. But, terrorism is a global challenge with a world wide network that threatens regional and global security. The world community has woken up to this challenge. India believes that terrorism has to be confronted with all the force at our command and in close co-operation with the international community.

There are other challenges to security, many of them far removed from the classical notions of inter-state conflict. As the world has globalized, so too have these challenges, no longer respecting national borders. Transnational crimes, piracy, drug trafficking and cyber attacks are all examples of these new threats, many of which are interlinked. All this requires that we must develop capabilities of adequately responding to not only the traditional threats, but also the new threats of the 21st

Century. The tools available to us are no longer limited to military power alone. Other attributes of power, including soft power, economic strength and technological advances have an increasing role to play.

The justification of the use of force itself has always been subject of controversy. It is a measure of the progress that we have made as humans that we no longer treat wars as the first mode of resolving differences. The use of force in international relations must be resorted to as the last option. We must always be guided by the philosophy that preventing wars is better than waging them. Guided by this philosophy, India has been one of the largest contributors to the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations throughout the world. Our men and women in uniform serve in very difficult and dangerous trouble spots of the world to harness the use of force for the maintenance of peace and security.

We have also seen that force in the traditional sense has been deployed for humanitarian assistance and disaster management. By this, it has contributed to the common good and as in the case of the Tsunami or Cyclone Nargis led to greater regional co-operation and understanding.

In conclusion, I would like to say that India has been widely recognized as a factor of peace and stability not just for our region, but also for the entire world. India remains actively engaged with its global partners and will work together with them for the promotion of international peace and security and realize its rightful place in the world order.

With these words, I convey my greetings to all present here and I wish the Staff and the alumni of the National Defence College the very best for the future.



019. Keynote Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the seminar: "The Role of Force in Strategic Affairs" on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the National Defence College.

New Delhi, October 21, 2010.

Rashtrapathiji,

Your Majesty, the King of Bhutan,

Raksha Mantri,

Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force,

Lt-Gen. Prakash Menon, Commandant NDC,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured to have been asked to deliver the keynote address before the seminar on "The Role of Force in Strategic Affairs" to celebrate the golden jubilee of this prestigious institution. The NDC has made outstanding contributions to the spread of strategic thought and the integration of civil and military thinking in India. You have today assembled a galaxy of experts and authorities to discuss this important question. We await your deliberations with great expectations.

Rather than trying to anticipate what your seminar will throw up, I thought I would look at two issues that you will probably consider in much more detail. Is there an Indian doctrine for the use of force in statecraft? And, how have recent changes in the world and strategic affairs affected the role of force in today's world?

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.

Our two greatest epics, the Mahabharata and Ramayana are about wars, and treat rivalries as natural and normal. And the two classical expositions on the use of force, the Geeta and Bhishma's death bed lecture on statecraft in the Mahabharata's Shantiparva are extended explanations of a unique point of view.

The clearest description of the uses of force in statecraft is in the Arthashastra by Chanakya, which deals with both internal and external uses of force.

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 evolved Indian strategic culture was as early as the third century before Christ, and how 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.

What I am trying to say is that Indian strategic culture has an indigenous construct on the role of force in statecraft, modified by our experience in the last two centuries. War and peace are continuing themes in Indian strategic culture. While not celebrating war the culture treats defensive war as acceptable when good fights evil to secure justice. Indian strategic culture has been comfortable with this contradiction. While Gandhiji shunned the use of force and opposed violence in politics he was politically steely and unyielding, and accepted violence as unavoidable and justified in certain circumstances.

As a result of this acceptance of contradictions, Indian strategic culture supports ethical views that dovetail easily with international norms of conduct, whether legal or on human rights. It is a culture that tends instinctively to pluralism, tolerance of different views and positions, and a reliance on argumentation, diplomacy and law before recourse to the use of force. It is therefore no surprise that it seeks a rule based international order to limit the anarchy among states that is sometimes evident.

This aspect of Indian strategic culture is common to what Kanti Bajpai described as the three streams of Indian strategic culture, namely, "Nehruvians", neo-liberals and hyper-realists. They might differ on the best means but not on India's strategic goals. To summarise Bajpai, all three streams agree on the centrality of the sovereign state in international relations and recognise no higher authority; see interests, power and violence as the staples of international relations that states cannot ignore; and think that power comprises both military and economic capabilities at a minimum. Beyond this they differ.

Interestingly all three streams, "Nehruvians", neoliberals and hyperrealists, believe that nuclear weapons are essential for India's security in a world that has shown no signs of moving to their abolition and elimination.

In other words, there is substantial agreement on values, on goals and even on means in our policies, despite marked and rapid changes in the external environment in which we have operated. That is why the core traits of our foreign and defence policies have persisted since independence, irrespective of the parties in power.

The Indian Practice since 1947

Let us look at this aspect of Indian strategic culture in action, in other words 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 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 as a NWS

The Indian nuclear doctrine also reflects this strategic culture, with its emphasis on minimal deterrence, no first use against non-nuclear weapon states 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, and that 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. We do not claim that it is better or worse than any other way that other nations adopt. It is a result of our own history and experience, and we feel it best suited to our goals and situation. And it too is evolving, both consciously and unconsciously, as is the world around us. It is time now to consciously build our own concepts and strategic thinking, adapted to today's realities and India's environment, including on the role of force.

Force in Today's World

The other issue that you will be considering is how changes in the world and in strategic affairs have affected the role of force.

It seems to me that the changes we see in world politics and the effects of technology are the two factors that have most affected the strategic calculus of those in the international system who might seek to use force for political purposes.

Consider the global political situation first.

With global and regional balances of power characterised by unequal distributions of power; the interdependence between major powers created by globalisation; the state losing its monopoly of violence in contested hegemonies both internally and externally; and the diversity of values

espoused by states, world politics today is in an unprecedented state of flux. It does, however seem that the cost to the major powers of using force in their dealings with each other could prevent the emergence of direct conflict between them.

The effects of technology are harder to describe and predict. In the early fifties, there were those who hoped that the unprecedented power of the atom bomb had made war unthinkable and therefore abolished it! Unfortunately, we now know better. In fact we have seen technology place increasingly lethal power in the hands of non-state actors. Terrorism is technologically enabled and knows no boundaries today, even drawing on support from within state systems. After several centuries, once again the state is not the sole or always the predominant factor in the international system. In some cases, it is businesses and individuals who now determine our technological future and it is these units that a successful policy must now increasingly deal with.

We have also seen technology create new domains for contestation, such as cyber space, where the speed of manoeuvre, premium on offense, and the nature of the battle-space make us rethink traditional concepts of deterrence. As technology has expanded the spectrum, the line between conventional and non-conventional warfare has blurred. The definition of force, the classic marker of power, has now expanded, thus changing the utility of force as traditionally configured.

As we enter a world of multiple powers, with rapidly shifting balances, change alone is certain. Unfortunately, force is the hedge chosen by several powers against heightened uncertainty in the international system. The balance is shifting between force and the other instruments of statecraft. We therefore need to develop a new and different statecraft.

If change alone is certain, and if the utility of force in statecraft is itself changing in fundamental ways, it is all the more necessary that we return to the values in which the use of force must be embedded. Ultimately it is not just the logic of politics or technology but the values and purposes of the state and society that determine the choices that we make of the uses and nature of force.

What India seeks is a new security architecture, an open, balanced and inclusive architecture, to correspond to the new situation that is emerging.

The security challenges of the twenty-first century are radically different from those of the twentieth. Nuclear confrontation or war between major powers is not as likely as the threat from derivatives of nuclear deterrence, namely, terrorism and nuclear proliferation, which are being used to subvert the emergence of a plural, secular and democratic international order in the twenty-first century. The challenges of a globalised world cannot be handled by twentieth century military alliances or containment strategies.

Conclusion

So in effect my argument is that in India's experience the use of force must be governed and circumscribed by the values of state and society. I have also tried to suggest that there may be value in studying the Indian way, the Indian view and Indian practice in the use and role of force in statecraft.

It also seems from recent experience that the utility of force, as traditionally configured and conceived, is of limited value in protecting a society or achieving some policy goals. But one can hardly jump to conclusions about the futility of force when limited war under nuclear conditions remains possible, and when adversaries need to be deterred. This debate will continue.

I wish you success in continuing the debate and in your deliberations.



020. Valedictory Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Golden Jubilee Seminar of the National Defence College.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

I am very happy to have this privilege of participating in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of one of India's premier institutions that the National Defence College is. The National Defence College has shaped the thought processes of many generations of officers of our Armed Forces and Civil Services and has fostered a culture of strategic thinking amongst our policy makers.

In many international exchange programmes it has contributed to strengthening understanding and friendship with key partners. The presence of His Majesty the King of Bhutan at the Golden Jubilee celebrations is a matter of great pride for the National Defence College.

When we look around us, we find that the world of today is not what it was when this illustrious College was established. A lot has changed, both within our country as well as in the global arena. The role of force, which is the topical subject of this seminar, itself has evolved with time - how we define it, the operating environment in which we use it and its place in our larger strategic calculus.

Firstly, the internal and external aspects of national security are getting increasingly inter-linked. Secondly, we must understand the concept of contemporary national security within a wider strategic and economic and social matrix. An enlightened national security policy should therefore be based on a holistic appreciation of the many inter-related aspects and concerns that impinge on a nation's overall wellbeing.

These imperatives have not, however, necessarily changed the importance and role of military power as an essential indispensable component of a nation's power and stability. Defence capabilities buttress the ability of a State to defend itself against armed aggression or insurgency. They act as a deterrence to the use of force by others.

Despite a complex regional and global environment, India's policies are marked by a sense of responsibility and restraint. India's military spending

has been assessed to be below the world average as a percentage of GDP. Nevertheless, our Government of India will not hesitate in ensuring that all necessary resources are provided for meeting our essential national security needs.

India has always opposed the unilateral use of force in resolving disputes between States. We have worked consistently for a rule based international order, whether in the field of security, trade or climate change. We have worked to strengthen global security with collective thinking and collective action. Our troop contributions to the United Nations have been noteworthy and have received world wide acclaim. We have been working towards global, universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and we are for a world free of nuclear weapons. We have consistently advocated the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Within our country, a new generation is taking charge of its destiny. The desire for change is much more palpable in every village, in every town and in every city. There is a growing sense of impatience with our working methods just as new impulses of growth and social justice are emerging in India's hinterland. The communications and information technology revolutions are upon us and their effects are visible in our daily lives. I am confident that all things being equal, with a predominantly young population we can expect our economic fundamentals to remain strong in the foreseeable future and we have to work to ensure that this outcome indeed becomes a reality.

The Indian economy has reverted to its higher growth path. This is important because it is only a rapidly growing economy that can create the wealth we need for redistributive measures and increased public spending on education, health, food security and environmental protection.

We have to bring all our resources to bear on tackling the problem of mass poverty in our country. But we also have to use our scarce resources efficiently and give due emphasis to conservation and the management of environment and our biodiversity. This is an area of potential conflict. We have already witnessed wars over oil. The injudicious and inequitable exploitation and distribution of scarce natural resources can sow the seeds of greater conflict among nations and communities in the future and we ought to be aware of these possibilities.

Our development ambitions need a favourable external environment. Global interdependence of nations is a growing economic and political reality. It is therefore essential for India to remain actively engaged with the rest of the world so that we can access capital, high technology, energy and knowledge to propel our growth process.

However, we have to be conscious that just as military power alone cannot assure national security, growth by itself is not the ultimate answer to the multiple challenges we face as a nation. Our ability to develop at the pace and in the direction that we wish to will depend on how well we are able to maintain the internal stability and cohesion of our country.

Naxalism and Left Wing Extremism today pose a great threat to our national security. We recognize that there is a development deficit in all parts of our country. But we should be equally clear that the Indian State cannot and will not allow its authority to be challenged.

Our country has been a victim of terrorism for the past more than two decades. Terrorism has been used as a means to destroy the values on which our nation is built. Terrorist groups enjoy patronage and sanctuaries and do not lack in resources. We therefore have to ensure that our capabilities to combat terrorism remain a step ahead of those of the terrorists. They should be left in no doubt whatsoever about our ability and resolve to defeat them.

We have to be prepared to deal with threats to our security from non-state actors and groups. The problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden is a case in point. Non-state actors are becoming increasingly fused and employing the best technologies to target open and democratic societies like ours. We have therefore to modernize our defence doctrines to respond to new and non-traditional threats to our national security.

Cyber warfare is an area of emerging concern. I am glad that our Armed Forces and our other agencies are paying increasing attention to building capabilities and expertise in this very essential area.

Assuring our energy security is another major challenge. We do not have the luxury of choosing between one source of energy and another. We must keep all options open, including that of the nuclear energy. Till such time as we are dependent on fossil fuels we must have the capability of

safeguarding the security of the sea lanes of communication. The bulk of international oil cargoes pass through the Indian Ocean and this therefore happens to be a region of vital interest and concern to us.

The scale of social and economic transformation that we seek to achieve for our country is unprecedented. If we succeed in this ambitious enterprise within the framework of an open, democratic and pluralistic society we will I sincerely believe profoundly influence the history of nations in the 21st century. For this to happen, we need peace in our hinterland and in our neighbourhood. We need to strengthen our efforts to make the world a more level playing field. The reality of international relations is that power is unevenly distributed. We should not expect those who have power to willingly part with it. We have therefore to stand up on our own feet to defend the values that define us as a nation.

I would like to conclude by placing on record our country's deep appreciation to our gallant Armed Forces for their professionalism, valour and contributions to processes of nation building. The military preparedness and modernization of our Forces are matters of the highest priority for Government.

I end by wishing the National Defence College even greater glory in the next half century.



021. Valedictory Address of Defence Minister A. K. Antony at the Golden Jubilee Seminar at the National Defence College.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

It is indeed a pleasure to be in the midst of this eminent gathering of security experts. The occasion immediately takes us back to 1960 - to the day when National Defence College was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. NDC must continue to evolve constantly in a natural way and not out of any necessity, or compulsion.

Over the last two days, a series of discussions on national security has been heard. The use of instruments such as threat and use of force has been central to nearly all the discussions. The use of force is perceived to bring about changes in the equations of power between nations - be it in the sphere of politics, security or economy.

India has emerged as an economic powerhouse on the world stage. Its democratic political foundations and economic progress have withstood the challenges of time, which has made India an object of admiration the world over.

Our relations with many of our neighbouring countries are dictated by compulsions of history. However, some nations are always on the lookout to provoke and encourage threats to our security and national integrity. India's strategic location gives rise to many of these crucial challenges in no small measure. Still, India has always desired and worked for peaceful relations with all nations and our neighbours.

Over the last two days, the issue of nuclear deterrence has also been discussed. The use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) in general and nuclear weapons in particular, constitutes the gravest threat to peace and stability in the region and the world. Today, not just India, but the international community faces the dangerous possibility of nuclear materials and technologies falling into wrong hands. In such a scenario, autonomy in decision-making in strategic affairs and in the developmental process is an inalienable right of the Indian people.

On its part, India has always exercised self-restraint in proliferation of nuclear weapons, despite not being a signatory to NPT. Our avowed 'No

First Use' principle and active participation in disarmament initiatives are ample evidence. The proposed moves must ensure that there is no differentiation between India and the nuclear weapon states.

The potential of destruction has gone up manifold with increasing use of sophisticated technology. Space and cyber domains are being talked of as the next frontiers to be conquered. The next generation of threats will undoubtedly emerge out of cyber security. We need to make our cyber systems as secure and as non-porous as possible.

Global interdependence, multilateralism and destructive capabilities of modern weapons have virtually ruled out the use of direct force. The rise in low-intensity conflicts and irregular modes of warfare reflect this trend. On their part, our Armed Forces are in the process of modernising and evolving by sharpening their skills and capabilities.

At this point, let me draw your attention to a host of diverse issues in international relations - globalisation, state sovereignty, nationalism, global finance, economic development, ecological sustainability, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and other organised crimes, as well as human rights. Nations and regions act and are acted upon by the above-mentioned factors.

Economic growth and technological changes are the prime drivers of the shifts in the balance of power. The changing balance of power however, is accompanied by some avoidable risks. Today, terrorism poses a serious threat to all nations and no nation can today claim to be insulated from such activities. The increase in clandestine proliferation networks in our neighbourhood makes the fight against terror all the more complex.

Today, security has acquired many other dimensions. Nations today need to cooperate on diverse issues that can have a long-term impact on our overall security and well-being. Nations must avoid flashpoints that may escalate into full-blown confrontations. On its part, India has always advocated that all such issues must be negotiated and settled peacefully.

I hope that all the participants would have benefited immensely from the wide-ranging deliberations at the Seminar. I once again extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the alumni and members of NDC for its Golden Jubilee.



022. Inaugural Address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 9th International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition (Petrotech-2010).

New Delhi, November 1, 2010.

"I am happy to participate in the inaugural function of Petrotech 2010. This is the ninth conference in the series of Petrotech conferences and I am told that more than 4000 delegates from 50 countries are participating in this event. I extend a very warm welcome to all of them.

The Petrotech conferences provide a forum for discussion dialogue and exchange of views and ideas on a subject of very critical importance to the world community as a whole. Over the years, they have become a leading platform for interaction on issues and possible strategies in the global hydrocarbon industry. They have also served as a movement to unite India's upstream, midstream and downstream sectors to work towards securing India's energy needs and requirements. They have come up with several useful ideas and recommendations. To give an example, Petrotech 2001 resulted in the document "India Hydrocarbon Vision" a 20 year roadmap for the country in the area of hydrocarbons. I congratulate the Ministry of Petroleum, Petrotech Society, Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Indian Oil Corporation for organizing these conferences.

The theme of this year's conference is both very important, challenging and interesting. The concept of a Global Energy Equilibrium suggests a matching of demand and supply of hydrocarbons in a manner which is optimum. But apart from the difficulty of defining what an optimum balance would exactly mean, there are many other factors which have a bearing on how different countries meet their hydrocarbon demand. Oil and gas today are not seen merely as commodities to be traded freely. They are often used by countries to meet their political objectives. More importantly, we have to take into account the changing pattern of growth in the demand for oil. In the last two decades or so, Asia's share in the growth in demand for hydrocarbons has risen substantially while that of the OECD countries and the European Union has declined. This shift has been caused by high

rates of economic growth and increasing populations in many Asian countries. There are supply-side uncertainties on the horizon. Many mature fields are declining in production. Some energy endowed countries have problems in augmenting production because of various reasons, including lack of the required technology and sometimes political uncertainty. Another challenge that faces all the countries of the world today is one arising out of the challenges of climate change. Because of this challenge, the demand on energy technologies goes beyond productivity and efficiency issues. The emerging energy technologies have to be adequately equipped to manage carbon emissions. We also need a rethink on the traditional energy basket which is presently loaded in favour of fossil fuels. I am sure that such important issues will be considered in the deliberations in your conference to the benefit of the participants and their countries.

The challenges faced by most of the emerging economies today are similar. Their domestic sources are often inadequate to meet their growing demand for energy. And developing domestic sources involves huge capital investment. Like other emerging economies, India needs adequate supplies of energy at affordable prices to meet the demand of its rapidly growing economy. Hydrocarbons will continue to be our major source of energy for quite sometime in the future. Most of our requirement of hydrocarbons is met through imports. In India, the demand over the next 10 years will increase by over 40 percent whereas the increase in the supply from the maturing oil-fields is expected to be around 12 per cent. The Indian Government is therefore encouraging national oil companies to pursue equity oil and gas opportunities overseas. For these reasons, we seek to build strong economic partnerships with other producing countries and their oil and gas industries to the mutual benefit of each other. We also seek to work together with other countries especially those which are active in the oil and gas space to tackle the problem of climate change. I would suggest the participants of Petrotech-2010 to explore the possibility of an association of oil and gas companies to deliberate upon such issues of shared interest.

I understand that Petrotech 2010 is being organized as a carbon neutral event. I compliment the organizers for setting an example on a

contemporary issue of great global importance. I am also told that our national oil corporations have invested heavily in a number of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. This will help our Government's efforts to build a greener economy.

I am sure that diverse spectrum of knowledge and experience in the field of energy exploration and production which the participants bring to this conference will result in new ideas that would help in our collective pursuit of energy security. With these words, I wish the deliberations of Petrotech 2010 all success."



023. Inaugural Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the International Seminar titled "Indian Culture in a Globalised World" organised to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and 122nd Birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

New Delhi, November 11, 2010.

"This conference coincides, purposely, with the birth anniversary of a great Indian whose name is associated with this auditorium. I refer of course to Abul Kalam Azad whom Jawaharlal Nehru described as 'an extraordinarily interesting companion' at a time when they were incarcerated in adjoining cells in a British jail. Many years later, Nehru compared him to 'the great men of Renaissance, or, in a later period, of the Encyclopaedists who preceded the French Revolution, men of intellect, men of action.'

It has been rightly said that Maulana Azad's thought process transcended national boundaries and imbibed the best of different worlds - Indian, West Asian and Western. He was prone to question the fundamentals. In one of his early essays he urged his readers 'to break the chains forged by centuries of custom and habit, belief and practice, and adopt

a new line of thought and action... to acquire a new body, a new mind, a new imagination, new senses...'. He was thus responding to the intellectual stirrings of the age and was perhaps an early proponent of culture unbound by territoriality.

Our subject today verges on the amorphous. It seeks elucidation and linkages of three concepts: globalization, culture, and Indian culture. While the first is commonly viewed solely as an economic phenomenon, the other two have been subjected to considerable philosophical and sociological analysis. All three tempt the uninitiated to wonder off in a speculative labyrinth. Hence the need, as Hegel would have put it, 'to see things with the eye of reason.'

Even in its economic sense, it is essential to be clear about the meaning of globalization. The concept is viewed in two distinct ways: in a positive sense to describe a process of integration into the world economy, and in a normative sense to prescribe a strategy of development based on a rapid integration with the world economy.

The economic aspect, critical though it is, does not cover the entire ambit of the phenomenon that has political, social and cultural dimensions. Much light on these was shed by the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalisation published by the International Labour Organisation in 2004. The Report brings out the point that economic globalization has developed in 'an ethical vacuum' and has created 'global imbalances that are morally unacceptable and practically unsustainable.' It urges the need for basing it on 'universally shared values and respect for human rights and individual dignity'.

Other dimensions of globalisation are equally relevant. To the sociologist, it is associated with modernity, to international relations theorist with global governance, and to the men and women of science with a range of technologies and mediums that have qualitatively transformed human communications and connectivity.

The transformation in the processes and forms of connectivity has led, as in past ages, to a complex series of interaction between peoples and

cultures. It has been suggested, and rightly so, that a culture is no longer a discreet world and is instead transformed 'to accord with a world of ruptured boundaries' that seek reciprocal recognition. The level and intensity of these interactions and the convergence of activities associated with them have been uneven rather than uniform and have depended on the totality of forces at work in specific cases. What is clear is that cultural hybridity, not cultural purity, is an unavoidable outcome. This goes hand in hand with the erosion of the traditional concepts of the nation-state, national economies and national culture and tends to produce new forms of global mass culture dominated or heavily influenced by new ways of expression and imagery.

Some definitional clarity is essential to this discussion. How, in the first place, do we define culture? For our purpose today, a working definition is available in UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted in November 2001. It defines culture as 'the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or social group, and that encompasses, in addition to art and literature, life styles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and belief.' Acknowledging that cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature, it notes that globalisation creates conditions for dialogue of cultures and civilisations. The relevance of cultural interaction is highlighted in the Declaration's assertion that while creativity draws on the roots of cultural tradition it flourishes in contact with other cultures.

In our common parlance, culture has connotations to the idea of a fixed locality. Globalisation, and the complex connectivity that goes with it, thus threatens this understanding of culture and introduces the notion of mobility and a loosening of the linkage to specific area or territory. Nor do the latter remain uninfluenced by the process of this loosening and global cultural flows do invade the local space. To that extent, cultural practices remain at the heart of globalisation and shape it. By the same token these cultural flows, made inevitable through the complex connectivity unleashed, generate concerns because they bring about frequent confrontation with 'the Other' and induce debates about identity.

The Iranian philosopher Abdolkarim Soroush has addressed the question of cultural identity and cultural allegiance in terms relevant to our discourse. Identity, he asserts, is to be viewed as dynamic and evolving; he adds that 'what causes fear of other cultures is the lack of a strong cultural digestive system and also the misconception that each culture is an indivisible monolith, accepting one part of which equals accepting the whole.'

The problem of digestion, it must be admitted, is infinitely complex in a vast land like ours. Our preference has been for the salad bowl rather than for the melting pot. The question of striking a balance between globalisation and identity, between authenticity and modernisation, and between the desire to be oneself and the temptation to be like others, would thus remain a teasing one.

Before we consider the place of Indian culture in such a new world, perhaps not yet a brave one, an element of clarity is essential about it. Jawaharlal Nehru's precision of expression in the matter is noteworthy. Indian culture, he wrote, is 'the palimpsest on which the imprints of succeeding generations have unrecognisably merged.' Mahatma Gandhi expressed it differently. 'I want the cultures of all lands', he said, 'to be blown about my house as freely as possible but I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.' These ideas have been amplified by the historian K.N. Pannikar and I can do no better than to cite a few relevant passages from a lecture delivered by him at Bangalore in 2004:

'The political history of India is characterised by a continuous cyclical process, centrifugal on the one hand and centripetal on the other...The cultural make up of the nation is enmeshed in this political process...

'The dynamism of Indian culture is derived from this diversity which moulded the cultural practices of the people...the coming together of people of diverse cultural moorings and traditions had several cultural consequences. These have been variously conceived as synthesis, assimilation, acculturation, and eclecticism...The crucial question is whether Indian culture is conceived as a static phenomenon, tracing its identity to a single unchanging source,

or a dynamic phenomenon, critically and creatively interrogating all that is new...

'The Indian Renaissance and the national movement recognised the positive significance of cultural plurality for national identity and sought to further the syncretic tendencies already present in social and religious life; hence the nationalist notion of unity in diversity.'

The participants in this seminar include a great many scholars of eminence who would dwell on different aspects of Indian culture and the interest displayed in it by the world beyond our borders. I would, therefore, like to confine my remarks to some aspects of public policy for which the ethos of Indian culture has some relevance. I refer to the notion of accommodation of diversity in modern societies.

The uniqueness of Indian experience is principally responsible for this. Our plural society is an existential reality; we have consciously adopted a democratic polity and a secular state structure. Our diversity emanates from the first characteristic, and is expressed through the second and the third. Diversity is an Indian passion: we live it, tolerate it, accommodate it, and relish it. Contestation is thus inherent, but it manifests itself most of the time in an agreed framework. A historian of modern India, Ramachandra Guha, has observed that 'at no other time or place have social conflicts been so richly diverse, so vigorously articulated, so eloquently manifested in art and literature, or addressed with such directness by the political system or the media.'

Accommodation of diversity is not an Indian preserve. In a world so full of variety, it must necessarily occur elsewhere too. It has been observed that 'homogenous national states are a pipedream.' Globalisation and its inherent connectivity and mobility have added to it in ample measure. The critical question then is of the manner in which individual societies respond to it.

A cursory survey of the past five decades reveals patterns of response ranging from rejection to accommodation in varying degrees. The progression of comprehension has not been uniform; in fact, in recent years and in many societies, regression is the dominant trend. The

retreat has been both at the level of theory and of policy. In 1999 the Canadian scholar Will Kymlicka proclaimed that 'multiculturalists have won the day' in making their case for difference-conscious notion of justice and concomitant laws and policies in the liberal state. Recent experience, however, indicates a 'tendency to take multiculturalism as a description of a diverse society rather than a prescription for state policy.'

This distinction between description and prescription is critical to the accommodation of diversity. Most states in the modern world would meet the first criterion; a far lesser number, however, qualify for the second. Furthermore, there are some who live up to the ideal in fair weather only and regress under stressful socio-economic conditions. Such regressions add to social tensions and aggravate matters. A good many contemporary instances of the latter are fresh in public memory.

It is suggested by some that the tidal wave of economic globalisation carries with it the imperative of cultural homogenisation. Empirical evidence does not sustain this argument. A competitive edge internationally necessitates quality and creativity; the latter is influenced by the cultural environment in which the local rather than international plays the dominant role. The appreciation and celebration of diversity thus becomes an economic strategy as well as a cultural and political one.

It is here that Indian culture has a relevance to the globalising world of today. Being the confluence of ideas, values and traditions it cannot but be inherently syncretic. While maintaining the purity of individual traditions, dance forms, music, literature and art, it accepts the authenticity of others and often synthesises them into newer and richer forms. The same holds good for manifestations of diversity in the daily life of the people, be it in language, cuisine, clothing, behaviour patterns. The imperative of a common market, and of a common political system, has induced intermingling. All of this finds reflection in popular culture and above all in films. The instinctive Indian impulse is to evade the either/or question and seek an approach that accommodates both. Fringe trends apart, assimilation and homogenisation are viewed neither as feasible nor desirable.

The richness of values secreted in the interstices of Indian culture was known and appreciated long before the era of present day globalisation. It left its imprint on the culture and civilisation of East Asian, South-east Asian, Central Asian and West Asian lands. The Western world too discovered some aspects of it in the colonial period. The new world now taking shape amplifies and magnifies them. Many factors contribute to it: the speed of connectivity, the number of Indians abroad, the popularity of commercial Hindi films and yoga and of the literary products of Indian writers in English, the projection and acceptance of the work of painters and sculptors etc in addition to philosophy and classical music, classical dances and other art forms. An overarching backdrop to these is provided by the emergence of India as a major economic and political factor on the global scene.

These traits of culture go beyond national experience in the political sense and are reflective of the genius of a civilisation. So long as Indians continue to imbibe and practice them, there is every reason to anticipate an expanding impact of Indian culture in the world of tomorrow.

I commenced this talk with Maulana Azad. Allow me to conclude with a Persian couplet recited by him urging receptivity to an audience:

Tafawut ast ma'ani shanidan man-o-tu

Tu bastan-e-dar, o man fateh-bab mi shawam

What you and I hear are different. You hear the sound

Of closing doors but I of doors that open

This openness of mind to ideas and practices is the principal ingredient of Indian culture. It is to be nurtured and cherished and must never be allowed to be tampered with for any reasons.

I thank Dr. Karan Singh ji for inviting me today. I am confident that the proceedings of this Seminar would contribute greatly to the compendium of perceptions on this very relevant subject."



024. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister in Lok Sabha on Prime Minister's recent visits abroad.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Madam Speaker,

I rise to inform the House of Hon'ble Prime Ministers recent bilateral visits to Japan and Malaysia, and also to Vietnam and South Korea for attending the 8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit in Hanoi and the G-20 Summit in Seoul.

JAPAN

2. Prime Minister visited Japan from October 24-26, 2010 for the Annual Summit with the Prime Minister of Japan. Such summits have been institutionalized and held regularly since 2006. The desire to deepen relations with India came through in PM's all meetings in Tokyo with Prime Minister Kan and important members of his Cabinet, with leaders of opposition parties as well as captains of Japanese industry. PM also had the opportunity to call on and exchange views with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

3. PM conveyed appreciation for Japan's generous Official Development Assistance to India over the years, especially in flagship infrastructure projects such as the Delhi Metro, Dedicated Freight Corridor Project and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. To corporate Japan, PM underlined the attractiveness of India as an investment destination and the complementarities between our two countries in terms of technology and manpower. Both Prime Ministers announced the conclusion of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between our two countries. Japan is completing its internal procedures following which the CEPA will be signed and later implemented, leading to a quantum increase in our trade and investment with each other. The Japanese Prime Minister also proposed the establishment of a comprehensive Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue to drive our economic relations forward. PM has agreed with his suggestion.

4. PM complimented Prime Minister Kan for his bold decision in June this year to commence negotiations with India on an Agreement for

Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Given Japanese sensitivities on this issue, such a decision is further indication of the strategic nature of India-Japan ties. Both Prime Ministers have urged our negotiators to conclude such an Agreement at an early date. PM also expressed the hope that Japanese firms will soon be able to contribute to civil nuclear power generation in India.

5. India and Japan have agreed to work together on several regional and international issues including the emerging East Asian architecture, for reform of the United Nations including its Security Council and on climate change.

6. I am confident that his visit to Japan and his interactions with Prime Minister Kan and other leaders will contribute substantially to enhanced engagement with Japan which is becoming one of our most vital and dynamic international partnerships.

MALAYSIA

7. Prime Minister's official visit to Malaysia from 26 to 28 October 2010 was at the invitation of the Malaysian PM Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. During the visit, PM had detailed discussions with his counterpart on all facets of bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

8. Hon'ble Prime Minister delivered the Khazanah Global Lecture at the invitation of PM Najib in his capacity as Chairman of Khazana Nasional, which is the investment arm of the Malaysian Government.

9. Both the Prime Ministers endorsed the successful conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering goods, services and investment and an Agreement was signed for implementing CECA on 1 July 2011.

10. Other MoUs and Agreement were signed during the visit in the field of information technology, tourism, traditional systems of medicine, scientific research and culture.

11. India agreed to set up a Joint ICT Talent Development Consultative Committee involving the two governments, as well as, industry players, to make specific recommendations for enhancing collaboration in this field.

12. The two PMs launched the India-Malaysia CEOs Forum comprising of 18 business leaders from each side. The Forum will provide specific recommendations to the two Governments on improving business environment and enhancing investment and trade between the two countries.

13. Both the Prime Ministers identified various elements to develop Strategic Partnership between the two countries. These include maintaining regular dialogue and contact at the summit level; biennial meetings of the Joint Commission headed by the Foreign Ministers; enhancing defence exchanges, cooperation and joint collaboration on projects of mutual interest in the defence sector; enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, including through information sharing and the establishment of a bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at an early date; further strengthening bilateral trade and investment cooperation; expanding cooperation in infrastructure development and exploring possibilities for development of cooperation in financial sector; studying the possibility of enhancing the scope and level of joint collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector between PETRONAS of Malaysia and ONGC Videsh Limited of India in third countries; and identifying possible collaborative projects in the new and renewable energy sector through the establishment of a Joint Working Group.

14. The two Prime Ministers agreed that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations remains a priority in order for the organization to effectively address today's global challenges. They agreed to work in partnership towards achieving a more representative, more efficient and more effective UN Security Council especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories;

15. Both the Prime Ministers jointly launched the 'Little India' project in Brickfields. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister stated that the decision of Malaysian Government to dedicate the area of Brickfields, which is one of the oldest Indian settlements in the country, as "Little India" is a tribute to the contribution to nation building of all Malaysians of Indian origin. PM also announced that India would be presenting a Torana Gate to the residents of Brickfields as a mark of India-Malaysia friendship.

8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit

16. Prime Minister visited Vietnam to attend 8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit.

17. The 8th India-ASEAN Summit on 30th October provided India with the opportunity to hold close consultations with our ASEAN colleagues on the progress of our relationship. Our ASEAN colleagues exuded warmth and friendship for India and expressed their desire to take our relationship to new heights.

18. As a rapidly growing economy, India offers to ASEAN the prospect of a productive economic relationship. An economically robust relationship between the two sides has enormous potential. Keeping this in view, a new and comprehensive India-ASEAN Plan of Action 2010-2015 was adopted at the Summit. The phenomenal growth of our trade during the last decade has inspired us to conclude a trade-in-goods agreement with ASEAN which has become operative from January 1, 2010. We hope to conclude the Trade-in-Services and Investment agreement soon to complete the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, which will act as a catalyst to bring down the cost of production on both sides and further increase our trade.

19. The leaders recognized the importance of connectivity to ensure free flow of goods and people through the region. In this connection, progress of ongoing projects in promoting North-east of India as the bridge to ASEAN, such as Trilateral Highway and its extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia, was reviewed by the leaders. The leaders acknowledged India's readiness to offer assistance in the forthcoming ASEAN ICT master plan to improve ICT connectivity. In addition to about 380 air-flights operating between India and ASEAN, the leaders encouraged the officials of both sides to conclude an India-ASEAN Air Transport Agreement at an early date.

20. Distinguished members of parliament would kindly recall that at the last Summit Prime Minister had proposed an India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in India in 2012. I am happy to announce that the idea has met with a positive response from the ASEAN side. A series of events beginning with India-ASEAN Business Summit and Exhibition from March 2-6, 2010 are proposed to be held culminating in the Commemorative Summit. India

and ASEAN have agreed to form an Eminent Persons Group, whose Terms of Reference were adopted at the Summit. The Eminent Persons Group will draft a new India-ASEAN vision 2020 document for presenting at the Commemorative Summit, taking into account the shift of global economic currents towards Asia in the 21st Century.

21. Prime Minister announced new initiatives in the field of people-to-people contacts, space cooperation, capacity building and Information and Communication Technology as a means to infuse more depth in our relationship. Specifically, the initiatives included extension of Visa-on-arrival facility to nationals of Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines and Lao PDR from January 1, 2011, setting-up a Centre for Tracking and Data Reception and imaging facility in an ASEAN country, establishing Vocational Training Centres, and offer of 100 IT scholarships to each of the 10 ASEAN countries over the next 5 years. I am glad to say that these initiatives were welcomed and appreciated by the ASEAN countries.

22. Prime Minister also attended the 5th East Asia Summit on the same day. The East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism provides India the forum to engage with a larger number of countries of the region in both strategic and economic spheres. This year marked the entry of US and Russia into the EAS process as 'guest of the host' with formal entry scheduled for 2011. We welcome their entry which, we believe, will add to peace and stability in the region and also enhance the ongoing cooperation. We appreciate ASEAN's efforts in piloting the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia.

23. PM took the opportunity to brief his EAS colleagues on the progress made by India on the Nalanda University Project, including the passage of Nalanda University Act by this august parliament. The unanimous passing of the Nalanda University Bill by both the houses reflected our desire to revive the historical legacy of this world center of learning and education.

24. Madam Speaker, we were able to drive our agenda of regional integration with success. We will work on all the potential ideas, which have been shared with us for implementation, with re-doubled effort and take our relationship with ASEAN and East Asia to new heights.

G-20 Summit

25. The G-20 Seoul Summit organised under the theme 'Shared Growth Beyond Crisis' was attended by G-20 members alongwith Ethiopia (chair of NEPAD or the New Partnership of Africa's Development), Malawi (chair of African Union), Vietnam (chair of ASEAN), Spain and Singapore. The United Nations, World Bank, IMF, ILO, WTO, FSB and OECD were also represented.

26. The Summit meeting was fruitful and it delivered the Seoul Action Plan based on a review of the global economic situation and the progress of the 'Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth' pertaining to country specific mutual assessment process (MAP) or peer review. The Summit mandated further country-led work under the Framework Working Group (co-chaired by Canada and India) regarding 'indicative guidelines' in the context of global imbalances with technical support from IMF and other international organisations for consideration by the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

27. The Summit endorsed international financial institutions (IFI) reforms, in particular the shift in IMF quota share of over 6% in favour of the emerging market and developing countries (EMDCs) by 2012. The Summit also endorsed the financial regulatory reforms by way of Basel-III agreements for implementation upto 2019.

28. Firmly putting development on the agenda of the G-20, the Summit approved the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth which marked the launch of an ambitious G-20 development agenda. This G-20 development dimension is based on six principles, i.e. focus on economic growth, global development partnership, global or regional systemic issues, private sector participation, complementarity and outcome orientation. The G-20 Multi-Year Action Plan comprises nine development pillars, viz. Infrastructure (including a High-Level Panel on infrastructure financing), human resources development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, domestic resource mobilisation, knowledge sharing and financial inclusion.

29. The Summit adopted the G-20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

30. The Summit reiterated the commitment against protectionism in all its forms. It sent a strong political impetus for completing WTO's Doha Development Round of trade negotiations during 2011.

31. The Summit provided a political message for the success of climate change negotiations at the forthcoming UNFCCC COP-16 meeting in December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

32. The Summit addressed the issue of global imbalances. In this context, Prime Minister stated at the Summit that "Recycling surplus savings into investment in developing countries will not only address the immediate demand imbalance, it will also help to address developmental imbalances. In other words, we should leverage imbalances of one kind to redress imbalances of the other kind." Prime Minister's statement was endorsed most positively by a number of Heads of State and Government attending the Summit including the leaders from Africa.

33. We view the outcome of the G-20 Seoul Summit as positive. Our efforts were successful in bringing the development issue into the very forefront of the sustainable, manageable growth process and we stressed the need to address the fundamental imbalance which is the development imbalance between rich and poor countries. We are committed to engaging proactively and constructively with our G-20 partners for implementing the decisions of the past G-20 Summits including the recent Seoul Summit, as we move forward to the next i.e. sixth G-20 Summit in Cannes, France in November 2011.

34. On the sidelines of the Seoul Summit, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Leaders of Canada, Ethiopia, Mexico and UK as well as the Secretary-General of UN during which they discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.



025. Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at National Maritime Foundation on "India as a Consensual Stakeholder in the Indian Ocean: Policy Contours"

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Admiral Arun Prakash, Chairman NMF

Commodore C Udai Bhaskar, Director NMF

Ladies and Gentleman

It is indeed a privilege for me to speak at the National Maritime Foundation which has made an invaluable contribution to raising maritime awareness and in promoting the concept of 'Maritime India'- a task that Sardar KM Pannikar, India's foremost naval historian, would have warmly applauded. I congratulate Admiral Arun Prakash and his team at the Foundation for their efforts. I thank them for the invitation to speak here today.

2. India and the Indian Ocean are inseparable. In the midst of the third largest ocean in the world, India's location is in many ways her destiny. That is not just a statement regarding a fact of geography but of deeper civilizational, historical, cultural, economic and political linkages that have been forged between India and the Ocean that bears its name. Throughout history, India's wellbeing and prosperity was linked to its access to the Indian Ocean region. It is no coincidence that the decolonization of the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean region was catalyzed by India's independence and emergence as a free nation. The Indian diaspora is a prominent presence in almost all countries of the region. Apart from the Monsoon, the India-link, in its broadest sense, is the single common thread that is visible in the Indian Ocean region.

3. The organic unity of the Indian Ocean was fractured during the colonial period. Now, the winds of globalization are bringing a fresh bond of unity in the Indian Ocean region. Globalization is inseparable from its maritime dimension, as 90 % of global trade by weight and volume is carried by sea. India is a major stakeholder and beneficiary

of globalization. As an emerging global economic and trading power, India has thus a vital stake in maritime security. 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 the unhindered flow of oil. The Indian Ocean region is important for India in terms of trade and as a source of energy supplies. Trade with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean constitutes close to 40% of India's total trade.

4. The Indian Ocean is virtually a land-locked ocean. It is distinguished by a land rim on three sides; Asia to its north, Africa to its west and SE Asia and Australia to its East. Access to the region is only possible through seven established gateways or choke points. To the East, the Straits of Malacca, Sunda and Lombok connect the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean. The congestion and the narrow width of these straits make them susceptible to possible terrorist attacks. The Malacca Straits are the primary route, through which more than 50,000 vessels transit annually. To the west, the world's busiest shipping lanes pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean. The Malacca Straits handle 40 % of world trade; the Straits of Hormuz handle 40 % of all traded crude oil. It is not hard to imagine the consequences to the global economy if these choke points are indeed choked. The Indian Ocean is also one of the world's most important waterways, with 50% of the container traffic and more than 70% of crude and oil products being carried through it. The disruption of energy flows in particular is a considerable security concern for littoral states, as a majority of their energy lifelines are sea-based. The world thus has a vital stake in the stability of the archipelagic countries. It's not just the use of waterways that is important, but access to them as well. Landlocked countries are now therefore gaining a new geopolitical significance, for transit roads and pipelines.

5. It is a now a widely accepted truism that the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean region is a microcosm of global geopolitical trends. There are countries which are developing rapidly; on the other hand, there are those which are on the brink of collapse. In between there are those which are emerging from conflict and show promise of making rapid strides in the future. There are a large number of democracies in the region but it cannot be said that democracy is a universal norm for the region. A number of countries suffer from weak governance and regime instability, vulnerable to non-state actors driven by extremist ideologies. Threats to stability in the region abound, ranging from terrorism, piracy, war-lordism, proliferation, smuggling and drug trafficking. The situation off the Horn of Africa is a source of particular concern. The situation in land-locked Afghanistan also impacts on the Indian Ocean region, as a substantial portion of the international military presence there is dependent on support from maritime assets and capabilities. The impact of climate change is of concern to several island states that face a threat to their very survival. But, the bright side is that parts of the Indian Ocean littoral are witnessing an unprecedented economic boom, driven by positive economic and demographic factors. The overall picture is therefore mixed and complicated, not lending itself to easy categorization or solutions. What is certain is that India stands out both in what it has achieved and the untapped potential that still lies ahead. In short, the future of the Indian Ocean region is unthinkable without India.

6. By any objective criteria, India has very significant maritime stakes in the Indian Ocean. We have a coast line of over 7500 kms. Between the Lashwadeep and the Andaman and Nicobar chains we have over 600 islands, with the southernmost tip just 90 nautical miles from Indonesia and the northern most tip less than 10 nautical miles from Myanmar. In terms of maritime security terms these are significant assets. 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. For several decades, India was the only Asian country to possess an aircraft carrier. Our naval force posture in the coming years will require the necessary capabilities in terms of reach, sustaining power and sea control. Following the sea-borne terrorist attacks on 26/11 in Mumbai,

concerted efforts have been undertaken for strengthening maritime and coastal security against threats from sea, with greater involvement of the Navy, the Coast Guard and all the coastal states.

7. As India's development is predicated on a stable geo-strategic environment, as a mature and responsible nation, it is in our interest that we play an active role in the architecture of maritime security based on the twin principles of shared security and shared prosperity. India is well poised to play a leadership 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, Seychelles, Oman, Madagascar, Kenya and others give us unprecedented access to a wide swathe of the Indian Ocean. Some of these are territorial neighbours but all are maritime neighbours. We have historical and civilisational 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. Maritime security thus gives us a new perspective to our bilateral relations with these countries. We are actively engaged with almost all regional bodies that are either based in or border the Indian Ocean region- ranging from SAARC, BIMSTEC, ARF, ASEAN, GCC, SADC to the AU. We are interested in building a web of cooperative relations that brings together all the stakeholders based on mutual interest and benefit. Our 'soft power' gives us advantages that few other countries can match in this region. There is almost universal acceptance of India's credentials and recognition of the vital contribution that we can make for stability and prosperity of the entire region.

Our economic growth acts as a driver for growth across the entire region. Our bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes are crucial for the security and development requirements of a number of countries. Drawing on its human resources and scientific expertise, India has been assisting traditionally in areas such as agriculture, health, education and IT, as also in capacity building in areas such as hydrography, oceanography, dealing with climate change, etc. It is true that optimizing our economic and technical assistance programmes, even while integrating them with our larger security and strategic interests would

yield even greater benefits. This will require leveraging India's soft power and technological strengths as also ensuring greater synergy amongst the various instruments that we can deploy - diplomacy, trade and economic factors and military assistance.

8. We are proud of the fact that our Navy has emerged as a versatile and flexible diplomatic instrument to mark India's presence in the region. The Ministry of External Affairs and the Navy have partnered together as maritime diplomats. There is hardly a port in the region where our ships are not welcome. We have the distinction of undertaking naval exercises in the Indian Ocean with all the major navies of the world. The prompt assistance provided by the Navy in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami was an eye-opener with regard to our capabilities for providing timely disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. The Navy did a commendable job in helping in the evacuation of over 2280 people from strife torn Lebanon under Operation Sukoon. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) initiative, launched by Indian Navy has provided a forward looking framework for constructive engagement among the navies of the region. This initiative has tremendous potential as an inclusive forum for all stakeholders, which have legitimate interests in the region. Under the ARF, India has contributed to discussions on maritime security. India has also contributed to regional efforts for safe navigation in the Malacca straits.

9. While India is seen as a net security provider, we cannot carry the burden of regional security on our shoulders alone. There is no doubt that maintaining a favourable maritime balance will require 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. The era of gun boat diplomacy is long over. A robust Indian naval presence is seen as a necessary contribution to a cooperative regional security order. The cooperative burden sharing of naval forces to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia is a case in point. Our navy has discharged its responsibilities with distinction and is viewed as an indispensable partner not just by regional states but by the UN, EU and NATO naval forces. 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. While we are addressing the immediate threats to maritime security, the international community must find ways of dealing with the failed or failing states where violence and institutional fragility are being exploited by non-State actors and others which have a presence of international terrorist groups on the Indian Ocean littoral which in fact radiate instability in the region as a whole. The recent global financial and economic crisis has aggravated the fragility of many littoral States, some of which are among LDCs.

10. While addressing the threats posed by non-state actors is important, we would also require states themselves to abide by "rules of the road." Maintaining free access to the sea is very much part of defending the 'Global Commons'. This will require a common vision of maritime security and freedom of navigation in accordance with universally agreed principles of international law and peaceful settlement of maritime territorial disputes. The maritime balance in the Indian Ocean region is linked to developments in South East Asia, the Pacific Rim and the Mediterranean. It is unrealistic to presume that we would be able to insulate our region from instability elsewhere. Maritime Security cannot be sustained if there is an exclusive focus on the military dimension alone, for it has economic, political and social dimensions as well. It is also unrealistic to expect that any single power can presume for itself the role of a "sea-based balancer". Lastly, cooperation on maritime security issues could provide the necessary trust and confidence to build a flexible and adaptable Pan Asian Security Order.

11. A popular theme in the media is to project the Indian Ocean as the new theatre of big power conflict. A widely read analyst who has also published a book on the Indian Ocean recently spoke of India being a "global pivot state supreme", in the so-called tussle between the United States and China. While this description is flattering, we do not make policy on the basis of 'feel-good labels'. There is no inevitability of conflict. India views the emerging trends with realism-building a sustainable regional security will require a cooperative effort among all

regional countries on the one hand and all users of the Indian Ocean. As the main resident power in the Indian Ocean region, we have a vital stake in the evolution of a stable, open, inclusive and balanced security and cooperation architecture in the region. By definition this would need to be a consensus based process, where all the stakeholders who have a legitimate presence in the region make their respective contributions to regional security. India stands for harnessing the forces of geo-politics for new forms of cooperation rather than it being used as an excuse for domination by any single country. That is the vision that we aspire to. And that is the vision we look forward to realizing our partnership with all countries of the Indian Ocean region.

12. Before I conclude, let me briefly speak about the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) that came into existence in 1997. India was one of the 14 founding member States. Given the growing strategic significance of the Indian Ocean, this organisation is the only one which aims to create a web of cooperative relationships between the now 18 member countries spanning three continents and three water bodies: this provides the right balance in terms of developing the littoral countries, across the political and geo-political spectrum, in a direction where economic, trade, academic and cultural cooperation constitutes the core of these relationships. The political and the strategic subtext of this organisation's activities is very relevant in the current times. Although the organization has not been able to fulfil its stated potential as yet, it does provide us with a useful platform to articulate our inclusive non-polarising vision of the future of the Indian Ocean and its littoral.

13. Let me conclude by commending the Maritime Foundation for their valuable contribution to the national discourse on maritime issues.

Thank you.



026. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at National Defence College on 'Challenges in India's Foreign Policy'.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Commandant NDC Lt. General Prakash Menon

Faculty members

Ladies and Gentlemen

A topic of the nature on which I speak today should I think focus on both the challenges and opportunities before our foreign policy today. In the sixty years since its inception, our foreign policy has evolved and adjusted to meet new challenges and unprecedented crisis situations, as well as risen to meet the needs of intensified economic engagement with the world - an engagement that is designed to meet the needs of an increased inflow of capital, technology, ideas and innovation for our development and our re-emergence as one of the world's leading economies. 63 years after her "tryst with destiny", India is now being seen as a major power. Our democratic system, which sustains our re-emergence after three centuries of depletion of our economic strength, is based on a visionary Constitution, whose 60th anniversary we celebrate this year. It is in our enlightened self-interest to propel the peaceful advancement of India as a nation by ensuring a trouble-free, peaceful environment as we participate on an equal footing with our global partners in the process of globalization in the 21st century.

2. Against this broad perspective, we can now examine the challenges in India's foreign policy. An article of steadfast faith in our foreign policy, has been to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable neighbourhood, so as to safeguard peace, security and development within our own borders, and it is with this perspective that India is developing a mutually beneficial relationship with her neighbours. We cannot be insulated from our neighbourhood; our growth and prosperity has a beneficial impact on the region, and increasingly, we will have to build closer connectivities in trade, communications and other networks of interaction between ourselves and our neighbours. At the same time, instability and centrifugal forces such

as those arising from religious extremism and terrorism in our neighbourhood can and do threaten our own security and development.

3. I shall now focus on our relationship with our neighbours since this is the first, and perhaps the most intense, level of engagement in our foreign policy. Nepal is passing through a period of political uncertainty and the consensus required for concluding the constitution drafting is still elusive. As a close neighbour and friend, developments in Nepal are of concern to us, more so as we share an open border of around 1750 kms. Even as we engage with political parties to resolve the outstanding issues, we are continuing and expanding our economic, commercial and infrastructural linkages with Nepal which contribute to economic and social development of Nepal. Our bilateral interaction and the two-way traffic of Indo-Nepal relations has proceeded in a relatively unhindered manner. The issue of security cooperation on the open border, tackling common threats like fake currency and arms smuggling and criminal elements who operate in the border areas taking advantage of the openness of the border are concerns shared by both our governments.

4. Our relations with Bhutan are based on trust, and mutual understanding and are an example of good neighbourliness. We attach high priority to our relations with Bhutan and are happy to assist Bhutan for its development, progress and prosperity. India and Bhutan are responsive to each other's security concerns and cooperate closely on border management. Bhutan's democratic transition, which began with the first elections in 2008, is progressing in an exemplary manner. On our part we have happily shared our experiences as a democracy with it through exchanges between our parliamentarians.

5. The January 2010 visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was a path-breaking one. We are committed to assisting Bangladesh in its developmental efforts in line with their priorities. An unprecedented US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit has been extended by India to Bangladesh. But the challenge is to revive our old infrastructural links with Bangladesh as well as address more difficult issues like water sharing, land boundary demarcation, etc in an atmosphere of understanding and trust. The recent meeting of experts from our two countries on addressing outstanding issues related to the demarcation of our borders reflected the positive atmosphere in our relations.

6. So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, after the cessation of hostilities, our assistance to that country has been substantial, for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of northern and eastern parts, ravaged by the conflict. India has committed nearly US\$ 1.5 billion in this direction. The challenge is to convert the cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka into a durable peace where there would be genuine reconciliation between all the communities in Sri Lanka inclusive of the Tamil-speaking minority. In many senses, India is Sri Lanka's closest neighbour. Our defence and security dialogue with Sri Lanka, now that the conflict within the country is behind us, requires special focus in this connection. We also need to work out creative and innovative solutions to the problems facing fishermen of both countries who stray into each other's waters.

7. Our defence and security cooperation with Maldives has been strengthened and high-level interaction has ensured that India continues to play a prominent role in the developmental and economic activities of Maldives.

8. The State Visit of Senior General Than Shwe of Myanmar in July 2010, gave us an opportunity to further strengthen our ties with an important neighbour. Enhancing our connectivity as well as security cooperation is vital, particularly in the context of our north-eastern States and our Look East Policy. We have welcomed the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a development that can contribute to the process of national reconciliation and inclusive political change in Myanmar.

9. With Afghanistan, we are in the forefront of assistance to that country and our attempt has always been to help Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts as a means to establish stability and improve the lives of the Afghan people. Despite persistent attacks on Indians working in that country, India has reiterated its determination to fulfill its commitment to the Afghan people and government as they build, a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan as a natural trade and transit hub in Asia, free of terrorism and extremism, where the rights of women are ensured, and civil society is strong and enduring, and the institutions of governance including police and army have the capacity to deal with threats to peace and security within the country, must be ensured. The regional countries have a definite interest in this, and India has consistently advocated the need for close consultations with Afghanistan's neighbours as this process evolves.

10. There continue to be differences in perception between India and Pakistan on how to move forward on our bilateral relationship. We want a stable Pakistan which should act as a bulwark against terrorism and extremism, and this is in its own interest and also in the interest of the entire region. We are firmly against the use of terror-induced coercion by Pakistan as a means to force its unifocal agenda on relations with India.

11. Apart from maintaining close ties with our South Asian neighbours, we continue to substantially contribute to the strengthening of SAARC. India's profile in SAARC has changed considerably, in recent years. We have initiated almost all major proposals in SAARC. We see the SAARC process as contributing to our goal of building a peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood.

12. Given the unique historical legacy of our region, SAARC has come a long way in the 25 years of its existence. It can be said that SAARC has moved from a declaratory phase to one of implementation. With the SAARC Development Fund functional and two regional projects currently being implemented under its social window, SAARC is slowly metamorphosing into being a service provider for the development needs of the people of the region. In addition, a project like the South Asian University (SAU), envisaging the provision of world-class education opportunities and hopefully building the initial blocks of a South Asian identity, has also commenced.

13. The implementation of the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in 2006 was a significant milestone. Intra-regional trade in South Asia has begun to grow and has doubled over the past 5 years to over \$ 600 million in 2009. What is also significant is that intra-SAARC exports, as a proportion of total SAARC exports, have registered a steady growth. This reflects the growing importance of the region for the overall trade of its Member States. SAARC Member States have also appreciated India's gesture to give duty free access to LDCs from January 1, 2008, one year ahead of target date and unilateral reduction of its Sensitive List with respect to LDCs from 744 to 480.

14. However, SAARC inter-regional trade still remains well below its potential and the desired cooperation in the field of security also remains lower than desired. While, there has been a positive change in the attitude

of some participating countries in areas like agriculture, S&T and the environment, the challenge for us is to take other members along with us as we strive towards greater integration in South Asia. At this stage, we also need to nurture and consolidate the newly created institutions and ensure that they develop firm foundations which would serve SAARC well into the future.

15. Iran is part of what has been defined as India's "proximate neighbourhood". We share a historical and civilizational relationship. People-to-people and cultural relations remain vibrant and alive today. It is a major source of our energy and hydrocarbon supplies, and is thus important for our energy security. Among areas of discussion with Iran have been regional issues such as the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan, trade and transit to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond, and the common threats we face from cross-border terrorism and extremism.

16. The Iran nuclear issue however poses a challenge, because of the impact of UNSC and more particularly unilateral sanctions imposed by US, EU, Japan, and other countries, which have challenged even normal trade transactions with Iran. India's stand on the Iran nuclear issue has been consistent. We support the right of all States to peaceful use of nuclear energy, consistent with their international obligations. We believe that the IAEA should have a central role in resolution of the issue, and favour dialogue and peaceful negotiations for settlement of the dispute.

17. China is our largest neighbour and its rise is indeed a global opportunity as well as a challenge. Neither of us has the luxury of seeing each other in antagonistic terms. There is enough space in the world for the rise of both China and India. Our task will be to remain vigilant and manage the India-China relationship despite inherent complexities and challenges, embedding it in the matrix of dialogue and diplomacy.

18. Given its continental size and dimensions, India is also a South-east Asian country - consider the ethnicities of our North-east, and our close contiguity to Asean countries like Myanmar and to Indonesia which is a close maritime neighbour. Our Look East Policy, which was originally conceived as an economic initiative, has gained political, strategic, multilateral and regional dimensions. The scope of the policy has broadened to include the Far East and Pacific island nations.

19. Economically, the Asian region to the east of India has gained tremendous significance. As many as 6 countries (Australia, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, and South Korea) from the region are part of G-20, the world's premier economic forum. The region accounts for about one-third of India's trade. India signed its first multilateral trade agreement in the form of India - ASEAN FTA on August 13, 2009 in Bangkok. The East Asia region including ASEAN is our largest trading partner with two way trade between India and ASEAN being over USD 47 billion in 2008. With the coming into force of India - ASEAN FTA in goods, there is an expected increase of US\$ 10 bn in the very first year. The next step is conclusion of negotiations in Trade in Services and Trade in Investment agreements, which will act as a catalyst to bring down the cost of production on both sides and further increase our trade. An economically robust relationship between the two sides has enormous potential. Keeping this in view, a new and comprehensive India-ASEAN Plan of Action 2010-2015 was adopted at the 8th India-ASEAN Summit on 30 October 2010.

20. The ongoing geo-political changes in Asia have been the subject of much comment in the strategic community. These changes would need to be monitored and analysed closely but it is equally important that our responses and reactions are not knee jerk or based on distorted or exaggerated threat perceptions. India supports the evolution of an open, transparent, inclusive and balanced security architecture in the Asia Pacific region. This will involve partnership and cooperation among all stakeholders working together in recognition that the inherent heterogeneity of the region will not allow any top-down approach or domination by any single country. All countries have an equal stake in promoting maritime security and in defending the 'Global Commons' by strict implementation of universally accepted principles of international law, allowing freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce and peaceful settlement of maritime territorial disputes. India has been supporting these principles in the ARF for several years. Our Defence Minister represented India in the first ADMM Plus meeting which was held in Hanoi in 12-13 October 2010. This added a new dimension to international efforts to evolve cooperative security architecture in the region.

21. The East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism provides India the forum to engage with a larger number of countries of the region in both strategic

and economic spheres. This year marked the entry of US and Russia into the EAS process as 'guest of the host' with formal entry scheduled for 2011. We welcome their entry which, we believe, will add to peace and stability in the region and also enhance ongoing cooperation.

22. Recent years have witnessed a significant transformation of India's relationship with the United States. The post Cold War geopolitical environment, the shift in the centre of gravity of global opportunities and challenges to Asia and the growing challenges of terrorism and non-proliferation have created new opportunities for strategic engagement with the United States.

23. Our relationship with the United States is important for pursuing our national development goals, through trade, investment and new technology, and in seeking to build an open, rule-based and stable international order that is conducive to sustaining a high trajectory of economic growth over the next two to three decades. This relationship is also important for bringing about adjustments in the global political, security and economic architecture to pursue our interests and aspirations, and fulfill our global responsibility.

24. The United States was pivotal in re-integrating India into the global nuclear commerce. During his recent visit to India, President Obama announced his country's support for India as a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council, as also for India's membership of the four international non-proliferation regimes - the NSG, MTCR, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement. We have also begun to forge a new partnership in advancing our shared global non-proliferation interests.

25. Shared values provide a solid bedrock of our relationship with the United States that is now being increasingly invigorated by converging interests. At the same time, we are two independent democracies at different stages of economic development and facing varying circumstances. We will also have to deal with the inevitable divergence in our approaches on some issues, without losing sight of the broad, long-term strategic goals of this relationship and with sensitivity to each other's vital interests.

26. The EU is our largest trading partner, biggest source of FDI, an important source of technology, and home to a large and influential Indian Diaspora. We have concluded ten rounds of negotiations on a Broad-based

Trade and Investment Agreement and issues of concerns to both sides have been identified. India is keen for a successful and balanced outcome of the negotiations. Early conclusion of this agreement will also facilitate our stated goal of achieving Euro 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2013 from the present figure of Euro 60 billion. India looks at the EU for new partnerships in knowledge industries i.e. information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, infrastructure development etc. and transfer of technologies particularly environment-friendly technologies and improved medical innovation. India also wants to see freer movement of its professionals and businessmen in the EU market.

27. Time tested and enduring ties with Russia form an important dimension of India's foreign policy. Bilateral relations with Russia are based on a strong national consensus in both countries that has cut across ideologies or political conditions. Russia has been an important partner in defence and nuclear energy cooperation. Our bilateral relationship was re-energized with the declaration of a Strategic Partnership between our two countries during the visit of the then President Putin in 2000. This is nevertheless a relationship that is constantly evolving and with a huge untapped potential for increasing our bilateral engagement, especially in the areas of defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, and trade and investment.

28. India shares old historical and strong cultural links with Central Asia, which forms part of our extended neighborhood. Post USSR dissolution, India has steadily developed friendly and cooperative relations with all five Central Asian countries. Three of the 5 Central Asian countries namely Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan share borders with Afghanistan. This region has grown in importance with the shift of the strategic theatre to Afghanistan. It is also important to counter the growth of fundamentalist, terrorist and secessionist tendencies which can affect us directly. The Central Asian Republics by virtue of their geographical location and the vast natural resources, including energy reserves in the Caspian Basin, form an area of geo-strategic and geo-economic interest to India. The aim of our diplomacy is to be seen as a benign, non-threatening regional player, involved in capacity building and development. India has to be seen as a friend and partner, tapping a reservoir of traditional goodwill and deploying its soft power through instruments such as IT, Bollywood, and south-south assistance.

29. India attaches great importance to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, most of the members of which belong to our extended neighborhood. India has played a constructive and important role in SCO as an observer and has consistently articulated its desire to play an expanded and more meaningful role on the SCO platform. 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. The SCO can play a critical role in countering terrorism through collaborative efforts and a greater profile in Afghanistan.

30. Turning to West Asia, India's consistent and unwavering record of support for the Palestinian cause since the days of our freedom struggle continues to guide our policy in the region. The Palestinian problem needs a solution which has been delayed for far too long. India supports a united, independent, viable, sovereign state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognised borders side by side at peace with Israel. We are hopeful that direct talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians will resume and the talks and negotiations would lead to a comprehensive peace process for the final resolution of the conflict.

31. Africa has always been an important cornerstone of India's Foreign Policy. Our common struggle against colonialism provides the historical underpinning to our relations. This relationship was given a new impetus during the first India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008, which resulted in a structured programme of cooperation in areas including human resources, capacity building, agriculture, SMEs sector, S&T, IT, etc. Africa is also an important source of crude oil and other natural resources. India imports about 20% of its crude oil requirements from Africa. Over the next five years, an amount of US\$ 5.4 billion has been earmarked for Africa to support infrastructure and development projects as prioritized by the African nations themselves. India's Pan-Africa e-Network Project based on satellite and optical fibre networks to share India's expertise in education and healthcare, being implemented in 47 African countries, has been recognised for its contribution in the field of sustainable development with "the Hermes Prize for Innovation 2010" by the European Institute for Creative Studies and Innovation.

32. An important dimension of our partnership is how to coordinate our positions that have seen increasing convergence on global issues such

as reform of the United Nations, climate change, WTO, food security, etc. Given that the text based expansion negotiations on United Nations reform will start in UNGA, we need to work together to ensure the stronger presence of the developing countries in the UNSC. Both India and the African Union have advocated expansion of the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories. Similarly, India and Africa need to work together to ensure that ongoing negotiations in WTO secure a proper share for the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the growth of international trade which is commensurate with the needs of their economic development. We also need to evolve a coordinated response for tackling the menace of piracy in the Indian Ocean in order to safeguard our sea-routes and ensure uninterrupted movement of goods and people.

33. We have been elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a two-year period beginning in January 2011 with an overwhelming majority of support from the member states of the UN. We are fully committed to the principles and purposes of the United Nations and believe that the UN should be at the core of global governance and efforts to meet the challenges of collective peace, security and development. The UN, however, needs urgent reform to reflect contemporary realities and to effectively meet emerging global challenges. The issue of reform of the Security Council is at the core of the UN reform process. At recent inter-governmental negotiations in the UN, a majority of the Member States expressed support for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council. Structural reform of the Security Council and an improvement in its working methods need to be pursued as a priority.

34. For couple of years now, the ongoing international financial and economic crisis has drawn the world's attention as it has impacted all of us. The crisis impacted our growth rates, slowed exports and affected investment. From a 9% growth over four years, the Indian economy slowed down to 6.7% in 2008-09. During the current financial year 2010-11, India hopes to achieve around 8.5% growth. GDP growth is expected to reach the 9% level in the next financial year 2011-12.

35. The global economic crisis of 2008 led the G-20 meetings, which were hitherto held at the level of Finance Minister and Central bank

governors, to be held at Summit level. The G-20 has held an unprecedented five Summits with the last Summit held in Seoul last week. The G-20 has provided prompt and effective response in reversing recession and restarting recovery, but the global recovery remains fragile and uneven or multi-speed across countries and regions. India has been playing an important role in the G-20 deliberations.

36. The Seoul Summit outcome mandated macroeconomic policies to strengthen the ongoing recovery and stability of financial markets, in particular moving towards more market determined exchange rate systems, refraining from competitive devaluations, with reserve currency countries remaining vigilant against excessive volatility. It adopted the Seoul Action Plan including country-specific measures towards the shared objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

37. An ambitious development agenda was adopted comprising Multi-Year Action Plans under nine pillars viz. Infrastructure, HRD, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, domestic resource mobilization, knowledge sharing and financial inclusion. The Summit also discussed the issue of global imbalances. In this context, India has proposed leveraging imbalances of one kind to redress imbalances of the other kind. This can be done by recycling global savings through multilateral development banks into investment in developing countries to not only address the immediate demand imbalance, but to also address developmental imbalances. The Indian proposal was endorsed positively.

38. There is now very little doubt that Climate Change is taking place across the world and the cause is the cumulative accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the earth's atmosphere due to over two centuries of industrial activities and high consumption lifestyles in the developed world. Climate change requires a global response. However, such a response must be firmly based on the principles of equity and "common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability" and take into account the overriding imperative of poverty reduction and economic progress in developing countries, as recognized and endorsed by the international community under the UNFCCC. Any long-term goal would be meaningless without concomitant and mid-term targets and GHG reduction commitments by developed countries as committed under the Kyoto Protocol.

39. Energy Security has emerged as a new cornerstone of India's foreign policy. India has adopted a multi pronged approach to energy security, which includes import source diversification and acquisition of equity oil, the building of strategic petroleum reserves, increased domestic exploration, and production and fuel diversification. India aspires to a medium-to-long term strategy of implementing a strategic shift from fossil fuels to non-fossil fuels, from non-renewable to renewable sources of energy, and from conventional to non-conventional sources of energy. In order to meet the increased power requirement, India will need to pursue all available forms of energy. Our energy mix currently is 53% based on coal, 31% on oil, 9% on natural gas and only 6% from hydropower and 1% from nuclear energy. If this energy mix remains unchanged over the next 25 years then our dependence on imported fossil fuels will continue. It is estimated that by 2030-31, we would have to import 35-57% of our coal, 90-94% of our oil and 20-57% of our natural gas.

40. Security in the Indian Ocean region and its periphery is a key to our continuing economic growth, particularly as it is through the sea-lanes in this Ocean that most of our energy supplies reach us, and our exports are transported. The continuing security of our EEZ is also an important issue. The Indian Ocean region assumes importance because of its abundant human resources, technological capacities and harbouring of important trade routes. We have historical and civilisational ties with countries of the Indian Ocean region and there are large Indian communities in most of these countries. The broad-spectrum of our ties with these countries has a strong economic and socio-cultural dimension.

41. The maritime dimensions of our foreign policy have come to acquire increased relevance and intensive focus in recent years. Through our history, we have been a sea-faring nation, as the chronicles of our ties with South-east Asia, the Roman Empire, the East Coast of the African Continent, and the countries of the Arab Peninsula so graphically illustrate. The maritime dimension of our nation's history has moulded our identity as an outward-oriented nation rather than a country that is locked into a land-centered continental presence. After a hiatus brought about by the focus on our land borders in the initial phases of our development as an independent country, it is this dimension that we are called upon to increasingly keep in focus as our markets are increasingly integrated with

the outside world, the safety of sea lanes of communication becomes a priority, in dealing with anti-piracy, ensuring coastal security, and putting in place a network of cooperation and dialogue that is open, inclusive, balanced stressing a dialogue oriented approach for security and development. The Indian Ocean is a key expanse of water that links both East and West, straddling major trading areas, centers of population, and sectors of concern from the point of view of our security. The growth of our naval capabilities enables us also to work out mechanisms of cooperation with other friendly navies to be net providers of security in the region, and also for emergency and disaster management as we saw during the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. This aspect, as also the emphasis on building close bilateral ties with the Indian Ocean countries, in capacity building, security ties, political and people-to-people contacts, is receiving increasing attention in the decision and policy making circles of Government.

42. The problem of international terrorism has been a core foreign policy concern for India for over two decades now. There was a time when terror groups were limited in their ideology, reach and lethality and strong internal security measures and deft political handling by national governments were sufficient in dealing with them. With the emergence of the information age, terrorism is today a truly borderless menace and a technology-intensive enterprise. Nations find it difficult, if not impossible to tackle this scourge in a time when recruiting, planning, financing, and training for terror operations can all be carried out outside their borders. Recent years have also seen operational coordination between terrorist groups based across different countries. In our neighbourhood, the Al Qaeda, the LeT and the Taliban have all been found to be operationally fused. There are also increasing concerns among the international community about the nexus between fundamentalism, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. This global scourge requires a sustained global response.

43. India has been the victim of the most vicious kind of cross-border terrorism over the last two decades. This continues to find support within Pakistan and is used against us as a political and economic weapon. For some in the international community - political expediency, short term gains, geopolitical considerations, faulty analysis, double standards - all these and other reasons unfortunately have in the past blurred the clarity and focus on how terrorism should be dealt with.

44. India is working with the international community to counter the common challenge of terrorism. Our partners have increasingly come to realize 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. What hits us today could well turn itself towards another nation tomorrow. Over the past couple of years, we have seen an enhanced understanding of this fact. We endeavour to cooperate bilaterally with our partners in improving sharing of information, countering terror finance, building capacity in our anti-terror mechanisms, exchanging best practices, and strengthening our mutual legal assistance and extradition regimes.

45. Multilaterally, we piloted the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, since we were convinced that existing sectoral conventions left wide gaps in the global anti-terror legal framework. We continue to work with our partners around the world to adopt this long overdue Convention. We have recently become members of the Financial Action Task Force, the world's premier inter-governmental organization that sets and monitors standards in anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-financing of terrorism (CFT).

46. Despite a complex regional and global environment, India's policies have been marked by a sense of responsibility and restraint. We have been one of the earliest proponents of nuclear disarmament. Even as a nuclear weapon state, India remains steadfast in its support for the global, universal and non-discriminatory elimination of all nuclear weapons. India has a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons and their non-use against non-nuclear weapon states and we support enshrining them into global legal arrangements. Terrorists gaining access to WMDs has emerged as a major threat for our national security as well as globally. We remain engaged with the international community through participation in initiatives like the Nuclear Security Summit and the Global Initiative in order to combat nuclear terrorism to address these challenges.

47. There is in some sense, a duality that India contends with -- one as a developing country working to sustain inclusive domestic growth with a view to eradicate poverty and enhance prosperity for its own citizens and the other as a re-emerging global power with the requisite intellectual acumen and economic weight to work out solutions to global problems in cooperation with the developed as well as the developing economies. This ability of India to literally hold the world in its hands, because of our pluralism,

our diversity, and our relevance in terms of the developmental experience we have accumulated, and our responsible image in the world, has resulted in our increasingly being called upon to play an increasingly substantive role whether it is the G20 or the various fora of the United Nations, Trade deliberations or Climate Change negotiations.

48. In an increasingly complex and inter-dependent world, new challenges appear and have to be tackled. The challenge before our foreign policy is to ensure an effective management of our security challenges and dynamically evolve effective strategies to address them. For instance, there is growing realization of the importance of preserving the "Global Commons" - Space, Ocean, Air, and Cyber Space. With its size, technological capabilities, and standing as a responsible country, India is recognized as an important stakeholder and partner in these processes. We will continue to participate constructively in the furtherance and shaping of these efforts.

49. In the ultimate analysis, foreign policy is a reflection of the priorities that a nation defines for itself as it seeks to develop, to be secure, to withstand threats from across its borders, to ensure that its national and developmental interests are not diluted by actions by hostile players in the global arena, to guarantee a level playing field for its professionals and its business and industry as they increasingly access the global market, to ensure strategic autonomy, and to enable the flow of capital and technology that can build a modern nation in an inclusive, unimpeded manner. The challenges we face in the conduct of our foreign policy are dictated by the external environment and also by the dynamic created by public opinion and constituencies within the domestic arena. Foreign policy does not reside in some elite fastness but is moulded in the debates and discussion that come out of the arena of democracy. The practitioner of foreign policy therefore is networked constantly with other arms of government, particularly the security and defence apparatus, the economic ministries, and also those dealing with human development. Responses to the challenges we face are shaped and calibrated by the imperatives of the nation's interest, first and last. At the same time, with power comes ever increasing responsibility - responsibility in weighing every move we make and positions we take with the realization that India is one of the key players on the global stage today and will be called upon increasingly to deploy its manifest strengths in the interest of global peace and development.



027. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Inaugural Session of Conference on 'Public Diplomacy in the Information Age'.

New Delhi, December 10, 2010.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor,

Professor Nicholas Cull,

Dr. P.N. Vasanti,

Joint Secretary Navdeep Suri

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to see such an enthusiastic response to our initiative to organise this conference on Public Diplomacy. The theme of our Conference fits very well in the environment in which we conduct our diplomacy today. Indeed, this is the first Conference on Public Diplomacy being conducted in India and the fact that this event is taking place is testimony to the fact that Public Diplomacy is relevant in both the external and internal contexts in which we work as foreign office professionals or diplomats in the current day and age. Our Public Diplomacy division in the Ministry of External Affairs is all of four years of age, but the tradition of public outreach, and interpretation of foreign policy positions to the people of India and the world beyond, is ingrained in our conditioning as diplomats who are citizens of a staunchly democratic nation. Public diplomacy is the vehicle for dissemination of the ideas, the interests, the concepts, and the approaches that define our foreign policy and the defence of our national interest as we further our bilateral relationships and our policies in multilateral forums. Its aim is to enable comprehension and understanding of the positions we adopt, the rationale that propels this, and to fulfil the need to inform, and enable growing transparency in the articulation of foreign policy given the fact that the constituencies we address are diverse, ranging from foreign and domestic audiences, to non-governmental agencies, educational institutions, experts and analysts in foreign affairs to generalist groups, and the media, print, electronic and net-based. In essence public diplomacy is a public good for the public good.

Public diplomacy relies as much on the spoken word as the written word, and by the very definition of this strand of diplomacy, it depends on clarity of presentation, the ability to persuade, to influence, and to mould opinions in a manner that is not propaganda but rather presents the case for any given aspect of foreign policy in a clear, cogent, factual, and communicative manner. We live in a communications environment and if our policies are to be well understood, we will have to interact on a real time and virtually constant basis with the media and audiences both at home and abroad. Public diplomacy is also a process of reinvention for many of us as bureaucrats - because of the value it places on communication skills, and the need to feel the popular pulse, the requirements of innovation, using the latest information and communication technologies, of moving beyond precedent-driven approaches, requires us to think out-of-the-box, be alert to countering negative information and stereotypes, and also to be ever-vigilant of information vacuums that will be filled by our adversaries.

It goes without saying that the contours of public diplomacy are being constantly expanded. As our foreign policy interests and strategic perspectives become more sharply honed, as our global presence becomes much more visible, as India's re-emergence grasps the world's attention, and as our economy becomes one of the international frontrunners in terms of its accelerated growth rate, India's voice must be heard in multiple situations, before diverse audiences, and the task to fulfil this will be that of its diplomats who must be ever active in the tasks of advocating and explaining the Indian "brand" as it were, because this is a compelling narrative surrounding the world's largest democracy, that must be heard.

Of course, the challenge we face today is that because there are a plethora indeed, a babel, of voices outside government that speak on foreign policy, it necessarily follows that we are not heard so easily. Our message simply may not get through. The way to address this is to provide higher definition to the debate by presenting the government's case as clearly and factually as possible, being quick to correct misrepresentation, bridging gaps in information, and to understand that by hesitating to speak we only compound the lack of understanding of a particular policy in the public domain. It is important to pay attention to feedback, and to engage with a broad spectrum of audiences. By listening and by engaging, we stand a better chance of being heard.

Public diplomacy, we all know, is no abstract term - it is a real world phenomenon, and, it overlaps with our cultural diplomacy, our outreach to academic institutions, the promotional work that our chambers of business and industry engage in to promote Brand India, and the work of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Ministries of Culture and of Tourism. The projection of India's soft power is very much a part of the processes of public diplomacy. So too, the use of social media including Facebook and Twitter, YouTube and Web 2.0 platform. This is because we also need to understand the demographics of the audiences we address - the idiom must be tailored to cater also to the language that the younger sections of our population speak. The promotion and projection of India is furthered by our Public Diplomacy Division through our publications, documentary films and selections of popular and classical music that can be used by our diplomatic missions to project India. We are also increasingly aware of the need to emphasise our image as a country that embraces diversity, with its secular ethos, and vibrant democracy, as also our determination to resist terrorism and militancy, and the forces that threaten our sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this connection, our public diplomacy efforts must focus on the composite nature of our culture, our inter-religious harmony, our emphasis on inclusive, integrative growth, especially when it comes to outreach in our neighbourhood, in South-east Asia, in the Gulf countries and in Africa.

The face of Indian diplomacy is acquiring a new expression today with our growing capability to partner a number of countries in our neighbourhood, in Africa, in southeast Asia, and the Caribbean in socio-economic development. We see the need for audiences abroad particularly to be made more aware of our technical and economic cooperation programmes and our grant assistance and concessional Lines of Credit to a number of countries. The revival of an irrigation project that has doubled Senegal's rice output and made the country self sufficient in rice for the first time in a generation; a power transmission project that is helping take surplus electricity from Cote d'Ivoire to Mali; that Ghana has established a regional centre for excellence in IT and a state of the art Presidential complex, that Mauritius has an entire IT park....and dozens of other similar examples speak of our partnerships in development cooperation. We currently extend LoCs of over USD 10 billion in to countries in Africa and elsewhere but they hardly find a mention in either the Indian or the international media. Similarly, the excellent development work that we have done for the people

of Afghanistan under constant threat from terrorist forces needs to be explained to the world.

We have traditionally tended to adopt a fairly conservative approach towards publicising our own work and this, almost by default, leaves the field open for negative stories of which there is never a dearth. From a public diplomacy standpoint, I think it is vital that we start building credible and engaging narratives about the positive work that we do. These would not only provide global audiences with a perspective of the geographical spread and impact of our development partnerships but also afford our own public and Parliament with an appreciation of our activities.

Yet another aspect on which public diplomacy needs to focus is crisis management in extraordinary situations - getting the government's message out and addressing public opinion directly with the purpose of informing, reassuring, and enabling sober and well-reasoned responses that are bereft of rumour and speculation. I cannot but emphasise this factor - as one that should constantly be in the viewfinder of every diplomat and practitioner of foreign policy. Careful planning, the capacity to anticipate situational requirements, the needs of the public to be informed in real time, to avoid critical delays in dissemination of information, the identification of both resources and resource persons, the choice of spokespersons, are all issues that require focus.

I also wish to focus on what I call the domestication of foreign policy and this is where public diplomacy, public affairs and public relations cross-fertilize each other. One of the key initiatives that we have taken in recent months focuses on creating a more informed discourse on foreign policy issues within our own country. We recognize that many of these issues are increasingly intertwined with domestic agendas and as a democracy, we cannot avoid the responsibility of communicating our position more effectively to key segments of public opinion. Since its start in February, our MEA Distinguished Lecture Series on India's Foreign Policy has touched 24 different university campuses, virtually all of them outside Delhi. The topics for the lectures are selected by the universities and the lectures are delivered by retired ambassadors with domain knowledge of the particular topic. The lively interactive sessions that accompany these lectures, the presence of local media and the participation of civil society have made this programme an important component of our public diplomacy efforts.

A related programme that has a strong domestic focus pertains to the seminars, conferences and workshops on foreign policy themes that we support and organise. Our conferences on Indo-Nepal relations in Patna and Varanasi and on India's Look East policy in Shillong and Guwahati are examples of our conscious endeavour to take foreign policy discussions to places where they also resonate as issues that concern local populations and opinion makers.

The success of these initiatives clearly depends on the active participation and support of a range of other organisations that often have a better understanding of specific sectors and issues. We are fortunate in having partnerships with business chambers, think tanks, academic institutions, cultural organisations, members of the Indian diaspora and others with whom we collaborate in pursuit of our public diplomacy objectives.

I would be the first to acknowledge that these are no more than initial steps in a process that is bound to get increasingly complex as new media and communications technologies take us into uncharted territories. There is much that we must do to put in place a framework for strategic communications and for developing a lucid, encompassing vision of Brand India that goes even beyond the brilliantly successful Incredible India campaign.

That is why today's conference, with its sessions on soft power, 24/7 media, Web 2.0 tools and the role of corporates in public diplomacy is so useful and relevant. I am particularly happy that the workshops tomorrow will provide the opportunity for a more detailed and interactive examination of some of these facets. I must convey our special thanks to Prof. Philip Seib, Prof. Eytan Gilboa, Prof. Nicholas Cull and to Nic Gowing for being here with us today for the conference and workshops. We know that you have extremely busy schedules and we appreciate the fact that you are here to share your experiences with us. I believe that we have a strong representation from Indian academic institutions with us today. I hope that this conference will galvanize at least a few of our institutions into offering courses on public diplomacy as part of their international relations or communications degree programmes.

I wish this conference and the workshops tomorrow every success.

Thank you.



028. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the International Conference of Jurists on 'International Terrorism and Human Rights'.

New Delhi, December 11, 2010

I am pleased to participate in the inauguration of the International Conference of Jurists on International Terrorism and Human Rights. You have a packed schedule of wide ranging deliberations on key issues that impact critically on our daily lives. I commend this distinguished audience of jurists, academics and legal experts who have gathered here today to discuss these themes.

It is also topical to discuss human rights, yesterday being the 'Human Rights Day'. It was on this day in 1948 that the UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It remains the universal and fundamental recognition of the fact that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It is also appropriate that this year the Human Rights Day is dedicated to the Human Rights Defenders who play a vital role in protecting human rights of others, facing personal risks to them and their families.

It is perhaps a statement of our times that all nations and peoples have been affected by the global menace of terrorism. It is not only an assault on human decency and a negation of fundamental human values, but also knows no boundaries and poses serious threat to human rights. Terrorism has also come to represent a threat to international peace and security, especially when terrorists are armed, financed and backed, directly or indirectly, by governments or their agencies. International terrorism is an international crime, threatening the integrity and political and social fabric of states. Its sinister element is vastly magnified in its impact when it enmeshes with drug trafficking, arms proliferation, international financial crimes and generic forms of extremism, fundamentalism, separatism and intolerance.

Our globalised world is characterized by enhanced levels of resort to violence by state and non-state actors, within and across borders. Global threats to peace and security necessitate coordinated and global

responses. We believe that the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. However, we must also note that legal systems in many countries have resorted to doctrines of necessity to incorporate 'exceptional' and 'extraordinary' legislation to deal with this surge of violence. The challenge for governments and legal systems is to deal effectively with violence within the framework of 'normal' laws and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ladies and Gentlemen

There is one other important aspect related to the subject matter of this Conference.

The enjoyment of human rights is closely related to the prevalence of good governance norms. In India we remain committed to democratic governance, inclusive development and the implementation of Rule of Law. This commitment has been challenged in practice by departures from norms of good governance, manifest through corruption and the deleterious influence of money power. Corruption has inhibited the enjoyment of human rights, has contributed to inequalities in income, status and opportunities and thus thwarted human development of our citizens. We must recognise that good governance without any trace of corruption is also a human right.

Friends

Human rights today are increasingly discussed in contexts of violence, use of force and terrorism. The idea that the central objective of human rights is to empower people through human development does not find adequate mention in contemporary debates. It is only when the capacities of citizens are fully developed, their choices widened and freedoms expanded that human rights would have achieved their objective.

I thank the organisers for inviting me to this function and wish you well in your deliberations.



029. Response of Official Spokesperson on allegations by Red Cross as per Wikileaks.

New Delhi, December 17, 2010.

In response to questions on the allegations* by the Red Cross appearing in Wikileaks, the Official Spokesperson said,

" India is an open and democratic nation which adheres to the rule of law. If and when an aberration occurs, it is promptly and firmly dealt with under existing legal mechanisms, in an effective and transparent manner. In India, there is a healthy tradition of democratic debate and freedom of expression on all issues that concern the welfare of our citizens anywhere in our country. Neither have we shied away from an open and candid discussion on such issues when raised by our international friends and partners. "



030. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at launch of Ministry of External Affairs & Public Diplomacy Division websites.

New Delhi, December 24, 2010.

I am pleased to formally launch the re-designed MEA website and the brand new PD website today.

Web is a tool of great empowerment. It has revolutionized the way in which information is collated, communicated and accessed. The challenge of the hour, especially for governments, is to comprehend the power of internet and avail of the unprecedented opportunities it offers, while being alive to its limitations and vulnerabilities.

That is the mandate I gave to XP and PD Divisions and that is what, in a small way, they have gone about doing.

* The spokesperson was responding to questions raised in the WikiLeaks that the US Ambassador David Mulford had reported in Confidential Telegram to Washington that the Government of India had "condoned" the "widespread severe torture" of prisoners in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and other parts of the country during 2002-2004.

The MEA website needed a complete re-do, both in terms of its look and feel, as well as, content. Even though it is still work in progress, I am pleased that the new website, which was launched recently, has met those criteria to a large extent. It aims to make available comprehensive and speedy information, on India's foreign relation activities, as well as, Ministry's views on salient Foreign Policy issues. Besides the media, academia, Indian and international governmental agencies, businesses and travellers, the new website is also meant to be a resource for youth and students.

Encouraged by the response, and I may mention that the website is currently receiving close to 300,000 hits daily, which is twice as much as the earlier website, we have started work on an more ambitious integrated MEA Portal. It is meant to introduce uniformity in the look, feel, content and navigational ease for all the websites of the Ministry and its Missions/Posts abroad.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to oversee the development of the Portal. C-DAC has been appointed as consultants. Invitation to tender has already been issued and bids from web designers are expected to be received latest by 5th January 2011. We hope to launch the new Portal by the middle of next year.

Let me now turn to the PD website. Public Diplomacy Division was set up four years back with a mandate to project India and its foreign policy, both within India and overseas. This was in addition to traditional areas of work such as producing books and documentary films.

In our globalized world foreign policy issues, such as terrorism, climate change and civilian uses of nuclear energy are often intertwined with domestic ones. With a view to fostering a more informed discourse, we started the **MEA Distinguished Lecture Series on India's Foreign Policy**, this February, by some of our finest retired ambassadors. In the last 10 months, we have organized 22 lectures in universities and IIT campuses across India. The response has been truly outstanding.

We have also organized **seminars, workshops and conferences** in places like Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata, Shillong and Kochi on foreign policy themes that are particularly relevant to those regions. The seminars in Varanasi and Patna, for instance, focused on Indo-Nepal relations. There is an organic relationship between Nepal and the governments and people of

these states. A similar logic applied to our conference in Shillong on India's Look East policy. Sitting in Meghalaya, the view of our relationship with Bangladesh, Myanmar or even Thailand takes a dramatically different perspective.

At a very different level, we have partnered with SIS, JNU and with Jadhavpur University to put together a fairly comprehensive **database of academics** from around the country specializing in International Relations. We are now working to create an effective platform where IR specialists can not only network with each other but also have a better interface with MEA.

And of course, the traditional **PD activities**, aimed at overseas audiences, continue. The Division is bringing out the **India Perspectives** magazine in 17 languages, **Coffee table books, documentary films** on different facets of India, as well as, sets of classical, patriotic and Bollywood music.

PD Division has also expanded its **in-coming visitors programme** with a view to providing key decision-makers with a better understanding of India. Our guests this year are a fairly eclectic lot, including representatives of think tanks, ambassadors and permanent representatives of Pacific and Small Island States at the UN in New York, parliamentary delegations, film critics from the Asia-Pacific region, writers at a literature festival and even a group of journalists representing the Indian Diaspora in 16 separate countries.

Let me now turn to the **Public Diplomacy website** and the context in which it is situated. Emergence of Web 2.0 tools and social media sites offer us a unique two-way platform for exchange of information and interface with web users, including with a new generation that primarily obtains its information from the Internet.

I am happy to say that the PD website is the first GOI site to be based fully on a Web 2.0 platform. In addition, the Indiandiplomacy account on **Twitter**, started in July 2010, was the first by a Government of India department and has already gathered over 3500 followers. It was followed in quick succession by a **Facebook** page, a **YouTube** channel and a **Blogspot** page - all under the 'Indiandiplomacy' title.

We have converted some two dozen of our documentary films into shorter, 6-8 minute versions so that they can be accessed on YouTube. Information about our lectures and other events is put out on Twitter and Facebook and the text of the lectures goes to our blogspot page for comment and discussion. With these initiatives, we have achieved our initial objective of establishing a dynamic presence on the net.

We also want to use this platform for at least three additional things:

- i) Highlight the reach of **India's soft power** around the globe, manifest not just in the popularity of Indian cinema, music, dance, cuisine, yoga but also in the following enjoyed by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore
- ii) Bring out real stories about India's numerous **development partnerships** with countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere
- iii) Talk about the diverse nature of **activities of our diplomatic missions** as they organize business conferences and cultural festivals, deliver public lectures, receive high-level delegations or engage with the Indian community

Our initial efforts are already being noticed and I am happy to convey that Public Diplomacy Division received the award for the most innovative use of social media in Government at the **India e-Gov 2010 Awards** on 28 October 2010.

I realize that this is a fairly ambitious agenda and we look forward to working with you and getting your feedback. I would now like JS XP and JS PD to make brief presentations on the new websites.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - II

CLIMATE CHANGE

031. Inaugural address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 97th Indian Science Congress.

Thiruvananthapuram, January 3, 2010.

"I am delighted that my first important engagement in this New Year is the inauguration of the 97th Indian Science Congress. If India has to re-emerge as a knowledge power in the 21st Century, then it can only be through developing a strong capability in science and technology. It is particularly appropriate that this Congress is being held in Kerala which has led the way in education and human resource development. I recall it was in Thiruvananthapuram that we launched India into the era of space exploration. I wish the people of Kerala - this "God's Own Country" - a very happy and joyous year ahead.

In the past few years our Government has invested heavily in expanding and upgrading the science, technology and innovation system in our country as well as in supporting a more broad-based educational base. We have worked hard to do what is good for science. We are determined to ensure that what we have announced does get implemented. We also know that we need to do much more because scientific capability is what will determine our ability to overcome the challenges which lie ahead. We face new challenges of climate change and the management of our scarce water resources. We also face old challenges of food security and disease control. In all these areas, our success will depend critically on the quality of our institutions of science and technology.

Last month, world leaders came together at Copenhagen to grapple with the threat that climate change poses to our planet and to our way of life. It is a problem that is challenging the knowledge and wisdom of humankind. We were able to make only limited progress at the Copenhagen Summit and no one was satisfied with the outcome. And yet, there is no escaping the truth that the nations of the world have to move to a low greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficient development path.

All over the world, countries are chalking out strategies to achieve greater energy efficiency and a shift to renewable sources of energy. They are also chalking out strategies for adapting to such climate change as is inevitable. India must not lag behind in these areas. Indeed we should

plan to be among the leaders in the development of science and technology related to mitigation and also adaptation to climate change. The market for such technologies is not just India. It is indeed the whole world.

As far as energy is concerned, renewable and clean energy supplies will need to play a much bigger role than what they do currently. Nuclear and solar energy supplies will need to increase considerably. The agreement reached last year with the Nuclear Suppliers Group represents a landmark in lifting long standing restrictions on the transfer of nuclear fuel and technology to India. I am confident that we can now plan for an accelerated nuclear power development programme.

We have also decided to launch a Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission for the establishment of 20,000 MW of solar generation capacity by the year 2020. The mission provides an opportunity to our indigenous scientific institutions to contribute in this important area. I am very happy that a PAN IIT programme for Solar Energy Research has been launched by our Ministry of Science and Technology to drive down the costs of solar energy technology options through R&D-led innovations. The Ministry has also launched joint development programmes with knowledge networks of EU and the United Kingdom on solar energy research with investments of 5 million Euro and 5 million UK pounds respectively on each side.

We live in an increasingly complex world with growing interdependence among different sectors of our economy. Every solution to a particular problem has consequences in other areas. Take forests for instance. When we thought of forests as an economic resource the focus of forest planning was almost exclusively on growing the stock of timber and other commercially valuable forest products. This led to decisions about the choice of tree species and planting practices that we now know were sub optimal because they did not pay sufficient regard to other functions of forests like controlling water run off or for the protection of bio-diversity.

A single-minded focus on carbon reduction could lead to a similar distortion if forestry choices are based solely on how good they are in sequestering carbon. Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is no doubt an important goal. But it must co-exist with other equally important goals.

Water resource management is a very important area for us given the fact that per capita availability of water is declining as our population increases.

The urgency of action in this area increases all the more because of the threat of climate change. The scientific input in evolving an adaptation strategy is therefore very important. I am happy that the Ministry of Science and Technology has initiated a Technology Mission for Winning, Augmentation and Renovation (WAR) of our water resources. Technology solutions for 25 different water related challenges are being found through pilot trials under real field conditions in about 60 locations covering all our 20 river basin systems. These solutions will then be applied to 100,000 population clusters to study their financial viability and location neutral applications. If the project completes successfully by 2011, it will have an important demonstration effect of the virtues of investment in scientific solutions to economic and social problems.

Strengthening food security is another important area of emphasis in our scientific and technological efforts. Better weather forecasting is critical for sound agricultural management. A Geo-spatial Technology Applications Mission to provide crop planning and monitoring as well as flood management has recently been mounted.

Developments in biotechnology present us the prospect of greatly improving yields in our major crops by increasing resistance to pests and also to moisture stress. BT Cotton has been well accepted in the country and has made a great difference to the production of cotton. The technology of genetic modification is also being extended to food crops though this raises legitimate questions of safety. These must be given full weightage, with appropriate regulatory control based on strictly scientific criteria. Subject to these caveats, we should pursue all possible leads that biotechnology provides that might increase our food security as we go through climate related stress.

Providing affordable health care and improving the quality of life of our elderly population is yet another major challenge facing us in the 21st century. It is a matter of pride that scientists of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have recently succeeded in mapping the genome of an Indian through a collaborative national research effort. I also commend the DRDO for developing a new and rapid diagnostic method for detecting the H1N1 virus. We need to build our scientific capabilities in a way that they can respond in real time to problems such as pandemics.

Scientific capability depends critically on our S&T education and research infrastructure. I am happy to say that our efforts to improve this base are progressing well. Since I last addressed this Congress, there has been progress on a number of initiatives.

Under the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research or INSPIRE scheme, we will soon be announcing the name of at least one science awardee per school in the age group of 10-15 in the entire country.

Our Government is considering the revision of the value of doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships as well as the formulation of schemes that would cover all research scholars with some funding support.

We are keen to make our science education outreach inclusive and also affordable. Last year I had announced a special package for the North Eastern Region. We have since started implementing a similar package for the Science & Technology sector in Jammu and Kashmir. We are planning similar investments in other regions of our country like Bihar to bridge asymmetries.

One of the imbalances in our scientific resource pool is the under representation of our women. We should redouble our efforts to attract many more talented young women to take up careers in science. A step in this direction is a new scheme now available for women's universities named Consolidation of University Research, Innovation and Excellence (CURIE). This scheme provides financial help for complete upgradation of facilities in these universities.

I am happy to announce that the National Science and Engineering Research Board will start functioning before March 2010. A National Policy for Data Sharing and Accessibility has also been formulated. The Protection of Intellectual Property Bill, focusing on sharing revenue from intellectual properties with researchers will be taken up for discussion in parliament very soon.

All Indians felt proud that an Indian origin scientist, who earned his early spurs in India, was a recipient of this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry. I salute Dr Venkatraman Ramakrishnan for his creativity, his talent and for his deep commitment to good science. I have also noted Dr Ramakrishnan's recent comment on the need for greater "autonomy from red tape and local politics" for Indian scientists.

It is unfortunately true that red tape, political interference and lack of proper recognition of good work have all contributed to a regression in Indian science in some sectors from the days of Dr. C V Raman, Meghnad Saha, J C Bose, Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Satish Dhawan and other great pioneers of Indian science.

I urge all our scientific institutions to introspect and to propose mechanisms for greater autonomy, including autonomy from the government, which could help to improve standards for research and development. We must make a special effort to encourage scientists of Indian origin currently working abroad to return to our country including coming to our universities or scientific institutions for a short period. In this way we can, convert the "brain drain" of the past into a "brain gain" for the future. This will require special incentives. We need to think creatively on how this can be done so that high quality minds are attracted to teaching and research in our country.

Much of what we have to do to improve science requires money but this is only one part of what is needed. It also requires a change in mindset, including, if I may say so, the mindset of senior faculty and university administration. Sometimes that is the hardest thing to do.

I invite you all to explore all these issues and engage with the Government so that we can do what is needed to liberate Indian science from the shackles and deadweight of bureaucratism and in-house favouritism. Only then we can unleash the latent talent and creative energies of our vast scientists and engineers too.

Our Government has declared 2010-2020 as the "Decade of Innovations". We need new solutions in many areas to achieve our goals of inclusive and sustainable growth - in healthcare, in energy, in urban infrastructure, in water management, in transportation, to name only a few. We cannot continue with business as usual. Solutions from developed countries available are also not applicable all the time. They are often too costly and at times not sustainable.

The country must develop an Innovation Eco-system to stimulate innovations. Innovators must be challenged to produce solutions our society needs. And innovative solutions with potential must be nurtured and rapidly applied.

Our scientific establishments must be central to the Innovation Eco-system. But this system must include industry, and providers of venture funds, as well as regulators who set high standards of performance for their products. We also need to think creatively on how to increase private investment in R&D. Some innovative policy readjustments may be required to build vibrant Public-Private Partnerships in the Science & Technology Sector.

Our elite institutions such as the IITs must do more to address the technological challenges of the 21st Century. Their research goals and the expectations of the industrial and social sectors must be better aligned.

The Planning Commission has recently set up an Expert Group to strengthen the Innovation Eco-system in the country and also to point to areas where innovations are required to meet our country's goals of more rapid, more inclusive, and sustainable growth.

I have said the Indian scientific establishment is a vital component of the Innovation Eco-system. But to fulfill its role, it should have a strong outward orientation. It must work in partnership with industry. We need to concentrate on strengthening the linkages between academic institutions, research institutions and industry. Today each operates within its own silo. Unless we close those gaps, our research and development sector may report high performance in terms of published papers but our challenges of the 21st century may still remain unsolved.

Lastly, Indian science should have a strong outward orientation. Our science establishments should step up global alliances that will expose our scientists to the best in the world and enhance our competitiveness.

The time has come to give a new boost to science and technology in India. I hope the 97th Indian Science Congress will come forward with specific proposals to this end. I hope each one of you will return to your laboratories and class rooms re-energised to do good science, and do it for the good of our people, and for the good of humanity at large.

In conclusion, I wish you all a very happy, prosperous, purposive and peaceful New Year and I wish your proceedings all success."



032. Statement issued at the end of the second meeting of the Ministers of the BASIC countries.

New Delhi, January 24, 2010.

The second meeting of Ministers of the four BASIC Group countries took place in New Delhi today. The Ministers who participated in the meeting were Mr Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission from China, Mr Carlos Minc, Minister for Environment from Brazil, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs from South Africa and Sh Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests. A joint statement was issued at the conclusion of this meeting of ministers of BASIC Group.

The Ministers recalled that the BASIC Countries functioning as a cohesive group, had made important and constructive contributions at the recently concluded COP-15 in Copenhagen. They re-emphasised their commitment to working together with all other countries to ensure an agreed outcome at COP-16 in Mexico later this year.

The Ministers underscored the centrality of the UNFCCC process and the decision of the Parties to carry forward the negotiations on the two tracks of Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) under the Convention and the Ad hoc Working Group on further emission reduction commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in 2010 leading up to COP-16 and COP/MOP6 at Mexico. The Ministers reiterated that all negotiations must be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.

The Ministers called upon the COP President (Denmark) to convene meetings of the two negotiating groups - (AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP) - in March 2010 and to ensure that the AWGs meet at least 5 times before the Mexico Conference. They emphasised that funding, logistics and other procedural issues should not be allowed to become a constraint in the convening of these meetings which are essential to make progress towards an agreed outcome at COP-16.

While underscoring their support to the Copenhagen Accord which is in the nature of a political agreement, the Ministers recalled the important contribution of the BASIC countries in its finalisation. They underlined the importance of the Accord as representing a high level political understanding among the participants on some of the contentious issues of the climate change negotiations. They expressed the hope that this would facilitate the two-track process of negotiation under the Bali Roadmap to lead to a successful conclusion of ongoing negotiations in Mexico.

The members of the BASIC Group have already announced a series of voluntary mitigation actions for 2020. The Ministers expressed their intention to communicate information on their voluntary mitigation actions to the UNFCCC by January 31, 2010.

The Ministers called for the early flow of the pledged \$10 bn in 2010 with focus on the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries of Africa, as proof of their commitment to urgently address the global challenge of climate change. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the progress made on the proposal for financing and implementation of the REDD+ mechanism and decided to undertake close coordination to this end.

The Ministers agreed to meet at the Ministerial level every quarter, and welcomed the offer of South Africa to host the next meeting of the BASIC Ministerial Group in late-April, 2010. They agreed to coordinate their positions closely as part of climate change discussions in other forums. They emphasised the importance of working closely with other members of Group of -77 & China in order to ensure an ambitious and equitable outcomes in Mexico through a transparent process.

The Ministers also emphasised that BASIC is not just a forum for negotiation coordination, but also a forum for cooperative actions on mitigation and adaptation including exchange of information and collaboration in matters relating to climate science & climate-related technologies. The Ministers expressed their desire to enhance South-South cooperation with other countries on various issues including those

relating to scientific cooperation and support for adaptation to vulnerable countries.*

Earlier Dr. Manmohan Singh met with the four Ministers yesterday evening. The current G-77 Chair - Yemen - had also been invited but could not attend because of other commitments.



**032-A. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the meeting of the Group
of 77 on Brainstorming on Climate Change: Exchange
of views on the Post-Copenhagen process and the way
forward at the UN General Assembly.**

New York, February 3, 2010.

Please see Document No.618.



* The meeting was convened by India to discuss the post Copenhagen scenario on Climate Change amongst BASIC countries and evolve a coordinated approach to climate change related issues in 2010 in the run up to Mexico (Dec. 2010).

The BASIC meeting followed the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference where it was decided to continue negotiations in two tracks relating to Bali Action Plan and Kyoto Protocol for another one year so as to have a final outcome at the sixteenth Conference of Parties in Mexico. At Copenhagen, the President of the COP i.e. the Prime Minister of Denmark also had discussion with select group of countries on the 'Copenhagen Accord' that was not adopted but noted by the Conference of Parties (COP).

033. Remarks of Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the 6th MEF meeting.

Washington (D. C), April 18, 2010.

I am sorry that I am unable to be present physically at the 6th meeting of MEF Leaders' Representatives. Such are the vagaries of Mother Nature for which no legally-binding agreement with fool-proof MRV can be an effective antidote! Todd Stern had wanted me to initiate the discussion on MRV. Before I do so, I wish to make four broad points that have a vital bearing on reducing the huge "trust deficit" that prevails in the climate change negotiating community.

First, the Copenhagen Accord is undoubtedly an important step forward. But it cannot be a separate track for negotiation. I have repeatedly said that the areas of agreement reflected in the Accord must be used to bring consensus in the on-going two-track negotiating process which is the only process that has legitimacy. Gordian knot-cutting can well be plurilateral but ultimately negotiations must be multilateral and carried out in good faith.

Second, there must be some visible triggers that get activated very soon to ensure that Cancun does not repeat Copenhagen. One such trigger is the beginning of actual disbursement of the \$ 10 billion promised by the developed countries for this year for vulnerable economies, small island states and LDCs. Another trigger could be an agreement on REDD/REDD+ provided it looks at all potential countries uniformly and does not limit itself only to forest-basin countries. Finalising the architecture of technology cooperation is yet another confidence-building measure. All these elements should be a part of a multilateral package in two tracks that should be delivered in Cancun. In the end, a balance in the outcomes on all elements of the LCA and KP tracks must be maintained with Annex I countries immediately taking on binding commitments for truly significant GHG reductions within their borders.

Third, equity is the cornerstone of any international agreement that will be accepted by developing countries. The Copenhagen Accord sets a global goal and this will determine a certain global carbon budget. The implications of this budget for the carbon budgets of individual countries need to be

analysed in detail and it has to be guaranteed as part of any international agreement that development goals of economic growth are not jeopardised by such budgets. The global objective of restricting temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius by 2050 from mid-19th century levels must be firmly embedded in a demonstrably equitable access to atmospheric space with adequate finance and technology available to all developing countries.

Fourth, we need to better understand this mantra of "internationally legally binding agreement" which some developed countries keep chanting. What does it mean in practice? What are the consequences of non-fulfilment? What are the extenuating circumstances which could allow for non-fulfilment of commitments made as part of such an agreement? What is the place for domestic accountability mechanisms in such an agreement?

Let me now turn to the MRV issue. For Annex I Parties, this is dealt with in Para 4 and for non-Annex I Parties it is contained in para 5 of the Copenhagen Accord. Para 4 of the Copenhagen Accord reads thus:

Delivery of (emission)reductions and financing by developed countries will be measured, reported and verified in accordance with existing and any further guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and will ensure that accounting of such targets and finance is rigorous, robust and transparent.

Thus, as can be seen Para 4 enjoins the COP to develop appropriate guidelines for MRV of both emission reductions and financing of Annex I Parties. This is important to recall and stress since the entire focus in the MRV debate over the past year has been on developing country mitigation actions.

Now, let me turn to Para 5 of the Copenhagen Accord which reads thus:

Non-Annex I Parties to the Convention will implement mitigation actions, including those to be submitted to the secretariat by non-Annex I Parties in the format given in Appendix II by 31 January 2010, for compilation in an INF document, consistent with Article 4.1 and Article 4.7 and in the context of sustainable development. Least developed countries and small island developing States may undertake actions voluntarily and on the basis of support. Mitigation actions subsequently taken and envisaged by Non-Annex I Parties, including national inventory reports, shall be communicated

through national communications consistent with Article 12.1(b) every two years on the basis of guidelines to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Those mitigation actions in national communications or otherwise communicated to the Secretariat will be added to the list in Appendix II.

Mitigation actions taken by Non-Annex I Parties will be subject to their domestic measurement, reporting and verification the result of which will be reported through their national communications every two years. Non-Annex I Parties will communicate information on the implementation of their actions through National Communications, with provisions for international consultations and analysis under clearly defined guidelines that will ensure that national sovereignty is respected. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions seeking international support will be recorded in a registry along with relevant technology, finance and capacity building support. Those actions supported will be added to the list in

Appendix II. These supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties." Now, para 5 is very convoluted and needs to be "deconstructed" and simplified. This is what I have done as shown below. Four crucial action points are embedded in para 5.

1. Mitigation actions of non-Annex I Parties to be communicated to UNFCCC Secretariat through NATCOM consistent with Article 12.1(b), every two years, on the basis of guidelines to be adopted by COP.
2. Mitigation actions taken by Non-Annex I Parties will be subject to their domestic measurement, reporting and verification (DMRV), the result of which will be reported through their NATCOMs every two years.
3. Non-Annex I Parties will communicate information on the implementation of their actions (NAMAs) through NATCOMs, with provisions for international consultations and analysis under clearly defined guidelines that will ensure that national sovereignty is respected.
4. NAMAs seeking international support will be recorded in a registry along with relevant technology, finance and capacity building support. They will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by COP.

As will be observed COP has been given explicit responsibility for developing guidelines for putting into effect action point #1 and action point # 4. The responsibility for developing guidelines for action point # 3. has not been explicitly given to COP but it is reasonable to assume and expect that this too will be a task for COP. We need to discuss how we are going to execute these tasks in a purposive manner.

Reiterating that mitigation actions by developing countries are voluntary, I would make the following suggestions to put the action points into practice:

- International consultations and analysis as envisaged in action point # 3. above must be based on country implementation reports (derived from the respective NATCOM) prepared by the individual countries themselves so as to fulfill the "respect for national sovereignty" promise contained within action point # 3. itself. A chapter/issue format for such reports can be agreed to by the COP.
- The frequency of international consultations and analysis can be somewhat akin to the graded system adopted by the WTO for its trade policy reviews-

some countries get reviewed once every two years, some others once every four years and most others once every six years or more depending on share of world trade.
- There has to be a multilateral anchor for the international consultations and analysis process. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC should consider, sooner rather than later, how and where this anchor is to be set up.

I would stress that the voluntary actions of developing countries which are the subject of such international consultations and analysis should, under no circumstances, be seen as taking on internationally legally binding commitments by these countries. It also goes without saying that domestic GHG mitigation actions which are not supported by finance and technology under UNFCCC arrangements ("unsupported NAMAs") as part of their NATCOM will be subject to a different protocol. These are some preliminary ideas to stimulate discussion. I am once again sorry that I am unable to be present



034. Chair's Summary of the Sixth Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.

Washington (D. C.), April 19, 2010.

The sixth Meeting at the Leaders' representative level of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate met in Washington, DC, April 19, 2010. It was attended by officials from the seventeen major economies, as well as the United Nations, with Colombia, Denmark, Grenada, and Yemen also participating in the session.

Participants agreed that smaller, informal discussions such as the Major Economies Forum contributed to success in Copenhagen and can facilitate and enrich the discussions under the UNFCCC, the multilateral forum for negotiating climate change. Parties also highlighted the importance of discussions being representative and transparent.

Participants generally felt that Copenhagen Accord represented an important step forward, and that it provided important political consensus that should be reflected regarding the key issues in the negotiations leading up to Cancun.

Participants discussed goals for Cancun and beyond. There was a discussion of the role of the Kyoto Protocol and the form of a legal outcome. There was also a discussion of the key issues that need to be addressed to have a successful outcome in Cancun, noting the importance of setting realistic expectations for Cancun. Recognizing the urgency of moving forward, participants felt that in Cancun countries should at a minimum agree on a balanced set of decisions informed by the Copenhagen Accord.

Participants discussed what work needs to be done in the year ahead, including the need to elaborate the measurement, reporting, and verification and other transparency provisions of the Accord. In this regard, they welcomed India's presentation on practical approaches to MRV and international consultations and analysis. Various participants also spoke to equity, the role of markets, engaging smaller countries in the mitigation effort, how to ensure that the approach going forward reflects the dictates of science, domestic actions already underway to implement mitigation commitments under the Accord, and actions to reduce deforestation. Participants supported the Mexican Presidency's efforts to prepare COP16.

Many countries noted the importance of moving forward promptly with the Accord's Fast Start financing provisions in a transparent fashion. Several countries presented information on the actions they were already undertaking in response to their fast start financing commitment under the Copenhagen Accord.

The participants were briefed on the Clean Energy Ministerial to be held July 19-20, 2010 in Washington D.C. that aims to advance key activities in the Technology Action Plans of the Global Partnership launched by Leaders in L'Aquila July 2009.



035. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the Third Meeting of the Minister of the BASIC countries.

Cape Town, April 25, 2010.

The third meeting of BASIC Ministers on climate change took place in Cape Town from 25 to 26 April 2010. The Ministers who participated in the meeting were H.E. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission from China, H.E. Izabella Teixeira, Minister for Environment from Brazil, H.E. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests from India, and H.E. Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs from South Africa.

Other South African Ministers present were HE Minister Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency, Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe, of International Relations and Co-operation and HE Deputy Minister Rejoyce Mabudafhasi, of Environmental Affairs. During their deliberations, Ministers emphasised the following.

1. The BASIC Ministers expressed their determination to continue to show leadership in acting on climate change.
2. Developing countries strongly support international legally binding agreements, as the lack of such agreements hurts developing countries more than developed countries. They noted that internationally binding

legal agreements already exists in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its' Kyoto Protocol. In accordance with the Convention, Brazil, China, India and South Africa are taking ambitious nationally appropriate mitigation actions, as announced in Copenhagen.

3. The Ministers agreed that in accordance with the mandate of the Bali Roadmap, such agreements must follow two tracks and include an agreement on quantified emission reduction targets under a second commitment period for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, as well as a legally binding agreement on long-term cooperative action under the Convention. Ministers felt that a legally binding outcome should be concluded at Cancún, Mexico in 2010, or at the latest in South Africa by 2011.

4. Negotiations should follow a two-pronged approach which:

- a. develops a politically balanced comprehensive outcome in the formal negotiations under the two Ad hoc Working Groups, underpinned by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities; and
- b. uses the 2010 \$10 billion fast-start funding to develop, test and demonstrate practical implementation approaches to both adaptation and mitigation, which can be used to inform the comprehensive package.

5. Building on the discussion held in New Delhi (January 2010), Ministers elaborated areas in which progress could be made in the run-up to Cancún, including:

- a. the early flow of fast-start finance of the \$10 bn in 2010 pledged by developed countries;
- b. implementation of the REDD+ mechanism;
- c. architecture of technology development and transfer;
- d. adaptation framework encompassing implementation programmes; and
- e. A work programme on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of commitments to finance, technology and capacitybuilding

support by developed countries, starting with a common reporting format for financial contributions by developed countries.

6. Ministers noted news reports that domestic legislation in the USA had been postponed and indicated that the world could not wait indefinitely, as it hinders our ability to reach an internationally legally binding agreement. A step-change is required in negotiations, and incremental progress on its own will not raise the level of ambition to the extent needed to avoid dangerous climate change and impacts on poor countries and communities.

7. Equity will be a key issue for any agreement. Ministers noted that the Copenhagen Accord sets a global goal of keeping temperature increase below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, without jeopardising economic growth and poverty alleviation. This implies a certain global carbon budget. The implications of this budget for individual countries require careful analysis, and must be based on a multilateral agreement about equitable burden-sharing, including historical responsibility for climate change, the need to allow developing countries equitable space for development, and adequate finance, technology and capacity-building support provided by developed countries for all developing countries.

8. Ministers outlined their understanding of how the political agreements on contentious issues, as reflected in the Copenhagen Accord, should be translated into the official negotiating texts under the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWGLCA) and Ad hoc

Working Group on further Commitments by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWGKP). They reaffirmed that negotiations must be based on the official negotiating texts in the AWGLCA and AWGKP, and negotiations conducted in an inclusive manner.

9. The only legitimate forum for negotiation of climate change is the UNFCCC. Small groups can make a contribution in resolving conflicts, but they must be representative and their composition must be determined through fully inclusive and transparent negotiations, with a mechanism for reporting back to the multi-lateral forum.

10. Further elaborating on finance,

a. Ministers noted that the Copenhagen Accord provides for the scale of finance in short and medium-term. The commitments to provide finance must be operationalised. Both the \$ 30 billion (2010-2012)

and the \$ 100 billion annually (by 2020) should be provided by developed countries.

- b. Finance must balance adaptation and mitigation, not only in the next three years, but also in the medium-term

11. Ministers were of the view that it will not be possible to deal with mitigation actions by developing countries, without also dealing with support for those actions and the two-fold commitments by developed countries to both provide finance for developing countries and reduce their own emissions, with consequences of non-fulfillment. In this regard, Ministers urged all Annex I countries to raise their level of ambition.

12. Ministers affirmed that the BASIC countries will continue their consultations with other countries and groups, following the "BASICPlus" approach, in order to facilitate the resolution of contentious issues in the negotiations.

13. Ministers emphasised again that BASIC is more than a forum focused on negotiations. They supported collaboration among experts from BASIC countries and welcomed the creation of an on-going forum, including work on adaptation and mitigation action plans and scenarios.

14. Ministers of the BASIC countries agreed that, remaining anchored in the G77&China, they will continue to contribute constructively to the multilateral negotiations on climate change.

15. Ministers welcomed Brazil's offer to host the next BASIC Ministerial at the end of July and China's offer to host a meeting at the end of October 2010. The BASIC Ministerials will bring together analytical work done on several issues, including a focus on equity.



036. Thimphu Statement on Climate Change issued by the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC countries.

Thimphu, April 29, 2010.

Please see Document No.130



037. Statement by Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests Vijai Sharma at the Climate and Forest Conference.

Oslo, May 27, 2010.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates and friends,

The Oslo Climate and Forestry Conference demonstrates the commitment of the global community to combat climate change. This follows up on our Paris meeting last March. I thank the Government of Norway for bringing us all together again.

The REDD plus concept promotes a holistic approach for incentivizing actions to reduce emissions worldwide from forests and promote the sustainable management of forests. The ideas are captured in a decision of the recent Conference of Parties at Copenhagen. Whether the partnership document, emanating from this conference, appropriately reflects this comprehensiveness, is a question.

Is the partnership document putting REDD in the foreground at the cost of the plus part. Are we operationalizing the REDD part only. Would financing be available for the plus part. India seeks the operationalization of the entire REDD plus. The approach should be all-embracing and inclusive. It should not exclude. The reduction of deforestation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks are the two sides of the same coin, where one cannot do without the other. Both are equally important. In fact, the REDD and the plus are seamless. The two dimensions need to be taken up in parallel. If the tilt in the partnership document is towards reducing deforestation, the balance needs to be set right. An obvious question is whether the document is in 'synch' with the AWG-LCA paper released last week, which is the basis of the UNFCCC negotiations.

The scope of the LCA document is wider, as it includes all the elements of forest mitigation in the Bali Action Plan, i.e., reducing deforestation, conservation, and sustainable management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. All these elements should be on our canvas. We should maintain and preserve the integrity of the REDD plus concept as identified in the Bali Action Plan.

While some developing countries are acting to reduce deforestation, many others like India are preventing diversion of forests to non-forestry uses

and are also ensuring large scale afforestation. 1997-2007 saw 3.13 million hectares of forests added in India. Now we seek REDD plus funds for our Green India Mission in the interest of global climate protection. Our forests, about seventy million hectares, sequestered about 177 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2007. This carbon service will enhance with the Green India Mission.

We are establishing in India a national REDD plus coordinating agency. We have already set up a technical group to develop methodologies and procedures for assessment and monitoring of REDD plus actions. The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment is studying the impact of climate change on our forests and the study will be released in November 2010. India's biodiversity mainly lives in its forests, so in this context we are examining the areas of convergence between the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biodiversity. And, also because India in 2012 will host the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Paris-Oslo meetings have been constructive and timely, not as negotiation among UNFCCC parties, but as a clearinghouse of ideas where intergovernmental organizations and civil society also contributed. But, it should not be that our discourse takes place under the rubric of REDD plus with the outcomes restricted to REDD without the plus.

My observations emanate from my concern to ensure that the basic premises of the UNFCCC process are not lost sight of. The reduction of deforestation and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks must be treated at par.

Fairness requires that a unit of carbon saved be treated the same as a unit of carbon added.

To conclude, we wish to be counted as a close friend of the Paris-Oslo initiative on REDD plus, indeed a very engaging dialogue. I do hope that our observations are duly addressed as this initiative unfolds. This will also be in the interest of the main process under the UNFCCC framework. With this understanding, we remain positive on constructively engaging with the REDD plus partnership and the outcomes of the Oslo conference. We are ready to take this initiative forward in our collective efforts to address climate change.

Thank you.



038. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change.

New Delhi, May 28, 2010.

The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, which met today approved in principle the National Water Mission and suggested that its basic approach should be to make water conservation a peoples' movement in India. For this it is essential to make available all data on water in the public domain to be able to mobilise citizens, local and State Governments for focused action on water conservation and augmentation.

The Prime Minister chairing the Council highlighted the need to create a general consciousness of the need to use water in the most sustainable manner. Given the fact that there are multiple uses for water and an integrated approach based on basin development planning needs to be evolved, he said that political leadership at the local body level, state level and civil society organizations need to be involved in activities of the Water Mission.

Ministers and other members of the Council endorsed these views. It was stated that the first step in this direction would be to prepare a comprehensive water data base in the public domain and assessing the impact of climate change on water. Action needs to be focused on vulnerable areas, where ground water is overexploited. It was also decided that water use efficiency should be raised by 20% through the promotion of water- positive and water- neutral technologies.

Members felt that a structure of incentives should be created for using water in a sustainable manner. It was also felt that the Research and Development requirements of the Mission should be focused upon.

Many Members stressed the need to use the opportunities from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which already prioritizes community-level water security as the first charge in MGNREGA which is being led by panchayats and offers an opportunity to convert water conservation into a peoples movement.

The Ministers of Finance, Power, Water Resources, Non- Conventional and Renewable Energy Resources, Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister (Independent Charge) Environment and Forest and Members of the Council were present in the Meeting.



039. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the 7th MEF Meeting.

Rome, June 30, 2010.

I am delighted to be able to attend this MEF meeting. I was able to participate in the previous meeting only by video conference and I hope the suggestions I had made on operationalising Paras 4 and 5 of the Copenhagen Accord relating to MRV for both developed and developing countries were found useful by MEF participants. I wish to reiterate the main points that I had made. Para 4 of the Accord enjoins the COP to develop appropriate guidelines for MRV of actions of developed country Parties. This is important to recall and stress since the entire focus in the MRV debate over the past year has been on developing country mitigation actions. It is also important that such an MRV regime includes not only MRV of emission reduction commitments but also MRV of the targets, timeframes and regimes related to the transfer of finance and technology to developing countries. The MRV on finance assumes urgent importance for all of us need to know very clearly how much of the additional \$ 30 billion pledged by the developed countries during 2010, 2011 and 2012 has materialised so far, how precisely are disbursements to take place, what the mix between bilateral and multilateral assistance is and to which countries and for what purposes are the funds going to flow. The one area where there is some clarity is REDD+ where \$4.5 billion has been pledged.

Four crucial action points are embedded in Para 5 of the Accord:

1. Mitigation actions of non-Annex I Parties to be communicated to UNFCCC Secretariat through NATCOM consistent with Article 12.1(b), every two years, on the basis of guidelines to be adopted by COP.
2. Mitigation actions taken by Non-Annex I Parties will be subject to their domestic measurement, reporting and verification (DMRV), the result of which will be reported through their NATCOMs every two years.
3. Non-Annex I Parties will communicate information on the implementation of their actions (NAMAs) through NATCOMs, with provisions for international consultations and analysis under clearly defined guidelines that will ensure that national sovereignty is respected.

4. NAMAs seeking international support will be recorded in a registry along with relevant technology, finance and capacity building support. They will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by COP.

I had made the following suggestions to put these four action points into practice:

- International consultations and analysis as envisaged in action point # 3. above must be based on country implementation reports (derived from the respective NATCOM) prepared by the individual countries themselves so as to fulfil the "respect for national sovereignty" promise contained within action point # 3. itself. A chapter/issue format for such reports can be agreed to by the COP.
- The frequency of international consultations and analysis can be somewhat akin to the graded system adopted by the WTO for its trade policy reviews- some countries get reviewed once every two years, some others once every four years and most others once every six years or more depending on share of world trade.
- There has to be a multilateral anchor for the international consultations and analysis process. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC should consider, sooner rather than later, how this process should be set in motion. SBI functions under the Convention to perform this kind of work and has fairly well laid out procedures in respect of reports of both Annex I and Non Annex I countries. We should allow SBI to get on with this task and fulfil the expectations resulting from our current state of negotiations. It bears repetition that the regime for MRV for Non-Annex I countries cannot be more onerous than that for the Annex I countries either in form or content or the consideration of their actions. Non-Annex I countries should have a regime that is subject to consideration in terms of Article 10. 2 (a) of the UNFCCC.

[II] EQUITY

I want to emphasise that the issue of MRV cannot be seen in the absence of another critical issue in the climate change discussions - the issue of equity. Without a working paradigm of equitable access to carbon space,

what exactly will be the role and nature of MRV is far from clear and cannot be agreed. Therefore I also want to take this opportunity to bring the issue of equity, equitable access to the carbon space / equitable burden sharing, which seems to be sliding out of the negotiating discourse, back into the mainstream.

MRV must include a determination of an allocative principle and an equitable allocation of carbon space. This is particularly relevant in the context of the adequacy of actions of developed countries. This is critical if we are to have an international agreement at Cancun.

The June 10, 2010 text of the AWG-LCA text, that was rejected by most Parties, had this to say in Para 2: Deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science, and as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, with a view to reducing global emissions so as to maintain the increase in global temperature below [1.5][2] degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and that Parties should take action to meet this objective consistent with science and on the basis of equity, taking into account historical responsibilities and access to global atmospheric resources.

I have two observations on this formulation. First, this Para has no reference to the foundational principle of CBDR and respective capabilities, which is enshrined in UNFCCC. This is unacceptable. Incidentally, in this context, I must mention I have read Todd Stern's speech at Brookings some weeks back where he has given a completely new interpretation to CBDR-new to the rest of the world, that is. I think we need to understand this interpretation in some detail

Second, this Para omits the need for a paradigm for equitable access to precede any agreement. This is unacceptable. Any discussion on a global goal - whether for limiting temperature increase or emissions reduction - is incomplete, meaningless and impossible in the absence of such a paradigm. There is no substitute for the equitable access paradigm. Unilateral pledges, for example, do not and cannot substitute for this paradigm.

Equitable access has been an integral part of previous texts in the AWG-LCA, for example in the LCA Chair's text in Copenhagen that was adopted in Copenhagen and was also in the present Chair's May 2010 text. The previous text said in two places:

(1) that a goal for emissions reduction as part of the shared vision must include "taking into account historical responsibilities and an equitable share in the atmospheric space" and (2) that Parties recognise the broad scientific view that the temperature increase should not exceed 2 or 1.5 or 1 degree, "preceded by a paradigm for equal access to global atmospheric resources. I therefore strongly propose that all of us agree to restore these texts in the relevant two places and send the message to our negotiators.

Moreover, it is vital that these principles be operationalised so that the equity paradigm in sharing atmospheric space is spelt out in practical terms. Carbon space is development space and therefore we must agree on an appropriate methodology to determine carbon space that has been used up and that can be used in future, the rights and allocations for this space between developed and developing countries, including the implications for finance and technology transfers to developing countries.

It is critical that we arrive at an operational set of formulae on equity based primarily on cumulative per capita emissions. Some scholars have also suggested that allocation of per capita emissions must be supplemented with the fact that the level of development of a country is important in determining what level of per capita emission may be appropriate. A country with low per capita income, with little infrastructure, few climate-friendly technologies and little organisational capacity requires a higher per capita emissions entitlement compared to a developed country with well developed infrastructure, technology and capacity. Thus the carbon space concept also means that poorer countries need more carbon space in order to achieve the same level of per capita income than richer countries.

The carbon budgets approach, made explicit by think tanks in Germany, UK, Brazil, China, India and other countries as well as the South Centre, Geneva, provides a useful basis for conceptualising and operationalising equity, and must be brought to the mainstream of our discussions and negotiations. I am just coming for attending an international conference on "Global Carbon

Budgets and Equity in Climate Change that India hosted. We had participants from Germany, UK, Brazil and Malaysia, and the proposals on equity and carbon budgets were discussed in great detail. The BASIC Group is meeting in Rio de Janeiro in late- July and we have set aside a

day to have a technical workshop on equity related issues. These are important discussions and we must now bring these concrete proposals from the margins into the core of our negotiations. If only lip service continues to get paid to equity, and if we pay obeisance to it only in words and think we have addressed the issue, I am afraid that no international agreement will be possible. Therefore after the workshop in Rio, the BASIC and other developing countries would like to bring our concrete proposals to the other members in the UNFCCC. We hope that a workshop can be organised so that negotiators can discuss how to integrate these concepts and how to operationalise the equity principles into the negotiations and the negotiating text. India would be delighted to host a meeting before Cancun to enable this discussion.

Hopefully we can make tangible progress on this by Cancun and in Cancun. Let us work together collectively to ensure that Cancun becomes an equity based conference and not one that gives a burial to it.



040. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the inauguration of the Conference on 'Global Carbon Budgets and Equity in Climate Change'.

Mumbai, July 1, 2010.

Ensuring that climate change deliberations are based on the principles of equity and fairness is of prime importance to India, stated the Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh. He was inaugurating a conference on "Global Carbon Budgets and Equity in Climate Change" at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The conference was held on 28th and 29th June and was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Centre for Science,

Technology and Society (School of Habitat Studies) at TISS. Academicians, negotiators and policy makers from around India, including participants from Brazil, England, Germany and Malaysia, attended the workshop.

In his opening remarks, the Minister set the tone for the workshop when he called for "an intensive scientific debate on defining and measuring

equity principles of climate change as well as approaches on how to practically implement the suggestions that arise from this workshop".

Dr. T. Jayaraman, professor at TISS, along with his colleagues authored the background paper for this workshop. This paper introduced a carbon-budget approach to defining equity, which takes into account the historical responsibility of developed countries towards climate change by quantifying the accumulated stock of their carbon emissions in the atmosphere. When benchmarked against an equitable distribution of the atmospheric carbon space, the developed countries are occupying far more than their fair share of this carbon space. Dr. Martin Khor, in his keynote address, said, "between 1850 and today, developed countries owe a carbon debt of 600 billion tonnes". The paper also introduced an emissions model to study various mitigation proposals from the viewpoint of equity, which was introduced by Ms. Tejal Kanitkar, Program Officer at TISS.

The importance of equity was reiterated by the Minister in his statement to the Major Economies Forum in Rome, Italy, where he said, "if only lip service continues to get paid to equity, and if we pay obeisance to it only in words and think we have addressed the issue, I am afraid that no international agreement will be possible".

On the second day of the meeting at the valedictory session, Mr. J. M. Mauskar, Addnl. Secy., MoEF, asked the organisers to convene an Implementation Task Force to further study how the carbon budget perspective could be taken forward. In the closing session of the first day, Mr. R. R. Rashmi, Joint Secy., MoEF, referred to the linkages between MRV and the carbon budget perspective.

The participants of the conference in Mumbai included Abhijit Sen, Benito Muller, D. Raghunandan, Daniel Klengenfeld, Girish Sant, J. M. Mauskar, Jairam Ramesh (Minister), Kirit Parikh, Martin Khor, Meena Raman, Mukul Sanwal, Navroz Dubash, Prabir Purkayastha, Praful Bidwai, Pranay Verma, Prodipto Ghosh, R. R. Rashmi, R. Ramachandran, Raman Mehta, S. Parasuraman, Sanjay Vashisht, Shirish Sinha, Surya Sethi, Suzana Ribeiro, T. Jayaraman, Tejal Kanitkar, Varad Pande and others.



041. Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of the BASIC countries.

Rio de Janeiro, July 26, 2010.

The fourth meeting of BASIC country Ministers on climate change took place in Rio de Janeiro on the 25th and 26th of July 2010. H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Acting Minister of External Relations of Brazil, H.E. Izabella Teixeira, Minister for Environment of Brazil, H.E. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, H.E. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests of India, and H.E. Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa attended the meeting. In line with the "BASIC-plus" approach, additional participants were invited. The Special Envoy of Venezuela for Climate Change, Claudia Salerno Caldera, attended as an observer. Other invited countries were not able to attend.

Ministers reiterated the importance of the two pronged approach, which envisages, on one hand, an ambitious and comprehensive outcome for the negotiations under both the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, and, on the other hand, considers the elements for an equitable and balanced outcome in Cancun, covering, for example, different initiatives which could be supported by fast-start finance.

Ministers agreed that fast-start finance will be the key for an effective result in the climate change negotiations in Cancún. They expressed their concern with the lack of operational guidelines for the provision of such resources and the need for such financing to effectively be new and additional, as well as provided as grants on a concessional basis, respecting the definitions of the UNFCCC and the understandings achieved in Copenhagen. Ministers also stressed the need for detailed and comprehensive information on fast start financing flows provided by developed countries, to be made available officially. They also indicated the need for fast start financing to cover, in a balanced way, all the pillars of the Bali Action Plan, including adaptation and technology development and transfer.

Ministers reaffirmed their support for the G77 and China proposal regarding the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and expressed their appreciation for the convergence within the negotiations on the creation of a new fund to fight climate change. They were of the view that public financing should play the major role as a predictable source of financing. In this sense, they stressed the importance that the work of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing fulfill the expectations of developing countries and be in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC.

Ministers highlighted the importance of achieving a balanced outcome in Cancún. They noted the distinction between MRV of emission reduction commitments by developed countries, which is related to compliance and comparability, and MRV of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing countries, which is related to transparency. Ministers emphasized that work on the MRV of international support must advance urgently, including through the development of common procedures for the reporting of finance. They underscored that only supported NAMAs should be subject to international MRV, in conjunction with the MRV of international support, while non-supported NAMAs will apply a domestic MRV. International consultations and analysis of information regarding non-supported actions would be useful to enhance transparency, through a multilateral technical exchange under the UNFCCC.

Ministers also underscored their support for the aspirational objective of keeping global temperature increase below 2oC with regard to pre-industrial levels, bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries. A global goal for emission reductions should be preceded by the definition of a paradigm for equitable burden sharing. They emphasized that equitable access to carbon space must be considered in the context of sustainable development, the right to which is at the heart of the climate change regime, and which demands the implementation of ambitious financing, technological support and capacity building.

Following the guidance defined by Ministers at their Cape Town meeting, experts from BASIC countries met and exchanged views on issues of equity.

Ministers welcomed the results of these consultations. They underlined the need for further collaboration among BASIC experts on this issue, with a view to understanding the economic, social, scientific and technical implications of equitable access to carbon space and strengthening a common consideration of this matter. Ministers emphasized the issue of equitable access to carbon space as a central element in the building of a balanced and comprehensive outcome for the climate change negotiations.

Ministers emphasized the importance of the unity of the Group of 77 and China and its role in multilateral negotiations, including in the construction and strengthening of the climate change regime. They also highlighted the role of BASIC as part of the Group of 77 and China and the importance that the BASIC countries maintain their full participation in the discussions and activities of the Group. In thanking the representative of Venezuela for her presence and meaningful contribution, they decided to continue the "BASIC-plus" approach in order to foster transparency and benefit from a variety of views on climate change issues. They also agreed to broaden consultations with other groups of countries, with a view to actively contribute to a successful and ambitious outcome in Cancún and beyond.

Ministers welcomed the offer of China to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of the BASIC Group on the 10th and 11th of October and commented on the strategic nature of the meeting as preparation for the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-16) and the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-6). A meeting of experts would be held alongside this Ministerial meeting, in order to take forward the discussions on equitable access to carbon space and also address issues related to trade policy and climate change.



042. Intervention on Climate Change by Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur at the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' meeting.

Port Vila, Vanuata, August 6, 2010.

Climate change is an important issue on the global agenda today with significant implications for developing countries, for whom it is not merely an environmental issue, but directly impacts on their developmental aspirations and survival.

We in India are deeply conscious of the challenge faced by the Pacific Island Countries, since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas.

We need to redouble efforts in the multilateral negotiations to ensure full, effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and to conclude these negotiations with a balanced, comprehensive and above all, an equitable outcome, with equal emphasis on all four pillars - mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

We are sensitive to and fully appreciate the call by small islands developing states for a more ambitious global deal to address climate change. India believes that whatever global goal we may agree to, this must be preceded by a paradigm for equitable burden sharing that provides for an equal sharing of the resource of the atmosphere for all human beings. This is a core expectation we have from the ongoing negotiations.

India fully supports a firm demonstration of greater sensitivity and a more concrete response to the urgent adaptation needs of the small island developing countries, including the Pacific Island States, LDCs and countries of Africa as part of any emerging outcome of on-going multilateral negotiations.

We would urge the developed countries to disburse these funds without further delay, under the overall supervision of the UNFCCC to meet the urgent adaptation needs of those countries for whom climate change poses an existential threat.

As a responsible member of the international community, India, despite its own developmental challenges, is already doing whatever it can within the limitation of its own resources, to contribute to the global action on climate change.

Our recent announcement to take on a voluntary target of reducing the emissions intensity of India's GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level is a manifestation of the seriousness with which we seek to address climate change.

We are willing to help the Pacific Island Countries in whatever way we can within our resources to deal with the effects of climate change, including for capacity building. We are willing to share our experience and expertise in the fields of climate-friendly technologies and sustainable development programmes to supplement your own national programmes of action on climate change.



043. Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the Fifth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change.

Tianjin, China, October 11, 2010.

The Fifth BASIC Ministerial meeting on climate change was held in Tianjin, China, on the 10th and 11th of October 2010. H.E. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, H.E. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests of India, H.E. Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa, and H.E. Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Ambassador and Director General of the Department for the Environment and Special Affairs of Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, as well as H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China attended the meeting. In line with the "BASIC-plus" approach, representatives of Yemen, Chair of G77, Argentina, incoming Chair of G77, Ethiopia, Chair of the African Group, Grenada, Chair of AOSIS, and Egypt, Chair of the Arab Group were invited and attended the meeting as observers.

BASIC ministers focused their discussions on issues in relation to the Cancun Conference, and expressed their determination to facilitate a comprehensive and balanced outcome in Cancun in accordance with the mandate of the Bali Roadmap. Ministers highly appreciated the successful meeting of UN Climate Change Conference held in Tianjin from 4th to 9th of October 2010, which laid the solid ground for a good outcome in Cancun.

Ministers emphasised that the outcome of Cancun Conference should be based on the balance between and within the two negotiating tracks under Convention and KP, and that the Cancun Conference should be open, transparent, inclusive, party driven and based on consensus. Ministers supported the reflection of the elements of the Copenhagen Accord that contains the political understandings in the negotiating texts of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP. Ministers reiterated the importance of the two tracks approach, which envisages, an ambitious and comprehensive outcome for the negotiations under both the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP in Cancun. Ministers emphasised that the outcome in Cancun should pave the way for a legally binding outcome next year in South Africa. The Cancun outcome should not in any way deviate from the mandate of the Bali Roadmap.

Ministers underscored that fast-start finance now and up to 2012 will be the key to enhance confidence in the multilateral process and enable success in Cancun. They emphasised that the \$30 billion fast start finance should be made available as soon as possible in a transparent manner. They expressed their concern with the lack of transparency and the relevant information on fast start finance and reiterated that these resources must be new and additional to the existing ODA and bilateral funds.

Ministers agreed that mid- and long- term financial support provided by the developed countries are also an important part of the Cancun outcome. They affirmed their full support for the establishment of a new fund under the UNFCCC and agreed that the public funding provided by developed countries should be the primary source of this fund.

Ministers urged developed countries to commit to more ambitious emission reduction targets under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Ministers called for developed countries that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol to undertake comparable emission reduction targets under the Convention.

Ministers noted the significant distinction between the emission reduction commitments by developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries both in terms of their nature and content. Ministers emphasised that developing countries are the most affected by the impact of climate change and that developed countries have a obligation to provide finance and technology support to developing countries for adaptation. They reiterated the need to deal with adaptation as a matter of urgency in Cancun.

Ministers underscored the importance attached to developed countries fulfilling their obligations of technology transfer and agreed that intellectual property rights should not be allowed to become a barrier to technology transfer. They were of the view that positive progress should be made in Cancun for the establishment of effective mechanism for technology development and transfer.

Ministers reaffirmed their support for the aspirational objective of keeping global temperature increase well below 2°C, bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries. Ministers also recognised diversity of views on more ambitious aspirational objectives. Ministers believed that the resolution to this issue links directly to reaching a political understanding of equity. Ministers reaffirmed that equitable access to sustainable development will be the core of and foundation for any climate change agreement and that this will be the prerequisite for setting up any global emission reduction target. This must take into account historical responsibility of developed countries, the need for space and time to achieve sustainable development in developing countries, and the need for the provision of adequate finance, technology and capacity building support by developed countries to developing countries.

Following the guidance by Ministers at their meeting in Rio, BASIC experts met and exchanged views on issues of equity, and trade and climate change. Ministers welcomed the results of the follow-up to these consultations made here in Tianjin. They underlined the need for further collaboration among BASIC experts on these issues. Ministers emphasised the importance of the issue of equitable access to sustainable development as a central element in building a comprehensive and balanced outcome for climate change negotiations. Ministers requested their experts to

continue discussions and to extend them to the equity dimensions of adaptation. Ministers rejected the notion of unilateral actions against products and services of developing countries on grounds of combating climate change, including tax and non-tax, or other fiscal and non-fiscal border or other measures, which are incompatible the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and will seriously jeopardize international collaboration on climate change and international trade.

Ministers reiterated that the BASIC as part of the Group of 77 and China will continue to work and strengthen the unity of the Group, and play a constructive role in facilitating climate change negotiations. In thanking the representatives of Yemen, Argentina, Grenada, Ethiopia, and Egypt

The BASIC countries meeting in a pre-conference (October 10th), agreed to push for the introduction of a text to "reject the use of unilateral protectionist measures" by developed countries. Minister of Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh speaking in Tianjin said: "We would like this text to be reflected in the final agreement. We believe that the trade issue is linked to the equity issue. You cannot delink the two." This meeting of the BASIC countries was the last one before the final year-end negotiations, at Cancun climate conference. Tackling "trade protectionism", Mr. Ramesh said, would also be top of the agenda at this meeting. The meeting besides the BASIC countries was attended by officials from Yemen, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Argentina and Egypt.

It may be recalled that the United States and European countries had called for trade restrictions, known as border adjustments, on goods imported from countries such as India and China who were not agreeable to binding emissions reduction targets. The text, which India had first proposed in Bonn in August 2009, said developed countries "shall not resort to any form of unilateral measures including countervailing border measures, against goods and services imported from developing countries on grounds of protection and stabilisation of climate". Mr. Ramesh said moves to do so would violate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, he expressed concern over reports that have argued that some of the measures were compatible with WTO rules, under carefully crafted conditions. "The report has come as somewhat of a shock to us," he said. "Our opinion is that it is not WTO and UNFCCC compatible." Following the modest progress made in the past week, which was dominated by disagreements between China and the U.S., Mr. Ramesh reiterated his view that "there is no light at the end of the tunnel", and a binding deal being reached in Cancun was out of the question. Even on climate finance from developed countries, where talks indicated some progress, Mr. Ramesh said there was "no clarity". While the West had pledged \$30 billion in the next three years as "fast start" projects, no money had, as yet, been distributed. He said India and China had both voluntarily withdrawn their claims to climate finance, so that the money would benefit Small Island States, Less Developed Countries and African nations. "Frankly, the moral and political authority of the West has been eroded by their inability to put fast start finance on the fast track. If they haven't even been able to do this much, there is no credibility left."

for their presence and valuable contribution, the Ministers decided to continue this "BASICplus" approach.

Ministers welcomed the offer of India to host the Sixth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in February 2011.



044. Chair's Summary of the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on "Climate Change: Technology Mechanism".

New Delhi, November 10, 2010.

Ministers and representatives from 35 countries, regional groupings and UN organisations met in New Delhi to discuss the creation and operationalisation of a Technology Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]. They recalled the central role of technology development and transfer in addressing climate change, and the importance accorded to this issue in the Convention. They also recalled the mandate provided in the Bali Action Plan towards developing, "effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and provision of financial and other incentives for, scaling up the development and transfer of technology to developing country parties", as well as to "accelerate deployment, diffusion and transfer of affordable environmental technologies", and promote "cooperation on research and development of current, new and innovative technologies", while keeping in consideration the "effectiveness of mechanisms and tools for technology cooperation in specific sectors".

The participants took note of the ongoing discussions in the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Long-term Cooperative Agreement [AWG-LCA], and noted that there was considerable convergence amongst Parties, and that there was substantial agreement that the early operationalisation of a technology mechanism is important. It was felt that Parties should aim for this to be a key deliverable at COP-16 in Cancun as part of a comprehensive and balanced package.

The participants focused their discussion on three critical elements of the technology mechanism, namely: (a) Structure and governance; (b) Work programme and priority in activities; and (c) Financing of activities supported by or under the Technology Mechanism.

There was a general view that the mechanism should address both adaptation and mitigation. It was felt that the technology mechanism should promote international cooperation both for dissemination and deployment of currently available technologies as well as the development of newly emerging technologies, particularly those that address the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries.

Some participants expressed a strong view that the transfer and sharing of technologies had to be a key objective of the Mechanism, and that the mechanism should work to facilitate rapid diffusion of technologies in a cost-effective and affordable manner.

Some participants felt that the initial focus should be on technologies that are or could be in the public domain. The technologies for adaptation which are in the public domain could be one of the key activities undertaken by the technology mechanism in the early phase. The Technology Mechanism would also need to catalyze private-sector activities to meet the technology needs of developing countries to address climate change.

The participants agreed that the Technology Mechanism would consist of a Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and Climate Technology Centres and Networks (CTCN). There was general agreement that the TEC would be the main body providing advice on technology issues to the COP, and that the CTCN would be the operational arm of the Mechanism. Participants expressed a strong preference for a relatively small, nimble and efficient TEC, with professionals and experts as members, and with balanced representation. Some felt that the TEC could advise COP on activities eligible for financing, including on procedures for accelerated processing of proposals and disbursement of funding, while others felt that the TEC should function as a think-tank on technology issues for the COP. The TEC should capture the lessons on accelerated development and transfer of technologies in different

contexts.

Participants felt that the CTCN should focus on strengthening appropriate organisations and national capacities across the world to provide a range of country driven services. These could include inter alia (a) support for the identification of technology needs and priorities, and preparation of projects and programmes; (b) facilitation of technology innovation to fulfill needs and priorities identified that are unable to be met by existing technologies; and (c) enabling human and institutional capacity-building for technology utilisation, support and outreach.

Several participants felt that the mandate of both these bodies would derive from guidance provided by the COP and that they would periodically report back to the Convention on their activities. Other participants saw the CTCN as being parallel and complementary to TEC.

A variety of views was expressed on the role of intellectual property in the negotiations. Several participants stressed that the intellectual property issue is an important issue that needs to be resolved. However, considering the current state of discussions on this issue, participants expressed the urgent need to find a way forward to operationalise the Technology Mechanism in the interim. Some participants felt that while it is important to reach an agreement on technology mechanism in Cancun, it is also important to continue the dialogue on resolving the intellectual property issue at Cancun and beyond.

Participants believe that the technology mechanism should address the needs for technology at various levels: local, national, regional, and global. The institutional structure of the mechanism should be designed to address these diverse needs. Participants felt that while "mitigation is global, adaptation is local". This implies that the mechanism should focus on building bottom-up absorptive capacity in developing countries to facilitate uptake of technologies which are in line with local needs and circumstances. The participants stressed the need to draw upon the successful examples of government-supported/funded initiatives (e.g., CGIAR) which have resulted in positive technological impacts. However, it was also emphasized that the mechanism should reflect

current and future needs and circumstances. References were made to several government-funded technology initiatives which provided a publicly available platform on which further innovation could occur. References were also made to the necessity of harnessing the power of the private sector, both in technology and finance, to address the mitigation and adaptation challenges, especially in developing countries.

The participants emphasised the important role of finance in enabling the technology mechanism to achieve its objectives successfully. In this context, participants recalled the commitment of the Parties to generate resources of USD 100 billion per annum by 2020. In the discussion on the relationship between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, many participants felt that the COP should provide guidance to the Financial Mechanism for the provision of financial support to activities relating to technology development, transfer and its deployment. In developing this guidance, the COP would take into consideration advice provided by the TEC and the proposals developed by the CTCN. Some participants stressed that the Financial Mechanism would be responsible for, inter alia the processes related to the development and review of proposals, funding, implementation oversight and monitoring and verification relating to eligible technology development and transfer activities. Some participants also expressed the opinion that the Financial Mechanism should draw upon the expertise and skills of the Technology Mechanism when appropriate.

The participants looked forward to the discussions on technology development and transfer at the COP-16 in Cancun, Mexico in November-December 2010, and reiterated the importance of a positive result in form of an agreed decision on the Technology Mechanism, as part of a balanced package of outcomes.



045. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the press briefing by the Minister of State Jairam Ramesh at the end of the two-day Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change.

New Delhi. November 10, 2010.

The Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change look forward to the discussions on technology development and transfer at the COP-16 in Cancun, Mexico and reiterated the importance of a positive result in form of an agreed decision on the Technology Mechanism, as part of a balanced package of outcomes. Briefing the media at the end of the two day conference here Shri Jairam ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests said that we will play our positive role of a 'Deal maker, not deal breaker' as said by our Prime Minister. Shri Jairam Ramesh said, "Technology and finance are two essential pillars of any international climate change treaty. We discussed how a technology mechanism will function. We want Cancun conference to succeed and India is prepared to play a role to get constructive outcome at Cancun."

Ministers and representatives from 35 countries, regional groupings and UN organisations participated in New Delhi to discuss the creation and operationalisation of a Technology Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]. A statement issued at the conclusion of this meeting states that Ministers and representatives recalled the central role of technology development and transfer in addressing climate change, and the importance accorded to this issue in the Convention. They also recalled the mandate provided in the Bali Action Plan towards developing, "effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and provision of financial and other incentives for, scaling up the development and transfer of technology to developing country parties", as well as to "accelerate deployment, diffusion and transfer of affordable environmental technologies", and promote cooperation on research and development of current, new and innovative technologies", while keeping in consideration the "effectiveness of mechanisms and tools for technology cooperation in specific sectors".

The participants took note of the ongoing discussions in the Adhoc Working Group on the Long-term Cooperative Agreement [AWG-LCA], and noted

that there was considerable convergence amongst Parties, and that there was substantial agreement that the early operationalisation of a technology mechanism is important. It was felt that Parties should aim for this to be a key deliverable at COP-16 in Cancun as part of a comprehensive and balanced package. The participants focused their discussion on three critical elements of the technology mechanism, namely: (a) Structure and governance; (b) Work programme and priority in activities; and (c) Financing of activities supported by or under the Technology Mechanism.

There was a general view that the mechanism should address both adaptation and mitigation. It was felt that the technology mechanism should promote international cooperation both for dissemination and deployment of currently available technologies as well as the development of newly emerging technologies, particularly those that address the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries. Some participants expressed a strong view that the transfer and sharing of technologies had to be a key objective of the Mechanism, and that the mechanism should work to facilitate rapid diffusion of technologies in a cost-effective and affordable manner.

Some participants felt that the initial focus should be on technologies that are or could be in the public domain. The technologies for adaptation which are in the public domain could be one of the key activities undertaken by the technology mechanism in the early phase. The Technology Mechanism would also need to catalyze private-sector activities to meet the technology needs of developing countries to address climate change.

The participants agreed that the Technology Mechanism would consist of a Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and Climate Technology Centres and Networks (CTCN). There was general agreement that the TEC would be the main body providing advice on technology issues to the COP, and that the CTCN would be the operational arm of the Mechanism. Participants expressed a strong preference for a relatively small efficient TEC, with professionals and experts as members, and with balanced representation. They also felt that the CTCN should focus on strengthening appropriate organisations and national capacities across the world to provide a range of country-driven services. These could include inter alia (a) support for the identification of technology needs and priorities, and preparation of projects and programmes; (b) facilitation of technology innovation to fulfill

needs and priorities identified that are unable to be met by existing technologies; and (c) enabling human and institutional capacity-building for technology utilisation, support and outreach. Participants stressed that the intellectual property issue is an important issue that needs to be resolved. They believe that the technology mechanism should address the needs for technology at various levels: local, national, regional, and global.

The participants stressed the need to draw upon the successful examples of government-supported/funded initiatives (e.g., CGIAR) which have resulted in positive technological impacts. They emphasized the important role of finance in enabling the technology mechanism to achieve its objectives successfully. In this context, participants recalled the commitment of the Parties to generate resources of USD 100 billion per annum by 2020. In the discussion on the relationship between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, many participants felt that the COP should provide guidance to the Financial Mechanism for the provision of financial support to activities relating to technology development, transfer and its deployment.

This conference was jointly organized by the Government of India, the Government of Mexico, with active partnership of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Mr. Juan Elvira Quesado, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources informed about discussions took place during last two days Vice Chairman (Minister), National Development Reform Commission, China and Under-Secretary General, UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, Mr Sha Zukang appreciated Indian leadership and expressed hope that the complex issue of climate change will have some solution.

Shri Jairam Ramesh announced that India will host CoP11 of UN convention on Biodiversity in 2012 at New Delhi. In March 2011, India will hold the Ministerial dialogue in collaboration with UN on Sustainable development as part of preparation for coming Rio conference.



046. India reiterates its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.**New Delhi, December 1, 2010.**

In answering a question in the Lok Sabha the Minister of State Jairam Ramesh said:

"India is fully committed to the Kyoto Protocol. The talks for further emission reduction commitments of Annex-I Parties in the Second Commitment Period (Post 2012) are undergoing since 2005. India, along with South Africa and 35 other like minded countries had earlier submitted a proposal calling for Annex-I Parties to agree to at least 40% emission reduction commitment by 2020 as compared to their 1990 levels. India has been one of the major beneficiaries of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), a flexible mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol and would like that this mechanism to continue and be further strengthened. There has been no agreement till date and the negotiations on the targets of Annex-I Parties for the second commitment period and other relevant issues are ongoing for a possible decision at the sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP-16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and sixth Meeting of Parties (MOP-6) to the Kyoto Protocol presently being held at Cancun, Mexico."

**047. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at India's participation at the Cancun Conference on Climate Change.****Cancun, December 7, 2010.**

Indian event at Cancun re-emphasises importance of equity India hosted a major event at the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference at Cancun, where the critical issue of equity and equitable access to carbon space was emphasised. Addressing the meeting, India's Minister for Environment and Forests and Head of Delegation, Sh Jairam Ramesh noted: "Equity is key to the climate change

negotiations. In the context of the 2 deg C global goal, the issue of equitable access becomes even more important. The phrase equitable access is not the right to pollute, but the right to sustainable development. We need to bring the excellent academic work on the subject into the mainstream of our negotiations."

Mr. Jairam Ramesh personally chaired the side event that had presentations by Prof. T. Jayaraman, Tata Inst. Of Social Sciences, India, Mr. Martin Khor, Executive Dir., South Centre, Geneva and Dr. Harald, ERC & Univ. Of Cape Town, South Africa. On the role of developing countries he noted that they have an imperative to develop rapidly and therefore cannot take on commitments that would impede their development.

The BASIC* Ministerial meetings since the Cape Town meeting in early 2010 have recognized the importance of the equitable access to atmospheric space that is implied by the acceptance of limits on global temperature rise. Most recently at Tianjin the Ministers of the BASIC countries reiterated that "equitable access to sustainable development will be the core of and foundation for any climate change agreement and that this will be the prerequisite for setting up any global emission target."

* BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) meeting at Cancun outlined three issues that were non-negotiable and this included the necessity of a second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol. The Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh stressed the other two issues were, need to accelerate disbursement under the fast-start finance programme in the form of new and additional resources through a multilaterally supervised mechanism and recognition of the importance of continued dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as part of the technology development and transfer issues. The BASIC had stated that they do not want funds under the fast-start finance programme; that it should go to smaller countries in dire straits. Mr. Ramesh said a successful global effort on climate change must have the United States on board as it was the single largest emitter of greenhouse gases and that was one of the challenges here.

After some initial hesitation, China fell in line with other BASIC countries on the question of International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) proposal made by India. Given that the ICA was voluntary, the frequency of reporting emissions should be on a par with what the Annexe 1 or (developed) countries would do as part of the Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV), Mr. Ramesh said.

In his presentation Prof. T. Jayaraman noted that recent advances in climate science had made a clear scientific case for considering global GHG emission targets in terms of a global carbon budget. The developed nations had grossly overoccupied the available space, since their emissions since 1850 amounted to almost 74% of the total carbon stock due to fossil fuels in the atmosphere. In answer to a question he noted that even accounting for emissions only from 1970, the developed countries were still responsible for more than 65% of total carbon stock in the atmosphere. But since the future budget for the world was only 300 Gigatons of carbon from 2010 to 2050, most developing countries would not be able to attain even 50% of their fair share of carbon space in terms of per capita accumulated stock of emissions. Developed countries need to cut emissions immediately and sharply and compensate developing countries through finance and technology transfer for their deficit in carbon space.

In his presentation, Mr. Martin Khor, Director, South centre, Geneva, noted that equitable access was crucial because carbon space was development space. He recalled the offer at Copenhagen of the developing countries to reduce emissions by 2050 to 80% of 1990 levels within a global reduction of 50% and pointed out that it did not give enough development space to developing countries. He emphasized that any fair and successful deal has to be environmentally ambitious, equitable and economically fair.

Dr. Harald Winkler pointed out that equity was critical to giving the climate negotiations a sense of direction. However he emphasized that it was important to take into account equity in all aspects and not a reductionist view equity. He pointed out that the question of how critical carbon budgets are should be studied. In response to a question, Dr. Winkler agreed that the atmosphere was a global commons and that the climate question was one of finding the right means of commons resource management.



**048. Speech of Minister of State for Environment and Forests
Jairam Ramesh at the Cancun Conference of Parties
to the UNFCCC. (COP-16).**

Cancun, December 8, 2010.

Madame President:

Over sixty years ago, the Green Revolution in wheat was launched from Mexico with the development of new high-yielding varieties at CIMMYT. Today, Madame President, the word Sonora still resonates in my country.

The time is now for us to launch an Ever Green Revolution from Mexico, a revolution that will trigger innovations in low-carbon technologies for energy, transport, agriculture and other areas. That is why yesterday, at the meeting chaired by the President of Mexico, I suggested that this Cancun meet take a decision to establish a CGIAR-like network of which CIMMYT is a part. I am pleased that the President warmly supported this idea which also received enthusiastic backing from Mexico's Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Mario Molina.

Last year, at Copenhagen I had spoken about India's profound vulnerabilities to climate change and had described the actions being taken by us domestically and voluntarily to respond to this challenge in a proactive manner. Let me give you a quick update on what we have done since then.

First, we have announced that we will reduce the emissions intensity of India's GDP by 20-25% by the year 2020 on a 2005 reference level, through proactive policies. India's Twelfth Five Year Plan, to be launched on April 1, 2012 will have, as one of its key pillars, a low-carbon growth strategy. Detailed work on this has already begun and is available in the public domain keeping in view our deepest commitment to transparency and accountability.

Second, we have taken firm steps to diversify our energy fuel mix. 20,000 Mw of solar power generating capacity will be set up by 2022 and the present share of nuclear power in our energy mix, which is 3% today, will be doubled over the next decade. A major market-based programme has been put in place to stimulate energy efficiency. We have imposed a clean

energy cess on coal for funding R&D of clean energy technologies, even though coal will continue to play a key role in our future energy strategy. We have aggressively expanded the use of natural gas in our power production.

Third, we are pursuing aggressive strategies on forestry and coastal management. India's 70 million hectares of forests have not only ecological, but also livelihood significance, as they support the livelihoods of 250 million people. We are launching an ambitious Green India Mission to increase the quality and quantity of forest cover in 10 million hectares of land. We have also launched a major new programme on coastal zone management to address the adaptation challenges facing over 300 million people in our country that live in vulnerable areas near our coast.

Fourth, we have set up an elaborate Indian Network for Comprehensive Climate Change Assessment-an Indian IPCC as it were. This network of some 250 scientists and 120 research institutions has already published India's greenhouse gas inventory for the year 2007. It has recently released a 4x4 assessment of climate change-impacts on four key sectors and four key regions of the country for the 2030s, a time frame for which decisive interventions can be made now. This network is soon going to be putting in place a programme for measuring, monitoring and modelling the impact of black carbon which could have climate change and public health impacts.

Fifth, we are actively engaging in partnerships with our neighbours and other countries to deal with climate change.

India and Bangladesh will soon enter into an agreement to establish an Ecosystem Forum on the Sunderbans, which is the world's largest riverine delta system. India, Nepal and China have started an ecosystem regeneration initiative in the holy Mount Kailash landscape. India has financed the establishment of a South Asian forestry centre in Bhutan and a coastal zone management centre in Maldives. We are talking to our AOSIS partners to launch a capacity building and technical assistance programme for scholars and experts from SIDS countries.

Madame President, India is constructively engaged in the process of international negotiations. You are aware that we have made detailed proposals on the MRV/ICA issue as well as on technology cooperation. I am happy that these proposals have evoked considerable support. These

proposals have been made to stimulate discussion and arrive at a consensus on both these issues.

Ecological preservation and celebration of biodiversity is embedded in Indian culture in myriad ways. India will not only be amongst the fastest growing economies in the world as measured by GDP-Gross Domestic Product-but will also be amongst the most responsible in ensuring a high rate of growth of the real GDP-Green Domestic Product. That is my solemn assurance to the world community today on behalf of the Government of India. Environmental stewardship demands responsive leadership. That is India's calling. Thank you.



There was some adverse reaction to the Indian Minister's statement at Cancun since it was perceived to have somewhat deviated from the original stand of the Government of India against binding cuts. His statement now that all countries must take on binding commitments "in appropriate legal form," was considered a departure from earlier stand of GOI. Leaders from both the left and right sides of the political spectrum were critical of the Minister's stance as a "volte face" and a "sell-out," demanding that the government make clear whether it authorised his statement. The main opposition party the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders said that Mr. Ramesh's statement went against his assurance to Parliament a year ago that India would under no circumstances accept a legally binding emission reduction cut. "The stand that the Minister had taken now is contrary to the parliamentary mandate," Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley said, adding it did not represent India's aspirations. "His 'flexibility' has compromised India's interest. He has broken alliances [with China], which were formed after years of hard work... The Government of India must explain why this 'crawl' is being undertaken in the matter under the garb of flexibility." Communist Party of India's National Secretary D. Raja was equally scathing. "The government should clearly explain whether the Minister was given a mandate for such a departure from status quo, or whether he spoke on his own," he said. "It is clear that the government is under tremendous pressure from the U.S. and developed countries. The government should not be afraid of getting isolated. No one can isolate India, Shri Raja said." While still in Cancun, Mr. Ramesh defended himself, saying there was pressure from a number of countries, and his statement had given India room for manoeuvrability and flexibility. But Opposition leaders were unconvinced by his clarifications that he was working under a Cabinet mandate and that his statement did not mean that India would take on any legally binding commitment "at this stage." "This obvious contradiction is incomprehensible," Mr. Jaitley said.

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - III

CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY

049. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on entering into force of India-France Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

New Delhi, January 14, 2010.

On January 14, 2010, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and H.E. Mr. Jerome Bonnafont, Ambassador of France to India exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed in Paris on September 30, 2008. In accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, it enters into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

2. As responsible States with advanced nuclear technologies, India and France intend to develop multifaceted civil nuclear cooperation covering a wide range of activities including nuclear power projects, fuel supply, R&D, nuclear safety, education and training. The entry into force of the Agreement gives a new impetus to the Indo-French partnership and will further strengthen the deep ties of friendship and longstanding cooperation between the two countries.



050. Speech of Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shyam Saran at the Global Zero Summit on: 'India and the Pursuit of Global Zero - A World without Nuclear Weapons'.

Paris, February 3, 2010.

We welcome this historic summit on 'Global Zero' and the resounding reaffirmation it represents of the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. When first proposed, 'Global Zero' was indicative of the high hopes and aspirations the world-over for nuclear disarmament. This Summit comes at an opportune moment, when there are fresh doubts emerging whether

this is indeed a credible goal. Even the four distinguished statesmen who, in 2007, played such a significant role in putting nuclear disarmament back on the international agenda, seem to be now lowering expectations in their most recent op-ed.* It's not that something new is being said by them. It seems to me, however, that the emphasis has unmistakably changed, back to the importance of maintaining a robust nuclear posture. We hope that this Summit will enable us to keep our eyes on the ball and not be deflected from the goal that we all seek. Otherwise, there is likely to be confusion about our commitment to nuclear disarmament and a perception that this is more about further restricting and limiting the access of non-nuclear weapon states, in particular developing states, to civilian uses of nuclear energy, under the guise of strengthening non-proliferation.

Let me acquaint you with India's thinking on Global Zero, taking into account our own national and then the regional perspective, though it may be noted that it is difficult to confine the security interests of a country like India to arbitrarily defined regional settings. First, while India is a nuclear weapon state, it is the only such state to declare unequivocally that, in its perception, its security will be enhanced and not diminished in a world free of nuclear weapons. This is important because it lends credibility to our consistent advocacy of nuclear disarmament and our willingness to engage, without delay, in multilateral negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and the use of nuclear weapons and on their time-bound destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons.

Second, pending the realization of the above objective, India has taken steps to underscore its commitment to nuclear disarmament and contribute to confidence-building. India has publicly adhered to a policy of non-first use of nuclear weapons and to the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States. Despite our well-known reservations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, India is committed to its voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are prepared to negotiate a verifiable FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We are not a Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cannot

respond to calls for universal adherence to that Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon State. Nevertheless, India has impeccable and universally acknowledged credentials on non-proliferation. It is in recognition of India's unmatched non-proliferation record over the past more than half a century that it was possible to persuade the United States and the 45 member States of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to re-engage with India in international civil nuclear commerce under an India-specific Safeguards agreement with the IAEA. India will continue to conduct itself as a responsible and prudent member of the international community and make its own contribution to promoting non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Let me now turn to the regional perspective. It should come as no surprise to this distinguished gathering that India's perceptions are influenced by the current state and the history of developments in our neighborhood and the larger theatre of Asia-Pacific as they pertain to nuclear issues.

One, India's security has been adversely impacted by the clandestine proliferation of nuclear weapons in its neighbourhood, often ignored and on occasion, encouraged by certain important countries. The activities of the so-called A.Q.Khan network is an ominous reminder of the threats India continues to face in this respect.

Two, India is deeply worried about the potential nexus between clandestine proliferation and terrorism and the ever-present danger of such weapons or vulnerable nuclear materials falling into the hands of Jehadi and non-State actors. While this is a specific threat to India, it also threatens the security of all States. India has welcomed the US initiative to host the Nuclear Security Summit in April this year. However, over the long term, it is also our view that it is only through the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and by putting in place universally applicable, non-discriminatory and fully transparent verification procedures, that we can fully prevent and deny nuclear materials from falling into dangerous hands.

Three, it is apparent that the centre of gravity of political and economic power is now shifting towards the Asia-Pacific region. With this shift, it

is only to be expected that military capabilities and security assets, gain a higher profile in our region. While India welcomes the lead taken by the US and Russia in reducing their nuclear arsenals, we must remain mindful of security trends, including relating to the improvement, accretion and deployment of strategic armaments, in the Asia-Pacific region. This should be of concern to the international community as well, as we move with practical steps towards Global Zero.

India has welcomed President Obama's speech in Prague re-dedicating the US to the goal of nuclear disarmament. We look forward to the implementation of the bold steps that President Obama outlined, including his commitment that the US would reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its national security strategy. We await steps the US & Russia intend to take in significantly reducing their nuclear arsenals. We also await the necessary steps that the other nuclear-weapon States, who are Party to the NPT and committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament, intend to take in this regard. India will be prepared to join in efforts to realize the goal of Global Zero in a manner consistent with its security interests as part of global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. But, as I said earlier, India remains convinced that its security will be enhanced, not diminished in a world free of nuclear weapons, a vision that was so eloquently articulated by the late PM Rajiv Gandhi in his historic address to the UNGA in 1988.

In the context of Global Zero, the question of time-frame has been referred to and an appeal has been made to realism to argue for a gradual and phased approach. It has been stated that nuclear disarmament is a place on a high mountain which is not yet visible, and the journey to that place is going to be long and arduous.

I believe that this reality must be set against two other competing realities which compel a more urgent time frame. Firstly, we all recognize that as long as there are states which continue to possess nuclear weapons, there will be other states who will aspire to possess them as well. The Global Zero Action Plan has talked about the world being near a "proliferation tipping point" - beyond the capacity to rein it in. So how do we deal with this reality?

Secondly, there is the link between terrorism and proliferation - so starkly brought out in the excellent movie which we saw yesterday. This is an escalating danger and will not be put on hold, while we take our time to achieve Global Zero. In any case, nuclear weapons cannot credibly deter non-state actors or jihadi groups from using or threatening the use of clandestinely acquired nuclear weapons, even if it is a crude one.

Therefore, I think it would be useful if this movement highlighted these realities as well, in order to reinforce the argument for urgency.

I commend the hosts of this Meeting for bringing together this galaxy of leaders to focus international efforts for Global Zero. I am confident that the deliberations here will add to the international debate, mobilize and sustain political will and help in moving the international community towards the global elimination of nuclear weapons.



051. Joint Declaration by India and the United Kingdom on Civil Nuclear Cooperation

New Delhi, February 11, 2010

Recalling their deep friendship and as major democracies and global actors in the multipolar world;

Noting that the rapidly growing flows of two-way trade and investment between India and the United Kingdom reflect the strengthening of their bilateral ties;

Recognising that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will make the world a more dangerous and unstable place, and committing to work together with the international community to advance our common objective of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Acknowledging that India and the United Kingdom are States with advanced nuclear technology:

Desiring to promote extensive co-operation in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

Recognising the new opportunities that have emerged following approval by the IAEA on 1 August 2008 of the "Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities";

Emphasising the importance of the adoption by the Nuclear Suppliers Group of the "Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India" (INFCIRC 734 (Corrected) of September 19, 2008];

Reaffirming our shared belief in a world free of nuclear weapons and the positive steps that can be taken by responsible states with advanced nuclear technology towards that end,

Considering the importance of science and technology for economic and social development and desiring to establish a formal basis for co-operation in scientific and technological research which will extend and strengthen the conduct of co-operative activities in the fields of common interest in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and encourage the application of the results of such co-operation to economic and social benefit;

Recalling their past exchanges on civil nuclear co-operation and taking into account respective national policies, India and the United Kingdom seek to intensify their bilateral scientific and civil nuclear collaboration in accordance with their respective international obligations and contentments;

Reaffirming the strong commitment of the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation including the efficient application of the related safeguards and export control standards under which cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between India and the United Kingdom should be carried out;

Concluding that they should move ahead on this path;

the Governments of India and the United Kingdom declare that they will:

1. allow the promotion and facilitation of nuclear trade and other commercial activities between India and the United Kingdom relating to civil uses of nuclear energy and taking full account of their respective international commitments and obligations;
2. actively encourage our nuclear scientific institutions (including universities, laboratories and private sector) to establish greater links between Indian and UK nuclear scientific institutions and to develop

- co-operation in nuclear research and development for civil uses of nuclear energy between themselves or their agencies in areas of mutual Interest within the ambit of respective national policies;
3. co-operate in developing human resources in the area of civil nuclear energy;
 4. Include in the activities specified in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Declaration the following areas -
 - (a) nuclear science and technology in line with our international obligations and commitments;
 - (b) civil nuclear power generation;
 - (c) nuclear safety and radiation protection;
 - (d) emergency preparedness and response in case of a nuclear accident;
 - (e) management of radioactive waste and spent fuel for peaceful and non-explosive civil uses;
 - (f) decommissioning of nuclear Installations;
 - (g) environmental considerations In respect of nuclear energy,
 - (h) consultations and co-operation on issues related to physical protection and safeguards in relevant International fora; and
 - (i) other areas of co-operation as may be mutually decided upon by the Governments to India and the United Kingdom
 5. take forward these activities by all appropriate means, including the possible negotiation of a Nuclear Co-operation Agreement Memorandum of Understanding, subject to their respective international obligations and commitments.

Done at New Delhi on 11 February, 2010 in the English language

For the Republic of India

For the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

DR, S. BANRRJBE.
CHAIRMAN,
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
& SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

SIR RICHARD STAGG,
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER,
NEW DELHI



052. Press Statement issued by the Department of Atomic Energy on the India-Russia agreement on construction of Reactors of Russian design in India.

Mumbai, March 13, 2010.

India & Russia yesterday (March 12, 2010) agreed on a Roadmap for construction of reactors of Russian design in India. The road map outlines the timelines for steps to be taken for the construction of Kudankulam units 3 & 4, provides for construction of two more reactors at Kudankulam (Units 5&6) and two reactors at Haripur, West Bengal during 12th Five Year Plan. Construction of more reactors of Russian design will be considered during formulation of the 13th Five Year Plan. Besides, the road map calls for progressive indigenisation of supplies for the reactors to be constructed in collaboration with Russia beyond the level already envisaged in Kudankulam Units 3 & 4.



053. Address by Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shyam Saran at the International Friendship Exchange Council of Japan on India-Japan Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

Tokyo, March 29, 2010.

Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to thank FEC and its President for inviting me to address this august gathering on the subject of India-Japan Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Your kind invitation has enabled me to visit this great and happening city, a city where I spent three very rewarding and pleasant years from 1986 to 1989, when I was Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Embassy. Those were the years of Japan's emergence as a great world economic power and a key political player in Asia. As we head into the new millennium, there is no doubt that Japan will make a significant contribution to peace and prosperity in

Asia. Today, India, too, is an emerging power in Asia, with a rapidly growing economy. We see Japan as a strategic partner, contributing, as it has for many decades, to India's economic and social development. We have a strong historical bond and deep cultural affinity due to our shared Buddhist heritage. In more recent times, India and Japan value their role as vibrant democracies with a common stake in peace and prosperity in Asia. It is against this background that we must explore the prospects for civil nuclear energy cooperation between our two friendly countries.

At the very outset, let me state categorically that we understand and respect Japan's principled stand on nuclear non-proliferation and its political sensitivities concerning nuclear weapons. As the only country to have suffered the tragedy of the use of nuclear weapons, Japan's anathema to nuclear weapons and its emphasis on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is well appreciated in India. People in Japan are aware that India has become a nuclear weapon state since 1998, but are not always familiar with India's stand on nuclear security issues. Before identifying areas where our two countries can forge a mutually beneficial partnership in civil nuclear energy, it may be worthwhile for me to acquaint you with India's nuclear security policy.

India, like Japan, has called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which are weapons of mass destruction. India is the only nuclear weapon state which has declared its conviction that its security will be enhanced not diminished, in a world free of nuclear weapons. We have called for the setting up of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. We are prepared to engage in negotiations on nuclear disarmament in Conference as a responsible and serious stakeholder.

India is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but its record in non-proliferation since the dawn of the nuclear age, has been impeccable. There has never ever been a case of India involved in any transfer of sensitive technology or equipment to third countries. In May 2005, we passed the W.M.D. Act, applying wide-ranging export controls

on sensitive and dual use technologies and products. Subsequently, we announced that we were also harmonizing our own export control lists with those of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime despite being outside these arrangements. In the Indo-U.S. Joint Statement of 18 July, 2005, India also committed itself not to transfer any enrichment or reprocessing technology to third countries and to join global efforts to restrict such transfers in the future. While India has not signed the CTBT, it nevertheless continues to observe a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on testing. We are also prepared to take part in multilateral negotiations on an effectively verifiable and universally applicable Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty. The negotiations on a proposed treaty are currently held up at the Conference on Disarmament due to Pakistan's opposition.

Distinguished guests, Japanese friends should also be aware that pending nuclear disarmament, India has proposed that all nuclear weapon states bind themselves legally, never to use nuclear weapons. India is committed, in any case, to never be the first to use nuclear weapons and never to use such weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. I am mentioning these long-standing positions taken by India, to reassure Japanese friends that India remains fully committed to a world free of nuclear weapons, a vision which was very eloquently articulated by our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the United Nations in 1988 and more recently embraced by President Obama of the U.S. We will be delighted if Japan joins hands with India in a common effort to rid our world of these most horrifying and destructive of weapons.

Let me now turn to the possibilities of civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and Japan. It should come as no surprise to this well-informed audience here that our two countries face a major challenge of ensuring energy security for our people. Japan's overall energy requirements are largely met by imported energy resources, with only 4% coming from domestic sources. Even if nuclear power is taken into account, over 80% of the country's energy needs are met from imports. India finds itself in a similar situation. Over 70% of our oil needs are met from imports. This figure is expected to rise to 90% by 2030. Even coal,

which is the mainstay of our power industry, accounting for over 50% of generating capacity, will soon be insufficient for the projected increase in coal-based thermal power. It is estimated that by 2030, about two-thirds or three-quarters of our coal needs would have to be sourced from outside. Given India's rapidly growing economy, energy is likely to become a major constraint on our growth. Concern over climate change impacts of fossil fuel use, particularly the use of coal, will only add to this constraint. Therefore, like Japan, India, too, has put major emphasis on the rapid expansion of nuclear power, which is a clean source of energy and for which technology is proven and tested.

There are important similarities in the strategies adopted by India and Japan for the development of nuclear power. Japan has adopted a closed fuel cycle as its strategy, with a closed loop operation rather than a once through generation, resulting in toxic waste which will need to be managed. With reprocessing of spent fuel and setting up Fast Breeder Reactors, the problem of waste is minimized and dependence on imported fuel, such as uranium, is greatly reduced, if not eliminated. This is good for energy security.

India, too, has adopted a 3-stage nuclear energy development strategy, in which the first stage of uranium-fuelled reactors would generate reprocessed spent fuel for second generation Fast Breeder Reactors, enabling significant capacity expansion. India, of course, has a third stage where our vast resources of thorium could be used together with plutonium generated by FBR, to allow a very large expansion in capacity. To give you a sense of the capacities involved, India's Department of Atomic Energy estimates that India should be in a position to create around 500 gigawatts of power generating capacity based on plutonium, bred from indigenously available uranium. The third stage of thorium based reactors, would, conceptually, enable much larger generating capacities.

I wish to inform you that construction of a 500 MW FBR has already been launched in October 2008. We are aware that Japan's own prototype FBR at Monju, of 280 MW, has been shut down due to sodium leakage a couple of years ago. I understand that it may be revived soon.

Since both our countries have plans for the early commercialization of FBRs, it would be worthwhile if we could engage in a collaborative effort , drawing upon each country's talent and expertise and the experience we have gained so far in our national FBR programmes.

The other area where there are rich possibilities for working together is in the area of reprocessing. India, like Japan, has put in place a comprehensive fuel cycle, from mining to reprocessing. Reprocessing is critical for our FBR programme as well as for efficient and safe waste management. The Japanese Rokassho reprocessing plant, which began operation in 1992, has been constructed with indigenous technology, with built in IAEA monitoring equipment and other advanced design features. Under the Civil Nuclear agreement India has concluded with the U.S., a dedicated reprocessing facility, under IAEA safeguards, will be built by India, for reprocessing, exclusively, foreign origin spent fuel. This is an important confidence building measure, but also an opportunity to design a state of the art, modern reprocessing facility. Japan's experience in this area would be welcome.

Mr. Chairman, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, with the decision taken by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group in September 2008, to resume full civil nuclear energy commerce with India, there have been a series of bilateral cooperation agreements concluded with a number of friendly countries.

In this regard, it may be worth mentioning that India and Russia are already collaborating on the setting up of two 1000 MW reactors at Kudan Kulam. On March 13 this year, the two sides agreed to an ambitious road map for setting up 4 additional reactors of Russian design at Kudan Kulam itself and two more at a site in Haripur in eastern India.

With the United States of America, we are close to concluding agreement on administrative arrangements for implementing India's upfront entitlement to reprocess spent fuel. This will pave the way for implementing the Letter of Intent already signed by the two countries, which will eventually result in 10,000 MW of additional nuclear power capacity being created.

Bilateral agreements have been concluded with France, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Namibia, and Mongolia, covering all aspects of civil nuclear cooperation, including nuclear fuel. Negotiations on a similar agreement with Canada have been concluded and await formalization. India and RoK have agreed to commence negotiations on a framework for civil nuclear cooperation.

Therefore, within a year and a half of the NSG decision, there has been keen interest in our partners to engage India both in nuclear energy commerce as well as in scientific and technical cooperation. This promising trend lends credibility to our plans to reach an installed capacity of 60,000 MW by 2030, both on account of international cooperation and expanded indigenous capabilities. We would welcome Japan participating in India nuclear energy development plans as a full and valued partner.

India's nuclear power capacity currently stands at a modest 4000 MW, while Japan already possesses 47,500 MW of installed capacity. We understand that currently, in Japan, 3 more reactors of 3300 MW capacity altogether, are under construction, while another 13 are planned, adding 17,915 MW eventually. India will, therefore, be adding a much larger capacity of nuclear power in the 3 decades ahead than Japan. Therefore, the opportunities in this particular sector are immense and could give Japanese nuclear industry a major boost. This would be welcome at a time when advanced economies like Japan are facing depressed economic conditions. Indo-Japan cooperation in this field would also add substance to our strategic partnership. India is already making a major contribution to the International Thermal Energy Research project or ITER in which Japan is a lead country. There is already a mutual familiarity with our respective strengths and expertise and there is no reason why we cannot expand our cooperation further in this field.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, with both India and China, two continental sized economies, growing at a rapid rate, there is bound to be a major impact on the energy security of these two countries if their growth continues to be based on fossil fuels. This will also impact on the energy security of other countries, particularly those that are heavily

dependent upon imports, like Japan is. In addition, we have to consider the adverse climate consequences of increased emissions from expanded carbon-based industrialization in India and China. It is in the interest of these two countries as well as the international community, including Japan, that they are encouraged and helped to bring about an accelerated shift to nuclear power, which is a safe and clean source of energy. Japan is already doing so in the case of China. Isn't it time to consider the same for a fellow democracy and strategic partner as well?

Thank you for your attention.



054. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India - U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation - Reprocessing Arrangement.

New Delhi, March 29, 2010.

India and the United States have taken an important step towards implementing the civil nuclear cooperation agreement, by completing negotiations on "arrangements and procedures" for reprocessing U.S.-obligated spent nuclear fuel. Negotiations on these arrangements and procedures commenced in July 2009 and were concluded during the last round of negotiations held in New Delhi on 2-4 March, 2010.

These arrangements, negotiated pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, will enable Indian reprocessing of U.S.-obligated nuclear material under IAEA safeguards.

[This press release is based on the similar release issued by the Department of Atomic Energy on the same date.]

ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES AGREED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6(iii) OF THEIR AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

MARCH 29, 2010.

The Government of the United States of America and the **Government of India** (hereinafter "the Parties"), pursuant to the Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with Agreed Minute, signed at Washington, on October 10, 2008 ("the Agreement for Cooperation"), which entered into force on December 6, 2008,

CONSIDERING the commitment to full civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as noted in Article 6 of the Agreement for Cooperation;

NOTING that cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation is between two States possessing advanced nuclear technology, both Parties having the same benefits and advantages, both committed to preventing WMD proliferation;

DESIRING to implement the provisions of Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation concerning arrangements and procedures for the reprocessing or other alteration in form or content of nuclear material transferred pursuant to the Agreement for Cooperation and nuclear material and by-product material used in or produced through the use of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, or equipment so transferred;

NOTING that the "Agreement between the Government of India and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/754)("India-Specific Safeguards Agreement"), which provides for safeguards on reprocessing plants, entered into force on May 11, 2009;

Have agreed on the following arrangements and procedures under which such reprocessing or other alteration in form or content may take place in India at two new national reprocessing facilities dedicated to reprocessing safeguarded nuclear material under International Atomic Energy Agency

("IAEA") safeguards, including future expansion, modifications, renovations or additions thereto;

ARTICLE 1 - NOTIFICATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RIGHT TO REPROCESS

1. The Government of India shall notify the Government of the United States of America in writing that it has established a facility ("the Facility"). The notification shall contain:

- a. the name of the owner or operator of the Facility;
- b. the name, type and location of the Facility and its planned capacity;
- c. confirmation that pursuant to Paragraph 14(a) of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement, as referenced in Article 10(2) of the Agreement for Cooperation, India has notified the Facility to the IAEA for application of IAEA safeguards and that relevant safeguards arrangements have been agreed pursuant to the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA;
- d. such information as is available to the Government of India on the IAEA safeguards approach that is not classified as "Safeguards Confidential"; and
- e. a confirmation that physical protection measures as required by Article 8 of the Agreement for Cooperation will be applied at the Facility.

Both Parties confirm that the provisions of this Article or any subsequent Article of these Arrangements and Procedures shall not be used to secure any proprietary or commercially sensitive information about the Facility.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall provide an acknowledgement to the Government of India no later than thirty days after receipt of the notification. This acknowledgement shall be limited to a statement that the notification has been received.

3. It is understood that the phrase "the Facility" throughout these Arrangements and Procedures is intended to refer to two new national reprocessing facilities established by the Government of India to reprocess

US-obligated nuclear material and any other safeguarded nuclear material and dedicated to the reprocessing and, as required, other alteration in form or content of safeguarded nuclear material under IAEA safeguards, as well as any additional new national facilities established and agreed to in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article.

4. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of India understand the need for sufficient indigenous Indian capacity to reprocess or otherwise alter in form or content, under IAEA safeguards, U.S.-obligated nuclear material subject to the Agreement for Cooperation. Based on this understanding, the Parties agree to pursue the steps necessary, consistent with their national laws, to permit reprocessing or alteration in form or content of nuclear material subject to the Agreement for Cooperation at one or more new additional national facilities in India, (beyond the two facilities provided for in these Arrangements and Procedures) established by the Government of India and dedicated to the reprocessing and, as required, other alteration in form or content of safeguarded nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. These Arrangements and Procedures shall apply to such facilities upon successful completion of these steps, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 2 - IAEA SAFEGUARDS

1. Consistent with the provisions of the Agreement for Cooperation, the Government of India shall offer the Facility for the application of IAEA safeguards as per the provisions of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement. For the timely detection of withdrawal of safeguarded nuclear material from civilian use, safeguards measures shall include, as specified by the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement, nuclear material accountancy, design review, verification, progress in construction, appropriate containment and surveillance systems, process monitoring and other measures as may be agreed with the IAEA.

2. The Government of India shall ensure that the following minimum requirements, consistent with paragraph 37 of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement, for the implementation of IAEA safeguards at the Facility are fulfilled:

a. Facility Design

i. Early Provision of Design Information.

The operator of the Facility shall co-operate with the IAEA by providing design information at the earliest possible time as provided in Paragraph 40 of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement.

ii. Effective Design Review.

India and the operator of the Facility, as appropriate, shall cooperate with the IAEA in allowing "design information verification" (DIV) activities.

iii. Incorporation of Design Features that Facilitate Safeguards.

As may be required by the IAEA, facility design and operational characteristics shall enable effective and efficient implementation of safeguards while precluding design features that would prevent the effective application of safeguards. Examples include, but are not limited to: installation of vessel calibration systems; effective methods of solution mixing and sampling; and installation of independent instruments as dictated by authentication concerns.

b. Safeguards System Design and Installation

i. Cooperation with the IAEA.

The Facility operator and the Safeguards Implementing Agency of the Government of India (hereinafter referred to as the Indian SIA) shall accommodate the installation and operation of IAEA instrumentation in the Facility, including data collection, authentication systems and tamper-indicating devices.

ii. System of Accounting and Control Capable of Providing Accurate, Timely Data.

The operator of the Facility and the Indian SIA shall maintain a comprehensive and accurate nuclear materials accountancy system that conforms to IAEA standards as per the provisions of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement, so that reliable and timely

declarations can be made to the IAEA. A system of inventory records and reports shall be maintained for each material balance area. An effective system for measurement control shall be utilized.

iii. In-Process Material Measurement.

The Facility operator and the Indian SIA shall cooperate with the IAEA to enable the IAEA to provide at the Facility measurement capabilities that the IAEA considers as necessary to cover all major in-process nuclear material inventories during plant operation.

iv. Process Monitoring Data.

If desired by the IAEA, the Facility operator shall provide to the IAEA access to safeguards relevant operator data, such as authenticated process control data as per the provisions of the India-Specific Safeguards Agreement and India's Additional Protocol when in force.

v. On-site Laboratory.

The Facility design shall incorporate an on-site laboratory, if IAEA so requests, to perform destructive analysis of process samples required by the IAEA safeguards approach at the Facility, and the IAEA shall be permitted to set up and operate that laboratory.

vi. Containment and Surveillance Systems.

The Facility design shall take into account the use of containment and surveillance systems in accordance with the IAEA's practices and procedures, as required for the effective implementation of safeguards, and the IAEA shall be permitted to maintain such systems at the Facility.

c. Safeguards Implementation

i. Verification of Accountancy of Records.

The IAEA shall be permitted to carry out regular verification of nuclear material accountancy records and reports.

ii. Remote Data Transmissions.

The IAEA, if it considers it efficient for the purpose of safeguards implementation, may use remote transmission, in accordance with the provisions of India's Additional Protocol when in force, of authenticated data to enable more frequent data analysis.

iii. Data Authentication.

The Parties recognize the importance of reliable instrumentation for the purpose of timely and accurate safeguards related data, and of data authentication for safeguards implementation. The Facility operator shall cooperate with the IAEA to apply adequate authentication methods to data and samples collected for safeguards purposes.

iv. Access and Transparency.

The Facility operator and the Indian SIA shall provide sufficient access to IAEA Inspectors to install and maintain safeguards equipment, and to inspect the complete process activity of the operator (including sample-taking) to the extent required for safeguards implementation and maintain a complete understanding of plant operation.

v. Annual Cleanout Inventory.

Nuclear material shall be removed from process lines annually in order to make it available, to the extent practicable, for accurate physical inventory verification.

vi. Anomaly Resolution.

The operator of the Facility and the Indian SIA shall cooperate with IAEA inspectors to resolve anomalies, if any, including material accounting anomalies, in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE 3 - CONSULTATION

The Parties undertake to consult at the request of either Party regarding the implementation of these Arrangements and Procedures.

ARTICLE 4 - PHYSICAL PROTECTION AND STORAGE AT THE FACILITY

1. In implementing physical protection at the Facility, and to the spent fuel and separated special fissionable material at the Facility, the Government of India shall apply measures in accordance with (i) levels of physical protection at least equivalent to the recommendations published in the IAEA document INFCIRC/225 Rev. 4 entitled "The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities," and in any subsequent revisions

of the document agreed to by the Parties, and (ii) the provisions of the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and any amendments to the Convention that enter into force for both Parties.

2. The Parties agree to exchange information on the approach to implementation of the requirements of this Article. The Parties shall also hold consultations visits at the Facility with respect to U.S.-obligated nuclear material in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Agreed Minute.

3. Any information provided by the Government of India pursuant to this Article that is classified shall be protected in accordance with Article 8 of these Arrangements and Procedures.

ARTICLE 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Government of India shall follow best practices, as established in its national regulations, for minimizing the impact on the environment which may arise from the operation of the Facility.

ARTICLE 6 - MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDED SEPARATED PLUTONIUM

India is committed to the management of separated safeguarded plutonium in ways that are consistent with its national decisions on the civil nuclear fuel cycle. The management of separated safeguarded plutonium subject to these Arrangements and Procedures by the Government of India shall take into account the need to avoid contributing to the risks of nuclear proliferation; the need to protect the environment, workers and the public; the potential of the material for further energy generation; and the importance of balancing supply and demand, including demand for reasonable working stocks for civil nuclear operations.

ARTICLE 7 - SUSPENSION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. The Parties note the significance of the full and continued implementation of these Arrangements and Procedures concluded pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation for implementing full civil nuclear cooperation as envisioned in the Joint Statement of the Parties of July 18, 2005. The Parties recognize that these Arrangements and Procedures should facilitate and ensure the development of further cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy on a stable,

reliable and predictable basis. The Parties have also agreed to take into account the effects of suspension of these Arrangements and Procedures on other aspects of cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation.

2. The Government of India may undertake a temporary pause of limited duration in operations at the Facility if in its view such an action is required on account of specific circumstances regarding the Facility which may have an impact on the safe and secure operation of the Facility, the continued application of IAEA safeguards or physical protection measures, or the safety of personnel working in it or of the population in surrounding areas. The Government of India has the right to resume operations at the Facility when it decides that the specific circumstances that led to the temporary pause in operations no longer exist.

3. The Parties agree that the sole grounds for seeking suspension, under Article 14(9) of the Agreement for Cooperation, are exceptional circumstances limited to:

- i. Either Party's determination that continuance of reprocessing of U.S. obligated nuclear material at the Facility would result in a serious threat to that Party's national security, consistent with the Agreed Minute to these Arrangements and Procedures, or serious threat to the physical protection of the Facility or of the nuclear material at the Facility, and
- ii. Either Party's determination that suspension is an unavoidable measure.

4. Recognizing the critical importance of a decision to seek suspension, such a decision shall only be taken at the highest level of Government. As provided in Article 14(9) of the Agreement for Cooperation, the Party seeking suspension shall take into account the effects of such suspension on other aspects of cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation. The Party seeking suspension shall also consider the effects of such suspension in light of the commitments and objectives, including full civil nuclear cooperation, contained in the U.S.-India Joint Statement of July 18, 2005.

5. The two Parties recognize that any suspension of these Arrangements and Procedures would have profound implications for the Agreement for Cooperation and for their relations. As such the two Parties shall exercise

due restraint and caution before seeking suspension of these Arrangements and Procedures and shall use the provisions for consultations provided in Article 13 of the Agreement for Cooperation and in this Article. Such consultations shall also give special consideration to the importance for India of uninterrupted operation of nuclear reactors that provide nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and potential loss to the Indian economy and impact on energy security caused by a suspension of these Arrangements and Procedures. Both Parties shall take into account any negative consequences of such suspension on cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation, including on-going contracts and projects initiated under the Agreement of Cooperation.

6. Subsequent to the above consultations, if either Party determines that exceptional circumstances do exist and that these Arrangements and Procedures should be suspended pursuant to Article 14(9) of the Agreement for Cooperation, that Party shall notify the other Party in writing providing reasons for the suspension. The Parties confirm that, as of the time of entry into force of these Arrangements and Procedures, there exists no objective evidence of any of the concerns specified in paragraph 3 of this Article.

7. Any decision to invoke the provisions of Article 14(9) of the Agreement for Cooperation shall be applied to the relevant reprocessing facility related to the exceptional circumstances to the minimum extent and for the minimum period of time necessary to deal with the exceptional circumstances and for not longer than a three month period unless extended by the Party seeking suspension for specific reasons conveyed in writing to the other Party. Both Parties shall review at the highest levels of Government, within three months from the commencement of the suspension, measures taken by the Parties aimed at reaching mutually acceptable resolution of outstanding issues, and steps taken to promote the earliest possible revocation of suspension, taking into account the effects of continuation of suspension on other aspects of cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation. In case the suspension extends beyond a period of six months, both Parties shall enter into consultations on compensation for the adverse impact on the Indian economy due to disruption in electricity generation and loss on account of disruption of contractual obligations. The suspending Party shall notify the other Party

in writing of a decision to end the suspension.

8. In the event of suspension of these Arrangements and Procedures the rights and obligations of the Parties under Article 14 of the Agreement for Cooperation shall remain unaffected.

ARTICLE 8 - CONFIDENTIALITY

1. If the Government of India, in carrying out its obligations under Articles 1(1)(e) and 4 of these Arrangements and Procedures, provides to the Government of the United States of America classified information concerning the physical protection of the Facility or nuclear material at the Facility, the Government of the United States of America shall protect that classified information against unauthorized disclosure in accordance with the terms set forth below and in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Government of the United States of America.

2. For purposes of these Arrangements and Procedures, "classified information" shall mean information provided by the Government of India pursuant to Articles 1(1)(e) and 4: (i) concerning the physical protection of the Facility or nuclear material at the Facility, the unauthorized disclosure of which could jeopardize the physical protection of the Facility or the material; (ii) which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the security interest of the Government of India; and (iii) which bears a security classification assigned by the Government of India. Classified information provided by the Government of India to the Government of the United States of America under these Arrangements and Procedures shall be marked by the Government of India in English as RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET.

3. Equivalent classifications are as follows:

INDIA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECRET	SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED	CONFIDENTIAL (modified handling authorized)

4. To the extent consistent with its applicable national law and regulations, the Government of the United States of America shall seek to ensure that all classified information that is provided to the Government of the United States of America by the Government of India under these Arrangements and Procedures will not be publicly disclosed, and shall seek to accord appropriate protections to such classified information, with a view to providing the same level of protection as is accorded to such classified information by the Government of India. The Parties shall consult regarding the appropriate protection of such classified information.

ARTICLE 9 - INTERPRETATION

1. These Arrangements and Procedures are not intended to and shall not be interpreted to affect the terms of the Agreement for Cooperation, and in the case of any conflict between these Arrangements and Procedures and the Agreement for Cooperation, the terms of the Agreement for Cooperation shall prevail.

2. Terms used in these Arrangements and Procedures shall have the same meaning as given in the Agreement for Cooperation unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE 10 - ENTRY INTO FORCE

These Arrangements and Procedures shall enter into force on the date on which the Parties exchange diplomatic notes informing each other that they have completed all applicable requirements for entry into force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed these Arrangements and Procedures.

Done at _____ this _____ day of _____ 20__, in duplicate.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA:

Agreed Minute:

During the negotiations of the Arrangements and Procedures agreed between the Government of the United States of America and the

Government of India pursuant to Article 6(iii) of their Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy ("the Arrangements and Procedures") signed today, the following understandings, which shall be an integral part of the Arrangements and Procedures, were reached.

I. PHYSICAL PROTECTION AND STORAGE AT THE FACILITY

- i) A consultations visit under Article 4.2 shall be held within six months of the initial commencement of operations at the Facility and thereafter once in every subsequent five year period. In special cases, consultations visits can also be undertaken by mutual agreement between the Parties.
- ii) The purpose of the consultations visits is to provide an opportunity for both parties to exchange views on the implementation of physical protection measures as specified in Article 4.1 as well as exchange of information on international best practices with respect to physical protection.
- iii) During the consultations visits the following activities shall be permitted:
 - a. Initial meeting between the visiting team of not more than ten persons and the designated authorities of the facility;
 - b. Observe the protected area perimeter and its access control points;
 - c. Visit to the central alarm station;
 - d. A pre-exit meeting between the visiting team and the designated authorities of the Facility to prepare and finalize a confidential joint report on the visit to the Facility.
- iv) The consultations visits shall be:
 - a. undertaken to the Facility at a time and duration mutually agreed by the Parties taking into account paragraph (i) above;
 - b. Addressed in accordance with Article 12.3 of the Agreement for Cooperation.
 - c. Conducted in a manner consistent with the national laws and safety and security regulations in force and without causing hindrance to

smooth operations at the Facility. Access within the Facility shall be restricted as appropriate by the designated authorities of the Facility in order to protect sensitive locations and equipment at the Facility as well as sensitive information. The use of equipment by the visiting team shall not be permitted.

II. Article 7: SUSPENSION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The Parties, taking into account their relations of strategic partnership and the objectives and purposes of the Agreement for Cooperation, agree that with respect to implementation of Article 7:

- i) the reference to "serious national security concerns" shall not mean or be the basis for:
 - a. addressing differences between the Parties on the nature of peaceful nuclear activities of either party or activities covered by Article 2.4 of the Agreement for Cooperation;
 - b. addressing differences with regard to fuel cycle choices;
 - c. the purpose of securing commercial advantage; or
 - d. the purpose of delaying, hampering or hindering peaceful nuclear activities of the other Party.
- ii) Suspension of the Arrangements and Procedures means suspension of reprocessing of U.S.- obligated nuclear material at the Facility.
- iii) Suspension of operation of the Facility or part thereof by the Facility operator shall be in accordance with operating procedures so as not to jeopardize the safety, early resumption of operation of the Facility, and its continued operation in the future. Operations at the Facility with regard to non-U.S.- obligated nuclear material shall not be affected by suspension under Article 7. With respect to U.S.- obligated nuclear material, the principle of proportionality as included in the Agreed Minute of the Agreement for Cooperation shall apply.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA:



055. Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's Visit to Washington for the Nuclear Security Summit.

New Delhi, April 4, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and very good to see you in numbers. Foreign Secretary is here to brief you on Prime Minister's visit to Washington for the Nuclear Security Summit. She is joined by my colleague Joint Secretary (Disarmament) Mr. Gaddam Dharmendra. Ma'am, may I invite you to make your opening statement?

Foreign Secretary (Smt Nirupama Rao): Thank You Vishnu. Thank you for coming here on a Sunday. The Prime Minister will visit Washington on April 12 and 13 for a Summit on Nuclear Security. The Summit is an initiative of President Obama who has invited Prime Minister and 42 other leaders to attend. We have welcomed this initiative and have contributed substantively to the Summit preparations.

You are aware of our concerns on terrorism and the possible acquisition of nuclear devices and material by terrorist groups. Since 2002, we have been piloting a resolution at the UN on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. We are also active in the works of IAEA on setting and enforcing standards on physical protection of nuclear material and facilities as well as on combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material. India is a party to the key instruments of the global architecture of nuclear security such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 amendment. We are also participating in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism of 2006.

As regards the Summit programme, PM will arrive in Washington in the afternoon of April 12. President Obama will host a dinner that evening for the visiting leaders. The discussion at the dinner will focus on the threat of nuclear terrorism, the primary reason why the Summit has been convened. There will be two plenary sessions on April 13, focused respectively on national measures and on international cooperation to enhance nuclear security. There will be a working lunch that would be addressed by the Director General of IAEA, which plays the primary role internationally in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Summit will conclude with the issue of an outcome document on April 13. The outcome has been negotiated over the past six months by Sherpas from 44 countries

and representatives of the EU and the IAEA. I have led a team of DAE and MEA officials in discussions on the Summit outcome at meetings of the Sherpas in Tokyo and The Hague. The Sherpas will also meet in Washington on the eve of the Summit.

To sum up, nuclear terrorism is a global challenge and we see the Summit and its associated preparatory process as important elements in strengthening international resolve to cooperate on nuclear security and supporting the expanded use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This will be to India's benefit given our concerns on terrorism as well as our interest in the expansion of civil nuclear energy. I am happy to take your questions.

Question: Two quick developments have happened. One is the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between Russia and the United States. And President Obama has recently said that he will reintroduce the CTBT in the Senate for ratification. Has the Obama Administration been in touch with you regarding CTBT and is India considering signing it?

Foreign Secretary: As partners, as close friends, India and the United States discuss a number of issues. As far as the CTBT is concerned, our position is very well-known. It has been reiterated on a number of occasions. We are committed to a voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. That remains our position. That has been very clearly articulated to all our friends and partners.

Question: Madam, this Summit is going to be on nuclear security and you just talked about nuclear terrorism. What are our apprehensions so far as Pakistan is concerned? It has been in the news for a long time that by this time the transfer of ...(Inaudible)... there for over a lot of years. What are our apprehensions about Pakistan on this particular topic of nuclear terrorism?

Foreign Secretary: I am here to discuss the subject of the Nuclear Security Summit and I mentioned our concerns about nuclear terrorism. The Summit will focus on the issue of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security as a whole. We are not going to get into country-specific situations.

Question: What exactly is nuclear terrorism? Is it the yellowcake? Is it the material that comes out from processing? What exactly is it?

Foreign Secretary: The Summit, as we have prepared for it, focuses on the threat of nuclear terrorism rising from clandestine proliferation, from

the illicit trafficking of nuclear weapons and diversion of nuclear materials. That is really the focus when you talk of nuclear terrorism.

Question: What are we taking to the Nuclear Security Summit in terms of ideas? There is also talk of India planning to set up an International Nuclear Security Centre. Basically what are the ideas we are taking to the Summit?

Foreign Secretary: The last issue that you have referred to is a good idea. We need to develop it further. You have to wait for the outcome of the Summit.

Question: I was going to ask the same question. What is our contribution to the outcome?

Foreign Secretary: You have to wait for the outcome of the Summit. I am not going to discuss it at the moment.

Question: Madam, how much focus do you expect the American Administration to give to Iran during the Summit?

Foreign Secretary: I told you this is not about country-specific situations. We are discussing the issue of nuclear security in the global context.

Question: Madam, you spoke about illicit trafficking. Are we ready for joining some kind of a PSI initiative?

Foreign Secretary: The Summit is not about the PSI, let me say that. And let me go back a little just to give you a little sense of the context in which we are meeting. President Obama made his speech at Prague in April 2009 when he described nuclear terrorism as the most immediate and extreme threat to global security. Now what the Summit focuses on, and what our discussions and the outcome document will in all likelihood focus on, is the national responsibility to secure nuclear materials while strengthening the international framework of such cooperation by adhering to multilateral instruments and norms. The multilateral instruments and norms, you are aware of. You have the Global Initiative to combat Nuclear Terrorism. You have UN Security Council Resolution 1540 of 2004, which we can share with you if you need copies of. These are some of the instruments, inter alia, already in place.

Question: Madam, this conference you are going to is not country-specific you say. And yet you say that nuclear terrorism is posing a very real danger.

Can you share with us what is the genesis of this fear? Can you explain to us how this nuclear terrorism is going to strike the world?

Foreign Secretary: I think that would be the subject of another press conference really. I am here to discuss the Nuclear Security Summit, our participation in the Nuclear Security Summit. I referred to the preparations that we have made. They have gone very smoothly and India has participated very positively and very substantively in these preparations. The discussions leading up to the drafting of the outcome document have been open, have been transparent. I referred to the fact that 43 countries are participating. So, I think you have to look at this as a very significant and substantive development. The outcomes you will be able to see within a week from now. I think you will be able to judge what the Summit has achieved when that happens.

Question: Madam Foreign Secretary, two countries that are not part of the 43 are Iran and DPRK.

Foreign Secretary: And Cuba and Venezuela.

Question: ... (Inaudible)... in terms of those which are in actual possession of fissile material or stuff that is meant to be addressed by the Conference. In the run up to the preparation for Washington, did India or any of the other 42 countries raise with the United States that this initiative would be more effective if every country which has material that requires physical protection takes part in the Summit? If not, why not?

Foreign Secretary: The issue did not really come up I must confess, during the preparations. But when we talk about nuclear security and the threat of nuclear terrorism, we are referring to it in a global context. All responsible members of the world community, international community, have a stake in ensuring that we have comprehensive nuclear security.

Question: One clarification. Since you speak of responsible members of the international community having a stake in nuclear security, does that by implication mean that Iran is not a responsible member?

Foreign Secretary: No, I never said that. Iran is a country with which we have bilateral relations which go back many many years. It is a substantive relationship. We regard Iran as a very important country in the region and a country with which we have had, as I said, extensive bilateral relations and dialogue and cooperation. It is a responsible country.

Question: Pakistan has written to Interpol regarding Kasab and declared him an absconder. Your comments on that please.

Foreign Secretary: Let me just say that we are trying those accused, Kasab and others, here in India following the Mumbai terrorist attacks. And the case against Kasab has proceeded, as you know, over the last few months. A verdict in the case is expected by the 3rd of May in all likelihood and justice is taking its course in India on this subject. I will not say anything more on this.

Question: Madam, CNN/IBN had broadcast a story about land-grabbers usurping temple property in Karachi. I am not sure if you have seen that. Do you have a comment to make on that?

Foreign Secretary: I have seen the story. We have asked for more details from our High Commission in Islamabad.

Question: Madam, Reprocessing Pact has been concluded between India the United States. When are we going to sign it? Are there any bilateral meetings planned on the sidelines of the Security Summit?

Foreign Secretary: As far as bilateral meetings are concerned, it would be too early to give you any details on that. You will have to wait for a little more time. As far as the agreement on Arrangements and Procedures is concerned, the discussions have been completed. You have seen the text of the agreement on the DAE website. The United States has to go through a process of internal consultations. Once that is over, and once we have also completed the formalities on our side, we will be ready to sign it.

Question: Madam, has the Government been allowed to question Mr. Headley?

Foreign Secretary: Not yet.

Question: Are you hoping to question him?

Foreign Secretary: We have a counter-terrorism initiative with the United States, you know, that was initialled during Prime Minister's visit. We have extensive cooperation between the agencies on both sides on all issues relating to terrorism and including this particular case that you referred to. We have had good cooperation on this issue. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the related agencies are all in touch with their US counterparts on this subject. We are satisfied with the progress that these negotiations have made.

Question: You have just said that we have substantially contributed to the preparations of the Summit. What do you expect from this Summit, not the outcome?

Foreign Secretary: I thought that was what I spoke about, what we expect from the Summit. Let me go over this again. This is going to be an interactive Summit. You have seen the way the G20 discussions have progressed. It will be in that format. A lot of countries who are participating will obviously have views to express. Their leaders will be there. There will be, I am sure, very constructive exchanges of views on the subject. We already have a certain template. I referred to certain international conventions. Many countries have very strong national programmes also in nuclear security. I believe as a result of this Summit what you will see is this global initiative to strengthen, to safeguard nuclear security will be substantially enhanced. That in my view will be the most positive outcome of this Summit.

Question: The Prime Minister also goes to Brazil.

Foreign Secretary: You will be briefed on that separately.

Official Spokesperson: While on the subject, most probably on the 9th there will be a briefing on Prime Minister's visit to Brazil. We will be issuing a separate advisory.

Question: I know you mentioned that it is not a country-specific situation. But when you talk of nuclear proliferation what comes to mind immediately is Pakistan and surrounding areas. Did we raise the specific issues? What does India expect when you say that there will be more global cooperation to curb nuclear proliferation? What would India expect from these countries?

Foreign Secretary: Please await the outcome of the Summit. I said very clearly this is not a Summit about country-specific situations.

Question: In the run up did we raise the issue any way?

Foreign Secretary: This is a discussion held in a global context. We are talking of the international framework to strengthen nuclear security to combat nuclear terrorism and about strengthening national measures also.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



056. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for USA for the Nuclear Security Summit.

New Delhi, April 9, 2010.

Please See Document No.86.



057. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference.

Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you all. I believe some of you went to the Convention Centre and I hope that you found the arrangements up to the mark.

Yesterday, Foreign Secretary had briefed you about Prime Minister's meeting with President Obama. The Prime Minister has since had a number of engagements. I would like to brief you about three of his bilaterals - with the President of Kazakhstan yesterday and the Prime Ministers of Morocco and Canada today.

Let me start with Kazakhstan. The meeting between our Prime Minister and President Nursultan Nazarbayev took place yesterday evening. It lasted about 45 minutes. Prime Minister was assisted by the National Security Advisor and other officials. The President of Kazakhstan was assisted by the Oil Minister and the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is one of our key partners in Central Asia and also one of the most important countries in the region. You would recall that President Nazarbayev had visited India in January 2009 when he was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. During his visit, a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership was adopted which foresees comprehensive cooperation in a variety of sectors. The two leaders met again on the

sidelines of the SCO Summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June 2009 and have also maintained telephonic contact.

Yesterday the two leaders reviewed the relationship, the agreements, the initiatives that had been agreed upon since President's visit to India. President Nazarbayev spoke very appreciatively of India's economic development and evinced interest in seeing Indian companies play a greater role, having an expanded presence in Kazakhstan. Both sides evinced an interest to enhance cooperation in a number of areas especially agriculture, civil construction, mining, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals as well as other sectors. They particularly spoke of concretizing collaborations and having projects and initiatives which could be implemented on ground at the earliest.

President Nazarbayev mentioned to Prime Minister that they were planning 170 major projects in a variety of sectors, to speed up the industrialization of Kazakhstan, and invited Indian companies to participate in these projects. He also noted that there was a Customs Union between Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia; and that Indian companies present in Kazakhstan could supply their goods, their services within the entire Customs Union.

As you are aware, there are interalia two pillars of our cooperation namely the hydrocarbons sector and the energy sector including the civil nuclear energy sector. During the visit of President Nazarbayev to India an agreement of cooperation was concluded between ONGC Videsh and KazMunaiGas in the Satpayev oil block which is a large oil block and said to be rich in hydrocarbon assets. Also, an MoU of cooperation had been concluded between NPCIL and Kazatomprom envisaging cooperation between the two sides, including for supply of uranium to India and other aspects.

During his meeting with Prime Minister, President Nazarbayev invited Indian companies to establish thermal power plants in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is hydrocarbon rich and they are keen on having more thermal power plants. He also told the Prime Minister that a framework for greater cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector would be approved soon by the Kazakh Government. As I mentioned, Indian companies have already evinced interest in E&P contracts in Kazakhstan. It was also agreed between the two leaders that an inter-governmental agreement on civil nuclear cooperation would be concluded soon.

Our External Affairs Minister is likely to pay a visit to Kazakhstan in May this year when a roadmap to implement the agreements and initiatives during the visit of President Nazarbayev is likely to be finalized.

I may add that the two leaders also discussed regional issues of interest including the situation in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed on the need for stability, security and economic development of Afghanistan, and also evinced concern at production of narcotics and trafficking of narcotics. President Nazarbayev was very appreciative of India's role in reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, and he remarked that once the situation in Afghanistan stabilizes, that would pave the way for a direct surface link between India and Kazakhstan.

The President invited Prime Minister to pay a visit to Kazakhstan which was accepted with pleasure. He also invited Prime Minister to participate in the third CICA Summit. CICA is the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. You would recall that Prime Minister Vajpayee had represented India in the first CICA Summit in Kazakhstan, which was held in June 2002. That is what I have on Kazakhstan.

Let me then move forward to Prime Minister's meeting with his Moroccan counterpart, Prime Minister Abbas el Fassi, which took place today at 10:30 a.m. The Prime Minister of Morocco was assisted by his Foreign Minister and Energy Minister. They had a very useful exchange of views on enhancing our historic links which date back to the 14th century and increasing all-round cooperation. The discussions lasted about forty minutes.

We have maintained a tradition of high level exchanges with Morocco. King Mohammed VI had last visited India in 2003. The Moroccan Prime Minister has visited India in recent years. The two sides agreed that the next Joint Commission meeting at the level of the Commerce Ministers would be held in New Delhi soon when the foreign office consultations will also take place.

I would like to note that Morocco is one of our most important suppliers of phosphate, which is an important component of our bilateral cooperation. A number of leading Indian companies are present in Morocco doing mining and also converting rock phosphate into phosphoric acid which is then exported to India. Our bilateral trade has grown steadily and already exceeded one billion dollars last year.

Recently, Morocco signed an agreement with TERI on enhancing cooperation in renewable energy sector, particularly in solar and wind energy where India has considerable strengths and Moroccan Prime Minister spoke about enhancing, deepening cooperation in this sector. The Moroccan Prime Minister also expressed support for India's candidature of UN Security Council. Both sides reflected similar views on the menace of terrorism and evinced an interest in enhancing cooperation in counter terrorism and intelligence sharing.

Today at about 6 p.m., Prime Minister had a very pleasant and fruitful exchange of views with his Canadian counterpart. You would recall that Prime Minister Harper had paid an official visit to India in November 2009 and the two Prime Ministers met within a couple of weeks thereafter again, at Port of Spain on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Summit. They discussed a number of bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest. They reviewed our cooperation in the trade and economic area. During the visit of Prime Minister Harper last year a target of 15 billion dollars in bilateral trade had been established. This is a target that we would like to achieve within a period of five years.

You would also recall that an MoU was signed on setting up a Joint Study Group to explore the possibilities of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada. The two Prime Ministers today expressed a hope that the report of the Joint Working Group would be available by May this year. During the visit of Prime Minister Harper to India in November 2009, an MoU of cooperation in the area of energy had also been concluded. Today the two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the discussions on an intergovernmental agreement on civil nuclear cooperation had been concluded and hoped that the agreement could be finalized and signed soon.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also noted that the 25th anniversary of the Kanishka bombing and crash fell in June this year. He remarked that there were continued concerns about the activities of extremist groups and hoped that their activities would be monitored by the Canadian side. Prime Minister Harper assured that they will do their best. The sides agreed that the officials would remain in touch.

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper also exchanged views on the important issue of climate change and the prognosis of the next conference which would be held in Mexico towards the end of this year.

They had a substantive exchange of views on the forthcoming G20 summit which would take place in Toronto in June this year. Our Prime Minister is expected to attend the summit.

Prime Minister Harper sought our Prime Minister's views on the agenda of the forthcoming summit and what could be its focus. Prime Minister Singh observed that the G20 framework or mechanism had helped overcome the immediate financial crisis, but had now to move ahead to deal with the larger issue of global imbalances and reforms of the international financial institutions.

Prime Minister also outlined a need for a stable and predictable regime of capital flows especially for the developing countries. He spoke about the nature of the Indian economy, its strong fundamentals, the growth path that we have charted out for ourselves, the expectation that within a couple of years we will re-attain a growth rate of nine per cent or even get into a double-digit growth rate for which we needed a conducive and enabling international environment. Prime Minister particularly underlined that India was not contributing to global imbalances as we were not a mercantile economy.

Prime Minister Harper spoke about Canadian interest in using G20 to develop a framework to encourage balanced and sustainable growth internationally. Their meeting lasted more than half an hour. This was as far as the exchange of views between Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Canada is concerned.

That is the reading I have on three of the bilateral meetings of Prime Minister. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Question: We are given to understand that there was a brief exchange between Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Can you fill us in on this?

Official Spokesperson: I understand that at the reception Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh shook hands with each other and exchanged pleasantries. That is what I know at the moment.

Question: How long did it last and where was it? Was it in the main area or in the corridor?

Official Spokesperson: It was at the reception that President Obama had hosted. And pleasantries last the usual time that the pleasantries last. So, it was an exchange of pleasantries.

Question: Was it just the two of them or were the delegations on their side?

Official Spokesperson: What I understand is that when the Prime Minister went to the Convention Centre he greeted and was greeted by a number of world leaders. He exchanged pleasantries with a number of world leaders. Also he shook hands with Prime Minister Gilani. Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh shook hands and exchanged pleasantries.

Question: I was wondering who took the initiative. Did they just bump into each other or somebody walked up to the other? Did Gilani walk up to Manmohan Singh and say hello?

Official Spokesperson: What I understand is that the two leaders shook hands with each others, they exchanged pleasantries.

Question: Were the pleasantries in Urdu and was there any poetry in that, some couplets?

Official Spokesperson: We will try to get you further details. At the moment what I know I have happily shared with you.

Question: Two questions. One is, did Gilani mention Balochistan? Second, this line that you said that India is not contributing to global imbalances he told Stephen Harper. What is the context in which he said it?

Official Spokesperson: On the first question, I have already shared the information I have on the subject. On the second question, as I said, Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Stephen Harper were talking about the G20 process. Prime Minister Singh mentioned that the G20 process had helped in overcoming the immediate financial crisis, that we required a stable regime, a transparent financial regime. He spoke of the need for reforms of international financial institutions and so on so forth. He also

gave his Canadian counterpart a perspective on the Indian economy. He spoke about our growth aspirations, our developmental aspirations, spoke about the strong economic fundamentals of the Indian economy, the growth path that we are on, and the nature of the Indian economy. It is in this context that he mentioned that Indian economy is not contributing to global imbalances and that since we are inter alia not a mercantile economy.

Question: One question is about this meeting of the two Prime Ministers. From reliable sources we were told today there that it was a very well arranged in a flash of a second and both were informed that this was going to happen and they both agreed before hand and then they proceeded. Can you tell us who was the third party who arranged it? The second question is, with Kazakhstan the main theme that comes out is human rights and media freedom in Kazakhstan. Was it mentioned at all?

Official Spokesperson: On the first question, I have shared with you all the details that I have. On the second question, I have at length elaborated on the nature of discussions between President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister. I have taken you through all the salient aspects of their discussions. I have even shared with you the duration of the discussions, the participants at the discussion and so on. So, I have already shared with you all the salient details of the discussion.

Question: Is Prime Minister Manmohan Singh likely to announce the setting up of a Global Nuclear Security Centre to be funded by India?

Official Spokesperson: Very valid question. Let us both wait for the outcome of the Summit tomorrow and we will have the results.

Question: Is India watching carefully to see during the Summit or otherwise what China says to the US or in general about Pakistan civil nuclear deal? In the past there were Pakistani sources who said that China is supporting Pakistan's effort to have a civil nuclear deal with the US. Is this something that you are tracking? Is it something that you are hearing about? If they do do this, what is India's response to it?

Official Spokesperson: Let me remind you that the Nuclear Security Summit is not about specific countries. In the Nuclear Security Summit what the leaders are proposing to discuss is the issue of tackling, combating nuclear terrorism, the question of securing nuclear technologies, nuclear

materials and so on. It is that is what being addressed. It is not a country-specific initiative.

Question: Mr. Shivshankar Menon was supposed to meet his counterpart today. Do you have any update on that?

Official Spokesperson: I wanted to give you a perspective on the meetings that Prime Minister of India had with three of the leaders. On the other questions, we will be happy to take them in due course.

Question: The US Vice-President today hosted a lunch for around ten leaders from Non-Aligned Movement countries saying that it is the US-NAM meeting. India is the founder member and the leading country in the NAM. Why was India not invited to this? Was India invited for this meeting?

Official Spokesperson: I need to check. I am not aware of that.

Question: Most of the think-tanks are saying, including the US, that this summit is about nuclear terrorism and Pakistan is the hub and it might fall in the hands of terrorists. Of course India is also worried. But what Pakistan is saying in these meeting is that Pakistan is not worried about nuclear terrorism or terrorists but it fears India. What is the fear from both sides and how this fear will go away and what India should do now?

Official Spokesperson: In response to Natasha's question I have already answered that. I have already shared with you our perspective.

Question: You mentioned Canada, you mentioned Kanishka, and you mentioned that the Prime Minister wanted an assurance from his counterpart on monitoring. This has been going on for quite some time. There is no tangible result which has been achieved. Are they willing to share intelligence on this with India?

Official Spokesperson: As I mentioned, Prime Minister observed that in June 2010 would be the 25th anniversary. He mentioned about continuing concerns on the activities of terrorist organizations, groups. He requested the Canadian authorities to monitor their activities and Prime Minister Harper said that they will do their best. Also it was agreed that the officials on both sides would remain in regular touch.

Question: Prime Minister is meeting President of France tomorrow. Can you give a sense of what issues are likely to be discussed? Also, when

you talk about Canada, that business of monitoring terrorist activity, did the Prime Minister mention the specific terrorist groups?

Official Spokesperson: Tomorrow, Prime Minister is likely to meet with the President of France. The meeting is at 11:30. Tomorrow, at 6:30 Prime Minister of India is going to have a media interaction. Either during that or before that we will share with you the outcome, or give you a sense of the discussions between Prime Minister of India and President Sarkozy. But I may add here that during their meeting all matters of bilateral interest and regional and international interest will be discussed. That was on the first question. On the second question about the Kanishka incident and Kanishka crash and the activities of the groups, I have already shared with you what had to be shared.

Question: Two questions. Are India and Canada planning a joint commemorative event as well for the 20th anniversary of Kanishka? Secondly, on the meeting with the Moroccan Prime Minister, I was just curious when was the last time that India met Morocco at the Prime Ministerial level or perhaps King Hassan? How many years after has such a meeting taken place?

Official Spokesperson: About a possible commemorative event I will check and come back to you. According to the details that I have Mohammed VI had visited India as the Crown Prince in the late 1990s. Again he visited India twice, in 2001 and 2003. The former Moroccan Prime Minister visited India in December 2004. Our Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee, visited Rabat in 1999. This is at the summit level. But we have had Foreign Ministers visiting and so on. So, I did remark that we have had a regular high-level exchange in recent years in particular with Morocco. One of the important pillars of the relationship has been the trade and economic relations. Morocco is the largest rock phosphate and phosphoric acid supplier to India. We have leading Indian industrial houses including the Birlas, the Tatas, the Chambal Fertilisers group, and the others, were present in Morocco. So, that is broadly how the relationship has been evolving.

Question: Can you tell us whether Secretary Rao and Hillary Clinton will be meeting or have they already met?

Official Spokesperson: As far as I know, no such meeting has taken place today.



058. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Nuclear Security Summit.

Washington, April 13, 2010.

President Barack Obama,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Nuclear security is one of the foremost challenges we face today. I therefore wish to commend President Barack Obama for his initiative in convening this Summit on Nuclear Security. We would like the Summit to lead to concrete outcomes which help make our world a safer place.

The developmental applications of nuclear science in areas such as medicine, agriculture, food preservation and availability of fresh water are by now well established. Today, nuclear energy has emerged as a viable source of energy to meet the growing needs of the world in a manner that is environmentally sustainable. There is a real prospect for nuclear technology to address the developmental challenges of our times.

In India we have ambitious plans for using nuclear energy to meet our growing energy needs. Our target is to increase our installed capacity more than seven fold to 35000 MWe by the year 2022, and to 60,000 MWe by 2032.

The nuclear industry's safety record over the last few years has been encouraging. It has helped to restore public faith in nuclear power. Safety alone, however, is not enough. The challenge we face today is that of ensuring nuclear security.

The danger of nuclear explosives or fissile material and technical know-how falling in to the hands of non-state actors continues to haunt our world. India is deeply concerned about the danger it faces, as do other States, from this threat.

Since 2002, we have piloted a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on measures to deny terrorists access to Weapons of Mass Destruction. We fully support the implementation of United Nations Security

Council Resolution 1540 and the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

The primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level, but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behaviour by States. If not, it remains an empty slogan. All States should scrupulously abide by their international obligations. It is a matter of deep regret that the global non-proliferation regime has failed to prevent nuclear proliferation. Clandestine proliferation networks have flourished and led to insecurity for all, including and especially for India. We must learn from past mistakes and institute effective measures to prevent their recurrence.

The world community should join hands to eliminate the risk of sensitive and valuable materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and illicit traffickers. There should be zero tolerance for individuals and groups which engage in illegal trafficking in nuclear items.

Global non-proliferation, to be successful, should be universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the fact that the world is veering around to our view that the best guarantor of nuclear security is a world free from nuclear weapons.

Starting with Jawaharlal Nehru over five decades ago, India has been in the forefront of the call for global and complete nuclear disarmament. In 2006 India proposed the negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. We have also expressed our readiness to participate in the negotiation of an internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had put forward a concrete Action Plan in 1988 for the universal and non-discriminatory elimination of nuclear weapons leading to global nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework.

Today, I once again reiterate India's call to the world community to work towards the realisation of this vision.

We welcome the agreement between the United States and Russia to cut their nuclear arsenals as a step in the right direction. I call upon all states

with substantial nuclear arsenals to further accelerate this process by making deeper cuts that will lead to meaningful disarmament.

We are encouraged by the Nuclear Posture Review announced by President Obama. India supports the universalisation of the policy of No First Use. The salience of nuclear weapons in national defence and security doctrines must be reduced as a matter of priority.

The dangers of nuclear terrorism make the early elimination of nuclear weapons a matter of even greater urgency.

The Indian Atomic Energy Act provides the legal framework for securing nuclear materials and facilities, and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board ensures independent oversight of nuclear safety and security. We are party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 amendment.

India's three stage nuclear power programme which began sixty years ago is based on a closed nuclear fuel cycle. A direct benefit of this is that it ensures control over nuclear material that is generated as spent fuel. At the same time, we are continually upgrading technology to develop nuclear systems that are intrinsically safe, secure and proliferation resistant. We have recently developed an Advanced Heavy Water Reactor based on Low Enriched Uranium and thorium with new safety and proliferation-resistant features.

India has maintained an impeccable non-proliferation record, of which we are proud of. As a responsible nuclear power, India has and will not be the source of proliferation of sensitive technologies. We have a well-established and effective export control system which has worked without fail for over six decades. We have strengthened this system by harmonisation of our guidelines and lists with those of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime. Our commitment to not transfer nuclear weapons or related materials and technologies to non-nuclear weapon states or non-state actors is enshrined in domestic law through the enactment of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Act. We stand committed not to transfer reprocessing and enrichment technologies and equipment to countries that do not possess them.

As a founder member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, we have consistently supported the central role of the IAEA in facilitating national efforts to strengthen nuclear security and in fostering effective international cooperation. We have so far conducted nine Regional Training Courses on Nuclear Security in cooperation with the IAEA. We have entered into a Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA in 2008, and have decided to place all future civilian thermal power reactors and civilian breeder reactors under IAEA safeguards.

We will continue to work with the IAEA and our partners in the United Nations as well as other forums such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism to upgrade standards, share experiences and ensure effective implementation of international benchmarks on nuclear security.

I am happy to announce on this occasion that we have decided to set up a "Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership" in India. We visualize this to be a state of the art facility based on international participation from the IAEA and other interested foreign partners. The Centre will consist of four Schools dealing with Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety, and the application of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technology in the areas of healthcare, agriculture and food. The Centre will conduct research and development of design systems that are intrinsically safe, secure, proliferation resistant and sustainable. We would welcome participation in this venture by your countries, the IAEA and the world to make this Centre's work a success.

I thank you.



059. Press Conference of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the end of his stay in Washington to attend the Nuclear Security Conference.

Washington (D. C), April 13, 2010.

Opening statement by PM

I have concluded my visit to Washington DC for the Nuclear Security Summit.

As I said earlier, India welcomes the initiative taken by President Obama to focus the attention of the international community on nuclear security. This is an important issue for us because without ensuring security we will not be able to harness nuclear energy for our developmental purposes.

We are satisfied with the Communique and Work Plan that have been adopted by the Summit. India participated actively in the preparatory process.

I have announced that India will establish a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. This will be owned and managed by the Government, but will be open to international participation in terms of academic exchanges and R and D efforts. This initiative is the next logical step in India's engagement with the world after the opening of international civil nuclear cooperation with India.

India's statement at the Summit outlines our approach to the issues of nuclear security, nuclear terrorism, clandestine proliferation and global disarmament.

After listening to the world leaders at the Summit, I feel a sense of vindication of India's position. The intersection of international terrorism and clandestine proliferation affects our security directly. The concerns that we have been expressing for decades on the dangers of proliferation and risk of nuclear materials finding their way into the wrong hands are today finding widespread acceptance.

When India called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in the 1950s our voice was not heeded. Today the world is veering around to the vision we had put forward of a world free from nuclear weapons. The world is

beginning to see merit in pursuing universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. We will continue to persevere in our efforts in this direction.

During my stay I had bilateral meetings with President Obama, President Nazarbaev, Prime Minister Abbas El Fassi, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, President Sarkozy and Chancellor Merkel.

I had fruitful discussions with President Obama on a host of issues relating to our bilateral relations, the regional situation, and the world economy. We look forward to hosting President Obama in India later this year.

My discussions with President Sarkozy, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Harper focused largely on the future role of the G20 in the post-crisis phase of the global economic recovery. I will be visiting Canada for the next G20 Summit in June. I conveyed to President Sarkozy that we are looking forward to his visit later this year to India.

Question and Answer Session

Q-1. How satisfied are you about the outcome of your bilateral meetings?

Ans -As far as the nuclear security summit is concerned its outcome is satisfactory from our point of view. The concerns which we have been voicing about nuclear security, about proliferation, and about nuclear terrorism, they have been taken notice of by the international community and the communique reflects that. So from that angle we are satisfied with the outcome. As for the bilateral discussions they covered a wide range of issues, mostly relating to the future work programme of the group of 20. This was an exchange of views as to how the work of the G-20 should proceed in the months and years to come.

The world is now witnessing a recovery though the speed of recovery - there is still a question mark with regard to the working out of a framework for sustainable recovery and also the reform of international institutions including the Security Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, the working of the financial system, the need for regulation, whether one size fits all or there should be allowance for different stages of development. These are the issues which have to be taken on-board and I expressed our concern about these issues.

Q 2. Why should India bring its complaints to US about Pakistan instead of using its own leverage to straighten it out. Do you agree with the broad sentiment of the analysts that you shared better relations with President Bush than Present Obama?

Ans. Well I have a very good relationship with President Obama. So I think there should no confusion on that point. There is no question of our taking our complaints against any country to another forum. Ultimately India has to tackle problems it faces on her own but international sentiment and international opinion does matter and if anyone asks about how is the bilateral relation between India and Pakistan working out, I explain our perspective and which is an open secret. I have said that on more than once that Pakistan if it takes credible steps to bring the perpetrators of the horrible crime of 26/11 to book and that's minimum that we expect from Pakistan and if Pakistan does that we would be very happy to begin talking once again about all our issues.

Q 3 & 4: Prime Minister Gilani told the media that he invited you to Pakistan and that you accepted the invitation and secondly the controversy about Shashi Tharoor and how do you react to that?

Ans : As far as the invitation from Prime Minister Gilani is concerned, I am hearing it for the first time. But I did run into him twice and we exchanged pleasantries and in fact I complemented the Prime Minister on the passage of the constitution amendment bill which makes the Prime Minister more powerful personality in Pakistan's political system but beyond that there was no serious discussion on any other issues.

And as far as what you have mentioned to me, I have heard about these things. I don't have all the facts before me and when I go back I will get all the facts and in the light of those if any action is necessary I think that would be the proper way to proceed. I cannot go by hearsay or what is in various columns of the news- papers.

Q -5. Problem of clandestine nuclear trade - no new measures.

Ans - We have been voicing our concern with regard to proliferation and the clandestine activities of nuclear trafficking. Well the world used to listen to us but this is the first time that the international community has sat together -47 countries to recognize that these are genuine concerns. So I think that's a matter of some satisfaction as far as India is concerned..

Q 6. President Lula is visiting Iran on May 15th , you also have been invited, do you plan to go to Tehran?

Ans - India has good relations with Iran. Iran is our neighbour and as far as going to Tehran is concerned, I have no plans. In any case I cannot make plans to travel at short notice and I have commitments in India but India will be represented at that conference.

Q 7. You and President Obama share a personal rapport. But does it really translate into concrete actions as far as the two administrations are concerned?

Ans : In matters relating to state craft I think one should not jump prematurely into conclusions which are not warranted by the facts on the ground.

Q 8. In your meeting with Obama, you forcefully expressed the issue of cross border terrorism. With US constraints in the War on terror in Afghanistan, how do you expect action?

Ans: Well I hope that what I said to President weighs considerably with the administration but I am not an astrologer. I cannot predict what will be final shape of things to come.

Q 9. US - Pak civil nuclear deal ?

Ans - Who am I to interfere with what goes on between the United States and Pakistan. That's a matter for these two countries to consider.

Q 10. Meeting with President Obama - we have been told Iran figured and did the US sanctions resolution at the SC come up. And with president Sarkosy as well.

Ans. I said to the President that we do not favour Iran's nuclear weapon ambitions. I also said to him that as a signatory of NPT Iran is entitled to all the rights of members who have signed the treaty regarding to the peaceful use of atomic energy. On the issue of sanctions I said to him as far as we are concerned we don't think sanctions really achieve their objective. Very often the poor in the affected country suffer more. As far as the ruling establishment is concerned, they are not really affected by these sanctions in any meaningful way. Beyond that there was no discussions.

Q 11. What do you hope to achieve in Bhutan when you meet Gilani?

Ans. Well it is still time to think about meeting in Bhutan. I think when we reach there, we will cross that bridge.

Q: 12. After the bilateral between President Obama and you, are you confident of getting access to Headley?

Ans. I raised that matter with the President. He did mention to me that he is aware of the legal position and that we will get access to David Headley.

Q 13. What more action are we looking for from Pakistan?

Ans - We all know that there are still people who are named as part of the conspiracy. They are roaming around freely and I do not want to name any one individually but that's the reality and these are facts which are borne out not by our investigations and our intelligence but by the intelligence of our friendly countries. We would like Pakistan to at least bring all these perpetrators of these horrible crimes to book and do so effectively.

Q 14. There is a perception that Indo-US relations are in drift? What direction did you give in the bilateral?

Ans.: We have a multi faceted relationship. The economic content of the relation is important. There are several other dimensions. We work together in many regional fora. So it is not a single track operation. The United States is a super power. It is a very important player in global affairs. We look forward to working with the United States to find practical, pragmatic solutions to the problems which the world faces.

I believe these issues in South Asia can be resolved and should be resolved by meaningful bilateral dialogue. I do not feel there is a role for any outside force to come in.

Q-15. Prime Minister has said that he needs more evidence against the Lashkar-e Tayeba.

Ans. First of all I don't see there is any need for further evidence about the role of the Lashksar - e Tayeba. I think Prime Minister Gilani - I would hate to enter into an argument with him in a press conference. The American intelligence and American forces have themselves pointed out the role of the Lashksar-e Tayeba and their links to Al-Queda. So I do not think there

is any need for me to produce additional evidence to Prime Minister Gilani about the role of the Lakshar -e- Tayeba, Hafeez Sayeed, Ilyas Kashmiri and Zakeeur Rehman are playing in fanning of terrorist acts directed against India.

Q 16. Issues to be taken with China in Brazil?

Ans: We have the border problem and that problem is to be resolved. We are working very hard to find practical, pragmatic solution to that problem. But we both recognize that it will take time. And both of us have agreed that pending the resolution of the border issue, peace and tranquility should be maintained along the line of control and by and large that is the situation that remains on the ground. As far as India's relations with China are concerned, the economic content of the relationship has increased very significantly. China is today probably India's largest trading partner. There are large Chinese investments in our country. There are large investments in China. On the economic front the relationships is moving in the right direction and at the Copenhagen conference India and China worked very closely to organize their position and there is now a recognition in China that in multilateral issues there is a similarity of approach between India and China and that both countries can gain by working together.

Q.17. President Obama defended Pakistan saying their nuclear installations/ weapons are safe?

Ans: As far as our views are concerned you have to read my statement that gives our views on the matter.



060. Communique of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit.**Washington (D. C), April 13, 2010.**

Nuclear terrorism is one of the most challenging threats to international security and strong nuclear security measures are the most effective means to prevent terrorists, criminals, or other unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear materials.

In addition to our shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we also all share the objective of nuclear security. Therefore those gathered here in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 2010, commit to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. Success will require responsible national actions and sustained and effective international cooperation.

We welcome and join President Obama's call to secure all vulnerable nuclear material in four years, as we work together to enhance nuclear security.

Therefore, we:

1. Reaffirm the fundamental responsibility of States, consistent with their respective international obligations, to maintain effective security of all nuclear materials, which includes nuclear materials used in nuclear weapons, and nuclear facilities under their control; to prevent non-state actors from obtaining the information or technology required to use such material for malicious purposes; and emphasize the importance of robust national legislative and regulatory frameworks for nuclear security;
2. Call on States to work cooperatively as an International community to advance nuclear security, requesting and providing assistance as necessary;
3. Recognize that highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium require special precautions and agree to promote measures to

secure, account for, and consolidate these materials, as appropriate; and encourage the conversion of reactors from highly enriched to low enriched uranium fuel and minimization of use of highly enriched uranium, where technically and economically feasible;

4. Endeavor to fully implement all existing nuclear security commitments and work toward acceding to those not yet joined, consistent with national laws, policies and procedures;
5. Support the objectives of international nuclear security instruments, including the convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, as amended, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, as essential elements of the global nuclear security architecture;
6. Reaffirm the essential role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the international nuclear security framework and will work to ensure that it continues to have the appropriate structure, resources and expertise needed to carry out its mandated nuclear security activities in accordance with its Statute, relevant General Conference resolutions and its Nuclear Security Plans;
7. Recognize the role and contributions of the United Nations as well as the contributions of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the G-8-led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction within their respective mandates and memberships;
8. Acknowledge the need for capacity building for nuclear security and cooperation at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels for the promotion of nuclear security culture through technology development, human resource development, education, and training; and stress the importance of optimizing international cooperation and coordination of assistance;
9. Recognize the need for cooperation among States to effectively prevent and respond to incidents of illicit nuclear trafficking; and

agree to share, subject to respective national laws and procedures, information and expertise through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms in relevant areas such as nuclear detection, forensics, law enforcement, and the development of new technologies;

10. Recognize the continuing role of nuclear industry, including the private sector, in nuclear security and will work with industry to ensure the necessary priority of physical protection, material accountancy, and security culture;
11. Support the implementation of strong nuclear security practices that will not infringe upon the rights of States to develop and utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and technology and will facilitate international cooperation in the field of nuclear security; and
12. Recognize that measures contributing to nuclear material security have value in relation to the security of radioactive substances and encourage efforts to secure those materials as well.

Maintaining effective nuclear security will require continuous national efforts facilitated by international cooperation and undertaken on a voluntary basis by States. We will promote the strengthening of global nuclear security through dialogue and cooperation with all states.

Thus, we issue the Work Plan as guidance for national and international action including through cooperation within the context of relevant international fora and organizations. We will hold the next Nuclear Security Summit in the Republic of Korea in 2012.



**061. Work Plan of Washington Nuclear Security Summit.
Washington (DC) April 13, 2010**

This Work Plan supports the Communiqué of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit. It constitutes a political commitment by the Participating States to carry out, on a voluntary basis, applicable portions of this Work Plan, consistent with respective national laws and international obligations, in all aspects of the storage, use, transportation and disposal of nuclear material for malicious purposes.

Recognizing the importance of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as an important legally binding multilateral instrument addressing threats posed by acts of nuclear terrorism:

1. Participating States Parties to the Convention will work together to achieve universality of the Convention, as soon as possible;
2. Participating States Parties to the Convention will assist States, as appropriate and upon their request, to implement the Convention; and
3. Participating States Parties to the Convention encourage discussions among States Parties to consider measures to ensure its effective implementation, as called for in Article 20 of the Convention.

Recognizing the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, as the only multilateral legally binding agreement dealing with the physical protection of nuclear material in peaceful uses, and the value of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention in strengthening global security:

1. Participating States Parties to the Convention will work towards its universal adherence and where applicable, to accelerate the ratification processes of the Amendment to the Convention and to act for early implementation of that Amendment;
2. Participating States Parties to the Convention call on all States to act in accordance with the object and purpose for the Amendment until such time as it enters into force; and

3. Participating States parties to the Convention will assist States, as appropriate and upon their request, to implement the Convention and the Amendment.

Noting the need to fully implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) on preventing non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery and related materials, in particular as it relates to unclear material:

1. Participating States support the continued dialogue between the Security Council committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540 and States and support strengthened international cooperation in in this regard, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and within the framework of the United Nations Global Counterterrorism strategy;
2. Participating States support the activities of the Security Council committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540 to promote full implementation;
3. Participating States recognize the importance of complete and timely reporting as called for by UNSCR 1540, and will work with other States to do so, including by providing technical support or assistance, as requested;
4. Participating States note the outcome of Comprehensive Review by the Security Council committee established pursuant to UNSCR 1540, including the consideration of the establishment of a voluntary fund, and express their support for ensuring the effective and sustainable support for the activities of the 1540 Committee;
5. With respect to the nuclear security-related aspects of Paragraph 3, sections (a) and (b) of UNSCR 1540, Participating States recognize the importance of evaluating and improving their physical protection systems to ensure that they are capable of achieving the objectives set out in relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Security Series documents and as contained in the document "Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities," (INFCIRC/225); and

6. Participating States in a position to do so are encouraged to provide technical assistance to those States that request it through appropriate mechanisms, including through the Committee's efforts to match needs with available resources.

Welcoming IAEA activities in support of national efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide and commending the work of the IAEA for the provision of assistance, upon request, through its Nuclear Security Programme and for the implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013, approved by the Board of Governors in September 2009 and noted by the IAEA General Conference, and welcoming IAEA programs to advance new technologies to improve nuclear security and nuclear materials accountancy.

Recognizing that the IAEA is facilitating the development by member states, in the framework of the Nuclear Security Series, of guidance and recommendations relating to the prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access and illegal transfer, or other malicious acts involving, inter alia, nuclear material, and associated facilities, and is providing guidance in developing and implementing effective nuclear security measures.

Nothing that pursuit of the objectives of this Work Plan will not be interpreted so as to alter the mandate or responsibilities of the IAEA:

1. Participating States note that the IAEA's Nuclear Security Series of documents provides recommendations and guidance to assist States in a wide range of aspects nuclear security, and encourage the widest possible participation by all its member states in the process;
2. Participating States in a position to do so, will work actively with the IAEA towards the completion and implementation, as appropriate, of the guidance provided by the Nuclear Security Series, and to assist, upon request, other States in doing so;
3. Participating States in particular welcome and support the IAEA's efforts to finalize the fifth revision of the recommendations contained in INFCIRC/225, which will be published in the Nuclear Security Series;

4. Participating States recognize the importance of nuclear material accountancy in support of nuclear security and look forward to the completion of the technical guidance document on "Nuclear Material Accountancy Systems at Facilities";
5. Participating States will endeavor to incorporate, as appropriate, the relevant principles set out in the Nuclear Security Series documents, into the planning, construction, and operation of nuclear facilities;
6. Participating States, when implementing their national nuclear security measures, will support the use of the IAEA Implementing guide on the Development, Use and Maintenance of the Design Basis Threat to elaborate their national design basis threat as appropriate, to include the consideration of outsider and insider threats;
7. Participating States, Welcome the IAEA's efforts to assist States to develop, upon request, Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans to consolidate their nuclear security needs into integrated plans for nuclear security improvements and assistance;
8. Participating States recognize the value of IAEA support mechanisms such as the International Physical Protection Advisory Service missions to review, as requested, their physical protection systems for civilian nuclear material and facilities; and
9. Participating States call upon all member states of the IAEA in a position to do so to provide the necessary support to enable the IAEA to implement these important activities.

Noting the contributions to the promotion of nuclear security by the U.N. and initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, as well as other bilateral, regional multilateral, and nongovernmental activities within their respective mandates and memberships:

1. Participating States will work together, as appropriate, to ensure that nuclear security cooperation mechanisms are complementary,

reinforcing, efficient, consistent with related IAEA activities, and appropriately matched to identified needs in those States requesting assistance;

2. Participating States encourage, where appropriate, expanded participation in and commitment to international initiatives and voluntary cooperative mechanisms aimed at improving nuclear security and preventing nuclear terrorism; and
3. Participating States welcome the intent of the members of the G-8 Global Partnership, in a position to do so, to undertake additional programming to enhance nuclear security.

Recognizing States' right to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and noting the responsibility of each State for the use and management of all nuclear materials and facilities under its jurisdiction and recognize that highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium are particularly sensitive and require special precautions:

1. Participating States will consider, where appropriate, the consolidation of national sites where nuclear material is held;
2. Participating States will continue to exercise particular care in ensuring the safe and secure transport of nuclear materials, both in domestic and international transport;
3. Participating States, where appropriate, will consider on a national basis the safe, secure and timely removal and disposition of nuclear materials from facilities no longer using them;
4. Participating States will continue to exercise particular care in securing and accounting for separated plutonium, taking into consideration to potential of various forms for use in a nuclear explosive device;
5. Participating States will consider, where appropriate, converting highly-enriched-uranium fueled research reactors, and other nuclear facilities using highly enriched uranium, to use low enriched uranium, where it is technically and economically feasible;
6. Participating States as appropriate, will collaborate to research and

develop new technologies that require neither highly enriched uranium fuels for reactor operation nor highly enriched uranium targets for producing medical or other isotopes, and will encourage the use of low enriched uranium and other proliferation-resistant technologies and fuels in various commercial applications such as isotope production;

7. Participating States in a position to do so will provide assistance to those States requesting assistance to secure, account for, consolidate, and convert nuclear materials; and
8. Participating States will consider how to best address the security of radioactive sources, as well as consider further steps as appropriate.

Mindful of the responsibilities of every Participating State to maintain effective nuclear security and a robust domestic regulatory capacity:

1. Participating States will establish and maintain effective national nuclear security regulations, including the periodic review and adjustment of the regulations as the State considers appropriate;
2. Participating States undertake to maximize regulatory independence, consistent with each State's particular legal and institutional structures;
3. Participating States will undertake to build regulatory capacity and ensure sufficiently trained and fully vetted professional nuclear security staff and adequate resources, taking into account current needs and future expansion of their respective nuclear programs; and
4. Participating States will pursue the review and enforcement of compliance with national nuclear security regulations as a matter of priority.

Understanding the role of the nuclear industry, including the private sector, in nuclear security and recognizing that national governments are responsible for standard setting within each State:

1. Participating States will work, in guiding the nuclear industry, to

promote and sustain strong nuclear security culture and corporate commitment to implement robust security practices, including regular exercises and performance testing of nuclear security features, consistent with national regulations;

2. Consistent with State requirements, Participating States will facilitate exchange of best practices, where legally and practically feasible, in nuclear security in the nuclear industry, and in this respect, will utilize relevant institutions to support such exchanges; and
3. Participating States encourage nuclear operators and architect/engineering firms to take into account and incorporate, where appropriate, effective measures of physical protection and security culture into the planning, construction, and operation of civilian nuclear facilities and provide technical assistance, upon request, to other States in doing so.

Emphasizing the importance of the human dimension of nuclear security, the need to enhance security culture, and the need to maintain a well-trained cadre of technical experts:

1. Participating States will promote cooperation, as appropriate, among international organizations, governments, industries, other stakeholders, and academia for effective capacity building, including human resources development in nuclear security programs;
2. Participating States will encourage the creation of and networking among nuclear security support centres for capacity building to disseminate and share best practices and will support IAEA activities in this area;
3. Participating States encourage the creation of adequate national nuclear security capacities, and encourage supplier countries and technology suppliers to support those capacities in the recipient countries, including human resources development through education and training, upon request and consistent with each State's particular legal and institutional structures;
4. Participating States will encourage an integrated approach to education and training and institutional capacity building by all

stakeholders having a key role in establishing and maintaining adequate security infrastructure; and

5. Participating States will encourage the implementation of national measures to ensure the proper management of sensitive information in order to prevent illicit acquisition or use of nuclear material, and, where appropriate, will support bilateral and multilateral capacity building projects, upon request.

Underscoring the value of exchanging accurate and verified information, without prejudice to confidentiality provisions, to detect, prevent suppress, investigate, and prosecute actor attempted acts of illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism:

1. Participating States will strive to improve their national criminal laws, as needed, to ensure that they have the adequate authority to prosecute all types of cases of illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism and commit to prosecuting these crimes to the full extent of the law;
2. Participating States are encouraged to develop methods and mechanisms, where appropriate, to enhance bilateral and multilateral collaboration in sharing urgent and relevant information on nuclear security and incidents involving illicit nuclear trafficking.

Noting the IAEA's and Participating States' work in the field of nuclear detection and nuclear forensics, aimed at assisting States in connection with the detection of and response to illicitly trafficked nuclear material, and determination of its origin, and recognizing the importance of respecting provisions on confidentiality of information:

1. Participating States will consider taking further steps, nationally, bilaterally or multilaterally, to enhance their technical capabilities, including the appropriate use of new and innovative technologies, to prevent and combat illicit nuclear trafficking;
2. Participating States will explore ways to work together to develop national capacities for nuclear forensics, such as the creation of national libraries and an international directory of points of contact, to facilitate and encourage cooperation between States in

combating illicit nuclear trafficking, including relevant IAEA activities in this area; and

3. Participating States will explore ways to enhance broader cooperation among local, national and international customs and law enforcement bodies to prevent illicit nuclear trafficking and acts of nuclear terrorism, including through joint exercises and sharing of best practices.



062. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the Prime Minister's visits abroad to attend the Nuclear Security, IBSA and BRIC Summits.

New Delhi, April 23, 2010.

I rise to inform this august House of Prime Minister's visit to Washington to attend the Nuclear Security Summit and to Brasilia for the 4th India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Summit and the 2nd Brazil, India, Russia and China (BRIC) Summit from 10-16 April 2010.

At the invitation of U.S. President Obama, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington from April 12-13. In all forty-seven countries, the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union were represented at the Summit.

The Summit was a personal initiative of President Obama who in his Prague speech of April 2009 described nuclear terrorism as the most immediate and extreme threat to global security. The focus on combating nuclear terrorism is consistent with our concerns on terrorism and clandestine proliferation. Strengthening nuclear security is also consistent with India's interest in the safe and secure expansion of civil nuclear energy. We had therefore welcomed the initiative last year.

During the Summit discussions, Prime Minister referred to our intention to develop 35,000 MWe of nuclear energy by 2022 in the context of India's three-stage programme as well as newly opened opportunities for civil nuclear cooperation with the international community. He also underlined our concerns on clandestine proliferation and the danger of nuclear material and technical know-how falling into hands of non-state actors. He welcomed the new Russia-US agreement to cut their nuclear arsenals as a step in the right direction and called on all states with substantial nuclear arsenals to further accelerate this process.

The Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 remains the most comprehensive and elaborate proposal to move toward a nuclear weapon free world. The Prime Minister reiterated India's call to the world community to work towards the realisation of this vision. The danger of nuclear terrorism makes early elimination of nuclear weapons a matter of even greater urgency.

At the Summit, Prime Minister announced the establishment of a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership in India. This is a logical step after the opening up of international civil nuclear cooperation. The Centre, wholly owned and managed by the Government of India, will have four schools on Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety and Radioisotope applications. The Centre will assist in safe, secure and proliferation-resistant promotion of nuclear energy, upgrading of standards and sharing of experience. We will develop it in partnership with IAEA and interested countries.

The Summit outcome contained in a Communique and a Work Plan is aimed at fostering political commitment on nuclear security and follow up action in forums such as the IAEA. We participated actively in shaping the outcome which is consistent with India's interests. Our WMD Act of 2005 and our Atomic Energy Act already provide the legal basis to implement nuclear security measures.

The Republic of Korea will host the next Nuclear Security Summit in 2012 and Argentina will host the next preparatory meeting later this year. We hope that the Nuclear Security Summit process would help build pragmatic and purposeful frameworks for addressing nuclear danger.

Prime Minister also met US President Barack Obama on 11 April 2010. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress in India-US

relations since Prime Minister's bilateral visit to the USA in November 2009 and reiterated their strong commitment to continue to further strengthen the India-US strategic partnership.

The two leaders had an extensive discussion on the global economy and agreed to work together, in partnership with G 20 members, on further steps to sustain global economic recovery. They recognized that India-US economic partnership could be a catalyst for global economic development, including with respect to food security and clean energy. The two leaders shared their visions for a strong, stable and prosperous South Asia. The two leaders agreed to intensify India-US counter-terrorism cooperation. President Obama conveyed that he is looking forward to his visit to India this year, for which mutually convenient dates are being worked out.

As a next step in pursuing the vision laid out by the two leaders, I look forward to my strategic dialogue with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 3 June 2010 in Washington DC. It will give us an opportunity to once again review progress on and plan ahead for the full spectrum of our broad-based and multifaceted bilateral ties, and exchange views on the agenda of global and regional issues of mutual interest.

On the margins of the Summit, Prime Minister also met the Prime Minister of Canada, who will host the next G20 Summit in June, the Prime Minister of Morocco, the Presidents of France and Kazakhstan and the German Chancellor.

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) on 15 April. The South African and Brazilian delegations were led by President Jacob Zuma and President Lula da Silva respectively. The last IBSA Summit was hosted by India in 2008.

IBSA has become a significant vehicle for comprehensive trilateral cooperation between three large democratic countries that share common values and are engaged in the development process to improve the lives of their peoples. It is significant that IBSA cooperation is not limited to governments, but engages the civil societies of the three countries. Indeed civil society involvement is a significant aspect of IBSA. IBSA also undertakes development projects in third countries.

The three leaders reviewed the activities of the 16 IBSA Working Groups including those on Science and Technology and Energy, which are undertaking promising projects. The leaders also decided that IBSA should develop micro satellites for space weather studies. Two MOUs on cooperation in Science & Technology and Innovation as well as Solar Energy were signed during the Summit.

As part of civil society engagement, meetings of separate people-to-people fora involving academics, editors, parliamentarians, women, small business and local governance were held on the sidelines of the Summit. Our Commerce and Industry Minister led the Indian delegation for a combined IBSA and BRIC Business Forum Meeting.

IBSA countries also take up projects in other developing countries under the IBSA Trust Fund. This is a novel initiative of IBSA for South - South cooperation. Currently such projects have been going on in seven countries. IBSA has committed more projects in Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquake there, and is considering more projects in Palestine.

During their discussions, the three leaders focused on UN reform, the impact of global economic and financial crisis and scourge of terrorism. They reiterated the need for urgent reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more representative and democratic. Recognising the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries, the three leaders emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable development and called for a development-oriented, balanced and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade talks. The Leaders considered the scourge of terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. President Lula and President Zuma condemned the terrorist attacks in India and offered condolences to our people. The Leaders emphasized the need for early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

On the occasion of the Summit, Commerce and Industry Minister along with Ministers of Brazil and South Africa met with the Foreign Minister of Palestine. Following the meeting, India, Brazil and South Africa issued a statement calling for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister also attended the Second BRIC Summit on 15 April together with President Medvedev of Russia, President Hu Jintao of China and

President Lula da Silva of Brazil. The first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in June last year. Since then, BRIC Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, National Security Advisers and Governors of Central Banks have met.

The BRIC Summit in Brazil focussed on a range of issues including the international financial and economic crisis, reform of international financial institutions including its management structures, cooperation in G20, UN reforms, climate change and other issues. While welcoming signs of economic recovery, the BRIC Leaders recognized that there were continuing uncertainties. While calling for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, they reiterated the role of emerging economies in contributing to economic recovery. BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors would continue to meet and discuss modalities of cooperation in this context. A Joint Statement along with a Follow-up document was issued following the 2nd BRIC Summit. China has offered to host the 3rd BRIC Summit in 2011.

BRIC countries support a multi-polar, equitable, democratic and just world order, based on rule of law and with the United Nations having a central role in tackling global challenges.

With BRIC countries together commanding 25.9% of total geographic area, 40% of global population and 22% of global GDP (PPP), abundant natural resources, growing middle classes, and given their internal economic strengths, BRIC countries - as engines of economic growth - can contribute constructively towards sustainable global economic growth.

During his visit to Brasilia, Prime Minister also held a bilateral Summit meeting with President Lula. We attach high importance to our relations with Brazil. Prime Minister and President Lula discussed the growing importance of the multifaceted India-Brazil Strategic Partnership. Our engagement with Brazil is important for our energy security, food security, trade and commerce as well as cooperation in the area of high technologies.

The Prime Minister also held separate bilateral meetings with President Hu Jintao of China and President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia. These meetings were part of our tradition of regular high level meetings with these two important countries.

The visit by the Prime Minister to USA and Brazil reflects India's growing role in world affairs, and served to advance our national interests on issues which have a direct bearing on our security and development.

[Note: The above statement was also made by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, in the Rajya Sabha on April 28, 2010]



063. Media Note issued by the Prime Minister's Office - Agreement between India and Canada for Co-operation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

The India-Canada Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear-Energy which was signed today provides for cooperation in areas as design, construction, maintenance, sharing of operating experience and decommissioning of nuclear reactors, supply of uranium, projects in third countries, nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear waste management. The two countries may promote cooperation in the development and use of nuclear energy applications in the fields of agriculture, health care, industry and environment; and nuclear safety, radiation safety and environmental protection.

2. India and Canada are friendly States with comprehensive capabilities in advanced nuclear technologies. They recognize that nuclear energy is a safe, environment friendly and sustainable source of energy. Taking into account their respective strengths with regard to Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and CANDU Reactors, there is considerable scope for joint work between the two countries.

*

*

*

*



064. Statement by Dr. S. Banerjee, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission & Leader of the Indian delegation at the 54th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Vienna, September 22, 2010.

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 54th General Conference. Under your able leadership and with support from the Agency's Secretariat, we are certain that the current General Conference will be able to accomplish all the tasks before it.

This is the first General Conference after H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano has taken over as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation of his leadership of the Agency at a time when the world is looking towards nuclear energy with great expectations.

I welcome the entry of the Kingdom of Swaziland to the Membership of the IAEA. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Kingdom of Swaziland on this occasion of its joining the IAEA family.

Mr. President,

Limited fossil fuel reserves, environmental concerns and economic reasons have led to a resurgence in global interest in nuclear energy. Several countries are in various stages of taking decisions on setting up their first nuclear power plants. Other countries are engaged in expanding their existing nuclear power programmes or extending the life of their ageing plants.

On the basis of conservative projections, global nuclear power generation is expected to reach about 500 GWe by 2030. For large scale deployment of nuclear power generation, it is essential to develop technological solutions as well as institutional approaches to address issues of economics, safety, environment, waste management, infrastructure, proliferation resistance and sustainability. IAEA's activities are significantly contributing to addressing these issues.

INPRO is one such high impact programme associated with future generation reactors and their fuel cycles. India strongly feels that INPRO activities should become an integral part of the IAEA regular programme, and therefore, needs to be fully supported through the Agency's regular budget. I am happy to reiterate that India will continue to support this programme.

The global nuclear renaissance has been, to a large extent, the result of major investments made by industry over the decades to enhance the safety aspects of nuclear energy. Recently the Indian Parliament has passed the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill, 2010 after extensive debate. This legislation will go a long way in increasing public confidence and in creating a predictable environment in which leading vendors can participate in India's nuclear programme.

We are happy to note that the International Nuclear Radiological Event Scale (INES) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. INES is a very useful tool for communication of safety significance of different nuclear and radiological events to the general public in a consistent and simple manner. India has adopted INES, right from its inception and has participated very actively in its evolution.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power is important for a country like India where availability of electricity will act as an instrument of inclusive economic growth. A recent study has estimated that nuclear power must contribute about half of the Indian electricity generation capacity so as to nearly eliminate the dependence of our country on import of energy resources while achieving a developed status.

We remain committed to the 3-stage nuclear programme formulated under the visionary leadership of Dr. Homi Bhabha, founder of India's nuclear programme. India attaches a high priority for adopting a closed fuel cycle and Thorium utilization on account of relatively limited domestic Uranium reserves while having large Thorium deposits. Water cooled reactors, fast breeder reactors and thorium based power generation remain the key elements of our sustainable nuclear programme.

The Indian nuclear power programme lays strong emphasis on safe and reliable operation of its power plants, reduction of gestation period of new

projects and capacity addition. During the year the nuclear power sector has achieved over 322 reactor years of safe operation.

The total installed nuclear power capacity in the country is now 4560 MWe. The total number of operating reactors is 19 including the two new 220 MWe units at Rajasthan that were connected to the grid in the last year. En-masse replacement of coolant channels and feeders were completed in PHWRs at Kakrapar and Narora. Construction of the KAIGA - 4 PHWR has been completed and the unit is ready for fuel loading. Three of our reactors have registered uninterrupted runs of more than 400 days.

Construction of two 1,000 MWe light water reactors at Kudankulam in cooperation with the Russian Federation, is nearing completion. Work on two indigenous 700 MWe units each at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan and Kakrapar, Gujarat has started and the first pour of concrete is planned later this year.

The 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is at an advanced stage of construction. The spent mixed carbide fuel from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) with a burn-up of 155 GWd/t was reprocessed in the Compact Reprocessing facility for Advanced fuels in Lead cells (CORAL). Thereafter, the fissile material was re-fabricated as fuel and loaded back into the reactor, thus 'closing' the fast reactor fuel cycle.

Based on the already established indigenous technology, India is expanding its uranium enrichment capacity which will meet a part of the requirements of light water reactors. Setting up adequate reprocessing capability has been an important element of our closed fuel cycle based programme. Recently, India has commenced engineering activities for setting up of an Integrated Nuclear Recycle Plant with facilities for both reprocessing of spent fuel and waste management.

In-principle approval has been accorded for energy parks at five coastal sites. Each park will be populated with a number of water cooled reactors to be constructed through international cooperation. Thus India is poised to expand its installed nuclear power capacity to about 60 GWe by 2032. International cooperation will not only provide an additionality to our own programme in meeting immediate requirements but also fill up the energy deficit in the coming decades through the operation of the closed fuel cycle.

Mr. President,

India is self-sufficient with regard to heavy water, zirconium alloy components and other related materials and supplies for PHWRs. A new zirconium complex has been commissioned for production of reactor grade zirconium sponge. The Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad manufactures fuel assemblies of different types of reactors, viz. PHWRs, boiling water reactors and fast breeder reactor. India has wide-ranging capabilities in uranium mining and mineral processing facilities. The Uranium deposit at Tumallapalle, where a new mine is recently opened, has a promise to yield about three times of what was originally estimated. In this context, I would like to inform that India is pursuing aggressively uranium prospecting using modern geo-physical techniques, some of which have been indigenously developed. India is also interested in joining with international partners in developing uranium mining opportunities abroad.

Indian PHWRs offer a basket of options for countries that are looking for cost competitive and proven technologies in the small and medium size reactors. Therefore today Nuclear Power Corporation of India is ready to offer Indian PHWRs of 220 MWe or 540 MWe capacity for export. Indian industry is not only poised to play a bigger contribution to India's own nuclear programme but also is on the way to becoming a competitive supplier in the global market with regard to special steels, large size forgings, control instruments, software, other nuclear components and services.

It is important for me to mention to you that our country is in the process of setting up the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership which will provide a forum for joint work with our international partners in areas of topical interest.

Mr. President,

Non-power applications of nuclear energy, particularly in the areas of health care, agriculture and water-desalination and purification are rapidly expanding globally.

We are happy that the theme of the Scientific Forum of this General Conference is related to cancer and its mitigation. The application of nuclear techniques has an important role in both the detection and treatment of cancer. The Tata Memorial Centre at Mumbai which has a leading position

in cancer treatment and research, conducts several training programmes in collaboration with the IAEA - RCA for various countries in the Asia Pacific region. A national cancer grid is being set up by connecting several hospitals with the Tata Memorial Centre. In addition, about 30 webcasts on continuing medical education are relayed every year.

The IAEA's Programme on Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) enables the channeling of the resources and expertise to the needy and developing countries. An indigenously developed BHABHATRON Teletherapy unit donated by India to Vietnam under the PACT has been inaugurated in April this year. As part of our continuing support to this programme, I am happy to announce that India has taken the decision to donate two Bhabhatron Teletherapy machines, including one to Sri Lanka.

Our hybrid Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Plant (NDDP) at Kalpakkam, based on multistage flash evaporation and reverse osmosis processes, producing 6.3 million litres per day, is one of the largest such units in the world.

India continues to use nuclear science to achieve higher agricultural productivity. This year two new mutant lentil varieties ("Paity mung" and "Trombay Jawahar Tur") were notified for commercial cultivation, taking the total number of mutant crop varieties developed by Bhabha Atomic Research (BARC), using nuclear techniques to 39.

Mr. President,

India's nuclear programme attaches importance to R&D work and some recent achievements are as follows:

- Installation of Indian Real Time Online Decision Support (IRODOS) system at Narora Atomic Power Station for providing guidance to the emergency managers for making quick decisions based on projected impact of accidental releases from the plant.
- The synchrotron radiation source at Indore is now fully functional and several beam-lines have been set up for experiments.
- India's first industrial scale production facility for enriched boron based on exchange distillation has been commissioned at Talcher and a similar facility based on ion exchange chromatography is commissioned at Manuguru.

Mr. President,

While we reap the benefits today of the nuclear technology developed several decades ago, there is an urgent need to give a renewed thrust to take nuclear technology to greater heights for spreading its benefits to the entire humanity. In order to satisfy the growing energy needs of the world while caring for the environment, the Agency will need to further enhance its efforts towards new innovations and appropriate technology solutions.

Thank you.



065. Media Report on India signing the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), and text of the Convention.

Vienna, October 27, 2010.

India signed the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), thereby delivering on the last of its commitments stemming from the landmark 2005 nuclear agreement with the United States.

The international covenant - which provides a framework for channeling liability and providing speedy compensation in the event of a nuclear accident - was signed at the International Atomic Energy Agency offices in Vienna by Dinkar Khullar, India's Ambassador to Austria. The IAEA is the "depository" of the CSC, which has so far been signed by 14 countries and ratified by four, including the U.S.

[The CSC will enter into force only when at least five countries with a minimum of 4,00,000 units of installed nuclear capacity ratify the treaty. Even if India ratifies it - and Indian officials say this is unlikely to happen soon - the CSC will not enter into force unless at least one or two countries with a large civilian nuclear programme also do so.]

With India signing the CSC and the Obama administration issuing the requisite 'Part 810' licensing certifications, the stage is now set for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. to begin full-fledged commercial

negotiations with General Electric and Westinghouse for supply of two 1,000-MWe reactors. Three rounds of discussions have already been held, Indian officials say, but these have largely been exploratory in nature.

India promised the U.S. in 2008 that it would sign the CSC, a treaty that requires signatories to pass a domestic liability law in conformity with a model text. Washington's aim was to ensure that its companies were legally exempted from any liability burden in the event of an accident occurring in an American-supplied nuclear reactor.

[Though India passed its liability law last month, the U.S. has objected to Sections 17(b) and 46 of the Act which open the door for legal action against nuclear suppliers if an accident is caused by faulty or defective equipment. Washington says these provisions violate the CSC, a charge New Delhi rejects.]

"We have delivered on all our commitments. Now there is nothing which stands in the way of American companies having commercial negotiations for the sale of their reactors," a senior official was quoted by the media as having said.

[The CSC provides no forum for signatories to challenge each other's national laws. Article XVI allows for arbitration as well as adjudication by the International Court of Justice, in the event of a dispute. But the U.S. entered a reservation while ratifying the Convention in 2008 declaring "that it does not consider itself bound by [these] dispute settlement procedures." When it eventually ratifies the treaty, India is likely to make a similar declaration.]

[That would leave the Supreme Court of India as the only forum competent to rule on the compatibility of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act, 2010 with India's international obligations stemming from its accession to the CSC.]

[The above report is based on reporting in the Hindu of October 28, 2010.]

[Adopted on 12 September 1997, the Convention on Compensation for Nuclear Damage was opened for signature at the IAEA's 41st General Conference at Vienna that same month. The CSC is consistent with

principles set forth in previous international agreements governing nuclear liability, including the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy. It provides a bridge between these two regimes, is open to States that are party to neither of these two regimes, and establishes an international fund to increase the amount available to compensate victims. The CSC also allows for compensating civil damage occurring within a State's exclusive economic zone, including loss of tourism or fisheries related income. It also sets parameters on a nuclear operator's financial liability, time limits governing possible legal action, requires that nuclear operators maintain insurance or other financial security measures and provides for a single competent court to hear claims.

At the present four States have signed and ratified the Convention - Argentina, Morocco, Romania and the United States. India's signing brings a total of 14 States as current signatories to the Convention. The Convention is set to enter into force on the ninetieth day after date of ratification by at least five States who have a minimum of 400,000 units of installed nuclear capacity.]

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECOGNIZING the importance of the measures provided in the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy as well as in national legislation on compensation for nuclear damage consistent with the principles of these Conventions;

DESIROUS of establishing a worldwide liability regime to supplement and enhance these measures with a view to increasing the amount of compensation for nuclear damage;

RECOGNIZING further that such a worldwide liability regime would encourage regional and global co-operation to promote a higher level of nuclear safety in accordance with the principles of international partnership and solidarity;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article I
Definitions**

For the purposes of this Convention:

- a. "Vienna Convention" means the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage of 21 May 1963 and any amendment thereto which is in force for a Contracting Party to this Convention.
- b. "Paris Convention" means the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy of 29 July 1960 and any amendment thereto which is in force for a Contracting Party to this Convention.
- c. "Special Drawing Right", hereinafter referred to as SDR, means the unit of account defined by the International Monetary Fund and used by it for its own operations and transactions.
- d. "Nuclear reactor" means any structure containing nuclear fuel in such an arrangement that a self-sustaining chain process of nuclear fission can occur therein without an additional source of neutrons.
- e. "Installation State", in relation to a nuclear installation, means the Contracting Party within whose territory that installation is situated or, if it is not situated within the territory of any State, the Contracting Party by which or under the authority of which the nuclear installation is operated.
- f. "Nuclear Damage" means:
 - i. loss of life or personal injury;
 - ii. loss of or damage to property;and each of the following to the extent determined by the law of the competent court:
 - iii. economic loss arising from loss or damage referred to in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii), insofar as not included in those sub-paragraphs,

- if incurred by a person entitled to claim in respect of such loss or damage;
- iv. the costs of measures of reinstatement of impaired environment, unless such impairment is insignificant, if such measures are actually taken or to be taken, and insofar as not included in subparagraph (ii);
 - v. loss of income deriving from an economic interest in any use or enjoyment of the environment, incurred as a result of a significant impairment of that environment, and insofar as not included in subparagraph (ii);
 - vi. the costs of preventive measures, and further loss or damage caused by such measures;
 - vii. any other economic loss, other than any caused by the impairment of the environment, if permitted by the general law on civil liability of the competent court, in the case of subparagraphs (i) to (v) and (vii) above, to the extent that the loss or damage arises out of or results from ionizing radiation emitted by any source of radiation inside a nuclear installation, or emitted from nuclear fuel or radioactive products or waste in, or of nuclear material coming from, originating in, or sent to, a nuclear installation, whether so arising from the radioactive properties of such matter, or from a combination of radioactive properties with toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of such matter.
 - g. "Measures of reinstatement" means any reasonable measures which have been approved by the competent authorities of the State where the measures were taken, and which aim to reinstate or restore damaged or destroyed components of the environment, or to introduce, where reasonable, the equivalent of these components into the environment. The law of the State where the damage is suffered shall determine who is entitled to take such measures.
 - h. "Preventive measures" means any reasonable measures taken by any person after a nuclear incident has occurred to prevent or

minimize damage referred to in sub-paragraphs (f)(i) to (v) or (vii), subject to any approval of the competent authorities required by the law of the State where the measures were taken.

- i. "Nuclear incident" means any occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin which causes nuclear damage or, but only with respect to preventive measures, creates a grave and imminent threat of causing such damage.
- j. "Installed nuclear capacity" means for each Contracting Party the total of the number of units given by the formula set out in Article IV.2; and "thermal power" means the maximum thermal power authorized by the competent national authorities.
- k. "Law of the competent court" means the law of the court having jurisdiction under this Convention, including any rules of such law relating to conflict of laws.
- l. "Reasonable measures" means measures which are found under the law of the competent court to be appropriate and proportionate, having regard to all the circumstances, for example:
 - the nature and extent of the damage incurred or, in the case of preventive measures, the nature and extent of the risk of such damage;
 - i. the extent to which, at the time they are taken, such measures are likely to be effective; and
 - ii. relevant scientific and technical expertise.

Article II

Purpose and Application

1. The purpose of this Convention is to supplement the system of compensation provided pursuant to national law which:
 - a. implements one of the instruments referred to in Article I (a) and (b); or

- b. complies with the provisions of the Annex to this Convention.
2. The system of this Convention shall apply to nuclear damage for which an operator of a nuclear installation used for peaceful purposes situated in the territory of a Contracting Party is liable under either one of the Conventions referred to in Article I or national law mentioned in paragraph 1(b) of this Article.
3. The Annex referred to in paragraph 1(b) shall constitute an integral part of this Convention.

**CHAPTER II
COMPENSATION
Article III**

Undertaking

1. Compensation in respect of nuclear damage per nuclear incident shall be ensured by the following means:
 - a. i. the Installation State shall ensure the availability of 300 million SDRs or a greater amount that it may have specified to the Depositary at any time prior to the nuclear incident, or a transitional amount pursuant to sub-paragraph (ii);
 - ii. a Contracting Party may establish for the maximum of 10 years from the date of the opening for signature of this Convention, a transitional amount of at least 150 million SDRs in respect of a nuclear incident occurring within that period.
 - b. beyond the amount made available under sub-paragraph (a), the Contracting Parties shall make available public funds according to the formula specified in Article IV.
2. Compensation for nuclear damage in accordance with paragraph 1(a) shall be distributed equitably without discrimination on the basis of nationality, domicile or residence, provided that the law of the Installation State may, subject to obligations of that State under other conventions on nuclear liability, exclude nuclear damage suffered in a non-Contracting

- a. Compensation for nuclear damage in accordance with paragraph 1(b), shall, subject to Articles V and XI.1(b), be distributed equitably without discrimination on the basis of nationality, domicile or residence.
3. If the nuclear damage to be compensated does not require the total amount under paragraph 1(b), the contributions shall be reduced proportionally.
4. The interest and costs awarded by a court in actions for compensation of nuclear damage are payable in addition to the amounts awarded pursuant to paragraphs 1(a) and (b) and shall be proportionate to the actual contributions made pursuant to paragraphs 1(a) and (b), respectively, by the operator liable, the Contracting Party in whose territory the nuclear installation of that operator is situated, and the Contracting Parties together.

Article IV

Calculation of Contributions

1. The formula for contributions according to which the Contracting Parties shall make available the public funds referred to in Article III.1(b) shall be determined as follows:
 - a.
 - i. the amount which shall be the product of the installed nuclear capacity of that Contracting Party multiplied by 300 SDRs per unit of installed capacity; and
 - ii. the amount determined by applying the ratio between the United Nations rate of assessment for that Contracting Party as assessed for the year preceding the year in which the nuclear incident occurs, and the total of such rates for all Contracting Parties to 10% of the sum of the amounts calculated for all Contracting Parties under sub-paragraph (i).
 - b. Subject to sub-paragraph (c), the contribution of each Contracting Party shall be the sum of the amounts referred to in sub-paragraphs (a)(i) and (ii), provided that States on the minimum United Nations rate of assessment with no nuclear reactors shall not be required to make contributions.

- c. The maximum contribution which may be charged per nuclear incident to any Contracting Party, other than the Installation State, pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) shall not exceed its specified percentage of the total of contributions of all Contracting Parties determined pursuant to sub-paragraph (b). For a particular Contracting Party, the specified percentage shall be its UN rate of assessment expressed as a percentage plus 8 percentage points. If, at the time an incident occurs, the total installed capacity represented by the Parties to this Convention is at or above a level of 625,000 units, this percentage shall be increased by one percentage point. It shall be increased by one additional percentage point for each increment of 75,000 units by which the capacity exceeds 625,000 units.
2. The formula is for each nuclear reactor situated in the territory of the Contracting Party, 1 unit for each MW of thermal power. The formula shall be calculated on the basis of the thermal power of the nuclear reactors shown at the date of the nuclear incident in the list established and kept up to date in accordance with Article VIII.
3. For the purpose of calculating the contributions, a nuclear reactor shall be taken into account from that date when nuclear fuel elements have been first loaded into the nuclear reactor. A nuclear reactor shall be excluded from the calculation when all fuel elements have been removed permanently from the reactor core and have been stored safely in accordance with approved procedures.

Article V

Geographical Scope

1. The funds provided for under Article III.1(b) shall apply to nuclear damage which is suffered:
 - a. in the territory of a Contracting Party; or
 - b. in or above maritime areas beyond the territorial sea of a Contracting Party:
 - i. on board or by a ship flying the flag of a Contracting Party, or on

- board or by an aircraft registered in the territory of a Contracting Party, or on or by an artificial island, installation or structure under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party; or
- ii. by a national of a Contracting Party; excluding damage suffered in or above the territorial sea of a State not Party to this Convention; or
 - c. in or above the exclusive economic zone of a Contracting Party or on the continental shelf of a Contracting Party in connection with the exploitation or the exploration of the natural resources of that exclusive economic zone or continental shelf; provided that the courts of a Contracting Party have jurisdiction pursuant to Article XIII.
2. Any signatory or acceding State may, at the time of signature of or accession to this Convention or on the deposit of its instrument of ratification, declare that for the purposes of the application of paragraph 1(b)(ii), individuals or certain categories thereof, considered under its law as having their habitual residence in its territory, are assimilated to its own nationals.
3. In this article, the expression "a national of a Contracting Party" shall include a Contracting Party or any of its constituent sub-divisions, or a partnership, or any public or private body whether corporate or not established in the territory of a Contracting Party.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

Article VI

Notification of Nuclear Damage

Without prejudice to obligations which Contracting Parties may have under other international agreements, the Contracting Party whose courts have jurisdiction shall inform the other Contracting Parties of a nuclear incident as soon as it appears that the damage caused by such incident exceeds, or is likely to exceed, the amount available under Article III.1(a) and that contributions under Article III.1(b) may be required. The Contracting Parties shall without delay make all the necessary arrangements to settle the procedure for their relations in this connection.

Article VII

Call for Funds

1. Following the notification referred to in Article VI, and subject to Article X.3, the Contracting Party whose courts have jurisdiction shall request the other Contracting Parties to make available the public funds required under Article III.1(b) to the extent and when they are actually required and shall have exclusive competence to disburse such funds.
2. Independently of existing or future regulations concerning currency or transfers, Contracting Parties shall authorize the transfer and payment of any contribution provided pursuant to Article III.1(b) without any restriction.

Article VIII

List of Nuclear Installations

1. Each Contracting State shall, at the time when it deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, communicate to the Depositary a complete listing of all nuclear installations referred to in Article IV.3. The listing shall contain the necessary particulars for the purpose of the calculation of contributions.
2. Each Contracting State shall promptly communicate to the Depositary all modifications to be made to the list. Where such modifications include the addition of a nuclear installation, the communication must be made at least three months before the expected date when nuclear material will be introduced into the installation.
3. If a Contracting Party is of the opinion that the particulars, or any modification to be made to the list communicated by a Contracting State pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2, do not comply with the provisions, it may raise objections thereto by addressing them to the Depositary within three months from the date on which it has received notice pursuant to paragraph 5. The Depositary shall forthwith communicate this objection to the State to whose information the objection has been raised. Any unresolved differences shall be dealt with in accordance with the dispute settlement procedure laid down in Article XVI.

4. The Depositary shall maintain, update and annually circulate to all Contracting States the list of nuclear installations established in accordance with this Article. Such list shall consist of all the particulars and modifications referred to in this Article, it being understood that objections submitted under this Article shall have effect retrospective to the date on which they were raised, if they are sustained.
5. The Depositary shall give notice as soon as possible to each Contracting Party of the communications and objections which it has received pursuant to this Article.

Article IX

Rights of Recourse

1. Each Contracting Party shall enact legislation in order to enable both the Contracting Party in whose territory the nuclear installation of the operator liable is situated and the other Contracting Parties who have paid contributions referred to in Article III.1(b), to benefit from the operator's right of recourse to the extent that he has such a right under either one of the Conventions referred to in Article I or national legislation mentioned in Article II.1(b) and to the extent that contributions have been made by any of the Contracting Parties.
2. The legislation of the Contracting Party in whose territory the nuclear installation of the operator liable is situated may provide for the recovery of public funds made available under this Convention from such operator if the damage results from fault on his part.
3. The Contracting Party whose courts have jurisdiction may exercise the rights of recourse provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 on behalf of the other Contracting Parties which have contributed.

Article X

Disbursements, Proceedings

1. The system of disbursements by which the funds required under Article III.1 are to be made available and the system of apportionment thereof shall be that of the Contracting Party whose courts have jurisdiction.
2. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that persons suffering damage

may enforce their rights to compensation without having to bring separate proceedings according to the origin of the funds provided for such compensation and that Contracting Parties may intervene in the proceedings against the operator liable.

3. No Contracting Party shall be required to make available the public funds referred to in Article III.1(b) if claims for compensation can be satisfied out of the funds referred to in Article III.1(a).

Article XI

Allocation of Funds

The funds provided under Article III.1(b) shall be distributed as follows:

1. a. 50% of the funds shall be available to compensate claims for nuclear damage suffered in or outside the Installation State;
- b. 50% of the funds shall be available to compensate claims for nuclear damage suffered outside the territory of the Installation State to the extent that such claims are uncompensated under sub-paragraph (a).
- c. In the event the amount provided pursuant to Article III.1(a) is less than 300 million SDRs:
 - i. the amount in paragraph 1(a) shall be reduced by the same percentage as the percentage by which the amount provided pursuant to Article III.1(a) is less than 300 million SDRs; and
 - ii. the amount in paragraph 1(b) shall be increased by the amount of the reduction calculated pursuant to sub-paragraph (i).
2. If a Contracting Party, in accordance with Article III.1(a), has ensured the availability without discrimination of an amount not less than 600 million SDRs, which has been specified to the Depositary prior to the nuclear incident, all funds referred to in Article III.1(a) and (b) shall, notwithstanding paragraph 1, be made available to compensate nuclear damage suffered in and outside the Installation State.

CHAPTER IV

EXERCISE OF OPTIONS

Article XII

1. Except insofar as this Convention otherwise provides, each Contracting Party may exercise the powers vested in it by virtue of the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention, and any provisions made thereunder may be invoked against the other Contracting Parties in order that the public funds referred to in Article III.1(b) be made available.
2. Nothing in this Convention shall prevent any Contracting Party from making provisions outside the scope of the Vienna or the Paris Convention and of this Convention, provided that such provision shall not involve any further obligation on the part of the other Contracting Parties, and provided that damage in a Contracting Party having no nuclear installations within its territory shall not be excluded from such further compensation on any grounds of lack of reciprocity.
3.
 - a. Nothing in this Convention shall prevent Contracting Parties from entering into regional or other agreements with the purpose of implementing their obligations under Article III.1(a) or providing additional funds for the compensation of nuclear damage, provided that this shall not involve any further obligation under this Convention for the other Contracting Parties.
 - b. A Contracting Party intending to enter into any such agreement shall notify all other Contracting Parties of its intention. Agreements concluded shall be notified to the Depositary.

CHAPTER V JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

Article XIII Jurisdiction

1. Except as otherwise provided in this article, jurisdiction over actions concerning nuclear damage from a nuclear incident shall lie only with the courts of the Contracting Party within which the nuclear incident occurs.
2. Where a nuclear incident occurs within the area of the exclusive

economic zone of a Contracting Party or, if such a zone has not been established, in an area not exceeding the limits of an exclusive economic zone, were one to be established by that Party, jurisdiction over actions concerning nuclear damage from that nuclear incident shall, for the purposes of this Convention, lie only with the courts of that Party. The preceding sentence shall apply if that Contracting Party has notified the Depositary of such area prior to the nuclear incident. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted as permitting the exercise of jurisdiction in a manner which is contrary to the international law of the sea, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, if the exercise of such jurisdiction is inconsistent with the obligations of that Party under Article XI of the Vienna Convention or Article 13 of the Paris Convention in relation to a State not Party to this Convention jurisdiction shall be determined according to those provisions.

3. Where a nuclear incident does not occur within the territory of any Contracting Party or within an area notified pursuant to paragraph 2, or where the place of a nuclear incident cannot be determined with certainty, jurisdiction over actions concerning nuclear damage from the nuclear incident shall lie only with the courts of the Installation State.

4. Where jurisdiction over actions concerning nuclear damage would lie with the courts of more than one Contracting Party, these Contracting Parties shall determine by agreement which Contracting Party's courts shall have jurisdiction.

5. A judgment that is no longer subject to ordinary forms of review entered by a court of a Contracting Party having jurisdiction shall be recognized except:

- a. where the judgment was obtained by fraud;
- b. where the party against whom the judgment was pronounced was not given a fair opportunity to present his case; or
- c. where the judgment is contrary to the public policy of the Contracting Party within the territory of which recognition is sought, or is not in accord with fundamental standards of justice.

6. A judgment which is recognized under paragraph 5 shall, upon being presented for enforcement in accordance with the formalities required by the law of the Contracting Party where enforcement is sought, be

enforceable as if it were a judgment of a court of that Contracting Party. The merits of a claim on which the judgment has been given shall not be subject to further proceedings.

7. Settlements effected in respect of the payment of compensation out of the public funds referred to in Article III.1(b) in accordance with the conditions established by national legislation shall be recognized by the other Contracting Parties.

Article XIV Applicable Law

1. Either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention or the Annex to this Convention, as appropriate, shall apply to a nuclear incident to the exclusion of the others.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Convention, the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention, as appropriate, the applicable law shall be the law of the competent court.

Article XV Public International Law

This Convention shall not affect the rights and obligations of a Contracting Party under the general rules of public international law.

CHAPTER VI DISPUTE SETTLEMENT Article XVI

1. In the event of a dispute between Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the parties to the dispute shall consult with a view to the settlement of the dispute by negotiation or by any other peaceful means of settling disputes acceptable to them.
2. If a dispute of this character referred to in paragraph 1 cannot be settled within six months from the request for consultation pursuant to paragraph 1, it shall, at the request of any party to such dispute, be submitted to arbitration or referred to the International Court of Justice for decision. Where a dispute is submitted to arbitration, if, within six months

from the date of the request, the parties to the dispute are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, a party may request the President of the International Court of Justice or the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint one or more arbitrators. In cases of conflicting requests by the parties to the dispute, the request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall have priority.

3. When ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, a State may declare that it does not consider itself bound by either or both of the dispute settlement procedures provided for in paragraph 2. The other Contracting Parties shall not be bound by a dispute settlement procedure provided for in paragraph 2 with respect to a Contracting Party for which such a declaration is in force.

4. A Contracting Party which has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 3 may at any time withdraw it by notification to the Depositary.

CHAPTER VII
FINAL CLAUSES
Article XVII

Signature

This Convention shall be open for signature, by all States at the Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 29 September 1997 until its entry into force.

Article XVIII

Ratification, Acceptance, Approval

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory States. An instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be accepted only from a State which is a Party to either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention, or a State which declares that its national law complies with the provisions of the Annex to this Convention, provided that, in the case of a State having on its territory a nuclear installation as defined in the Convention on Nuclear Safety of 17 June 1994, it is a Contracting State to that Convention.

2. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency who shall act as the Depositary of this Convention.

3. A Contracting Party shall provide the Depositary with a copy, in one of the official languages of the United Nations, of the provisions of its national law referred to in Article II.1 and amendments thereto, including any specification made pursuant to Article III.1(a), Article XI.2, or a transitional amount pursuant to Article III.1(a)(ii). Copies of such provisions shall be circulated by the Depositary to all other Contracting Parties.

Article XIX Accession

1. After its entry into force, any State which has not signed this Convention may accede to it. An instrument of accession shall be accepted only from a State which is a Party to either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention, or a State which declares that its national law complies with the provisions of the Annex to this Convention, provided that, in the case of a State having on its territory a nuclear installation as defined in the Convention on Nuclear Safety of 17 June 1994, it is a Contracting State to that Convention.

2. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

3. A Contracting Party shall provide the Depositary with a copy, in one of the official languages of the United Nations, of the provisions of its national law referred to in Article II.1 and amendments thereto, including any specification made pursuant to Article III.1(a), Article XI.2, or a transitional amount pursuant to Article III.1(a)(ii). Copies of such provisions shall be circulated by the Depositary to all other Contracting Parties.

Article XX Entry Into Force

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date on which at least 5 States with a minimum of 400,000 units of installed nuclear capacity have deposited an instrument referred to in Article XVIII.

2. For each State which subsequently ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to this Convention, it shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of the appropriate instrument.

**Article XXI
Denunciation**

1. Any Contracting Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Depositary.
2. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date on which the notification is received by the Depositary.

**Article XXII
Cessation**

1. Any Contracting Party which ceases to be a Party to either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention shall notify the Depositary thereof and of the date of such cessation. On that date such Contracting Party shall have ceased to be a Party to this Convention unless its national law complies with the provisions of the Annex to this Convention and it has so notified the Depositary and provided it with a copy of the provisions of its national law in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Such copy shall be circulated by the Depositary to all other Contracting Parties.
2. Any Contracting Party whose national law ceases to comply with the provisions of the Annex to this Convention and which is not a Party to either the Vienna Convention or the Paris Convention shall notify the Depositary thereof and of the date of such cessation. On that date such Contracting Party shall have ceased to be a Party to this Convention.
3. Any Contracting Party having on its territory a nuclear installation as defined in the Convention on Nuclear Safety which ceases to be Party to that Convention shall notify the depositary thereof and of the date of such cessation. On that date, such Contracting Party shall, notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, have ceased to be a Party to the present Convention.

**Article XXIII
Continuance of Prior Rights and Obligations**

Notwithstanding denunciation pursuant to Article XXI or cessation pursuant to Article XXII, the provisions of this Convention shall continue to apply to

any nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident which occurs before such denunciation or cessation.

Article XXIV
Revision and Amendments

1. The Depositary, after consultations with the Contracting Parties, may convene a conference for the purpose of revising or amending this Convention.
2. The Depositary shall convene a conference of Contracting Parties for the purpose of revising or amending this Convention at the request of not less than one-third of all Contracting Parties.

Article XXV
Amendment by Simplified Procedure

1. A meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be convened by the Depositary to amend the compensation amounts referred to in Article III.1(a) and (b) or categories of installations including contributions payable for them, referred to in Article IV.3, if one-third of the Contracting Parties express a desire to that effect.
2. Decisions to adopt a proposed amendment shall be taken by vote. Amendments shall be adopted if no negative vote is cast.
3. Any amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be notified by the Depositary to all Contracting Parties. The amendment shall be considered accepted if within a period of 36 months after it has been notified, all Contracting Parties at the time of the adoption of the amendment have communicated their acceptance to the Depositary. The amendment shall enter into force for all Contracting Parties 12 months after its acceptance.
4. If, within a period of 36 months from the date of notification for acceptance the amendment has not been accepted in accordance with paragraph 3, the amendment shall be considered rejected.
5. When an amendment has been adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 but the 36 months period for its acceptance has not yet expired, a State which becomes a Party to this Convention during that period shall be bound by the amendment if it comes into force. A State which becomes a Party to this Convention after that period shall be bound by any

amendment which has been accepted in accordance with paragraph 3. In the cases referred to in the present paragraph, a Contracting Party shall be bound by an amendment when that amendment enters into force, or when this Convention enters into force for that Contracting Party, whichever date is the later.

Article XXVI

Functions of the Depositary

In addition to functions in other Articles of this Convention, the Depositary shall promptly notify Contracting Parties and all other States as well as the Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development of:

- a. each signature of this Convention;
- b. each deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession concerning this Convention;
- c. the entry into force of this Convention;
- d. declarations received pursuant to Article XVI;
- e. any denunciation received pursuant to Article XXI, or notification received pursuant to Article XXII;
- f. any notification under paragraph 2 of Article XIII;
- g. other pertinent notifications relating to this Convention.

Article XXVII

Authentic Texts

The original of this Convention, of which Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency who shall send certified copies thereof to all States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY AUTHORIZED THERETO, HAVE SIGNED THIS CONVENTION.

Done at Vienna, this twelfth day of September, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven.

ANNEX

A Contracting Party which is not a Party to any of the Conventions mentioned in Article I(a) or (b) of this Convention shall ensure that its national legislation is consistent with the provisions laid down in this Annex insofar as those provisions are not directly applicable within that Contracting Party. A Contracting Party having no nuclear installation on its territory is required to have only that legislation which is necessary to enable such a Party to give effect to its obligations under this Convention.

Article 1 Definitions

1. In addition to the definitions in Article I of this Convention, the following definitions apply for the purposes of this Annex:
 - a. "Nuclear Fuel" means any material which is capable of producing energy by a self-sustaining chain process of nuclear fission.
 - b. "Nuclear Installation" means:
 - i. any nuclear reactor other than one with which a means of sea or air transport is equipped for use as a source of power, whether for propulsion thereof or for any other purpose;
 - ii. any factory using nuclear fuel for the production of nuclear material, or any factory for the processing of nuclear material, including any factory for the re-processing of irradiated nuclear fuel; and
 - iii. any facility where nuclear material is stored, other than storage incidental to the carriage of such material; provided that the Installation State may determine that several nuclear installations of one operator which are located at the same site shall be considered as a single nuclear installation.
 - c. "Nuclear material" means:

nuclear fuel, other than natural uranium and depleted uranium, capable of producing energy by a self-sustaining chain process of

nuclear fission outside a nuclear reactor, either alone or in combination with some other material; and

- i. radioactive products or waste.
- d. "Operator", in relation to a nuclear installation, means the person designated or recognized by the Installation State as the operator of that installation.
- e. "Radioactive products or waste" means any radioactive material produced in, or any material made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incidental to, the production or utilization of nuclear fuel, but does not include radioisotopes which have reached the final stage of fabrication so as to be usable for any scientific, medical, agricultural, commercial or industrial purpose.

2. An Installation State may, if the small extent of the risks involved so warrants, exclude any nuclear installation or small quantities of nuclear material from the application of this Convention, provided that:

with respect to nuclear installations, criteria for such exclusion have been established by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and any exclusion by an Installation State satisfies such criteria; and

- a. with respect to small quantities of nuclear material, maximum limits for the exclusion of such quantities have been established by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and any exclusion by an Installation State is within such established limits.

The criteria for the exclusion of nuclear installations and the maximum limits for the exclusion of small quantities of nuclear material shall be reviewed periodically by the Board of Governors.

Article 2

Conformity of Legislation

1. The national law of a Contracting Party is deemed to be in conformity with the provisions of Articles 3, 4, 5 and 7 if it contained on 1 January 1995 and continues to contain provisions that:

- a. provide for strict liability in the event of a nuclear incident where there is substantial nuclear damage off the site of the nuclear installation where the incident occurs;
 - b. require the indemnification of any person other than the operator liable for nuclear damage to the extent that person is legally liable to provide compensation; and
 - c. ensure the availability of at least 1000 million SDRs in respect of a civil nuclear power plant and at least 300 million SDRs in respect of other civil nuclear installations for such indemnification.
2. If in accordance with paragraph 1, the national law of a Contracting Party is deemed to be in conformity with the provision of Articles 3, 4, 5 and 7, then that Party:
- . may apply a definition of nuclear damage that covers loss or damage set forth in Article I(f) of this Convention and any other loss or damage to the extent that the loss or damage arises out of or results from the radioactive properties, or a combination of radioactive properties with toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of nuclear fuel or radioactive products or waste in, or of nuclear material coming from, originating in, or sent to, a nuclear installation; or other ionizing radiation emitted by any source of radiation inside a nuclear installation, provided that such application does not affect the undertaking by that Contracting Party pursuant to Article III of this Convention; and
 - a. may apply the definition of nuclear installation in paragraph 3 of this Article to the exclusion of the definition in Article 1.1(b) of this Annex.
3. For the purpose of paragraph 2 (b) of this Article, "nuclear installation" means:
- any civil nuclear reactor other than one with which a means of sea or air transport is equipped for use as a source of power, whether for propulsion thereof or any other purpose; and
 - a. any civil facility for processing, reprocessing or storing:
 - i. irradiated nuclear fuel; or
 - ii. radioactive products or waste that:

1. result from the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel and contain significant amounts of fission products; or
2. contain elements that have an atomic number greater than 92 in concentrations greater than 10 nano-curies per gram.
- b. any other civil facility for processing, reprocessing or storing nuclear material unless the Contracting Party determines the small extent of the risks involved with such an installation warrants the exclusion of such a facility from this definition.
4. Where that national law of a Contracting Party which is in compliance with paragraph 1 of this Article does not apply to a nuclear incident which occurs outside the territory of that Contracting Party, but over which the courts of that Contracting Party have jurisdiction pursuant to Article XIII of this Convention, Articles 3 to 11 of the Annex shall apply and prevail over any inconsistent provisions of the applicable national law.

Article 3 Operator Liability

1. The operator of a nuclear installation shall be liable for nuclear damage upon proof that such damage has been caused by a nuclear incident:
 - a. in that nuclear installation; or
 - b. involving nuclear material coming from or originating in that nuclear installation, and occurring:
 - i. before liability with regard to nuclear incidents involving the nuclear material has been assumed, pursuant to the express terms of a contract in writing, by the operator of another nuclear installation;
 - ii. in the absence of such express terms, before the operator of another nuclear installation has taken charge of the nuclear material; or
 - iii. where the nuclear material is intended to be used in a nuclear reactor with which a means of transport is equipped for use as a source of power, whether for propulsion thereof or for any other

purpose, before the person duly authorized to operate such reactor has taken charge of the nuclear material; but

iv. where the nuclear material has been sent to a person within the territory of a non-Contracting State, before it has been unloaded from the means of transport by which it has arrived in the territory of that non-Contracting State;

- c. involving nuclear material sent to that nuclear installation, and occurring:

after liability with regard to nuclear incidents involving the nuclear material has been assumed by the operator pursuant to the express terms of a contract in writing, from the operator of another nuclear installation;

- i. in the absence of such express terms, after the operator has taken charge of the nuclear material; or
- ii. after the operator has taken charge of the nuclear material from a person operating a nuclear reactor with which a means of transport is equipped for use as a source of power, whether for propulsion thereof or for any other purpose; but
- iii. where the nuclear material has, with the written consent of the operator, been sent from a person within the territory of a non-Contracting State, only after it has been loaded on the means of transport by which it is to be carried from the territory of that State; provided that, if nuclear damage is caused by a nuclear incident occurring in a nuclear installation and involving nuclear material stored therein incidentally to the carriage of such material, the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) shall not apply where another operator or person is solely liable pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) or (c).

2. The Installation State may provide by legislation that, in accordance with such terms as may be specified in that legislation, a carrier of nuclear material or a person handling radioactive waste may, at such carrier or such person's request and with the consent of the operator concerned, be designated or recognized as operator in the place of that operator in respect of such nuclear material or radioactive waste respectively. In this case

such carrier or such person shall be considered, for all the purposes of this Convention, as an operator of a nuclear installation situated within the territory of that State.

3. The liability of the operator for nuclear damage shall be absolute.
4. Whenever both nuclear damage and damage other than nuclear damage have been caused by a nuclear incident or jointly by a nuclear incident and one or more other occurrences, such other damage shall, to the extent that it is not reasonably separable from the nuclear damage, be deemed to be nuclear damage caused by that nuclear incident. Where, however, damage is caused jointly by a nuclear incident covered by the provisions of this Annex and by an emission of ionizing radiation not covered by it, nothing in this Annex shall limit or otherwise affect the liability, either as regards any person suffering nuclear damage or by way of recourse or contribution, of any person who may be held liable in connection with that emission of ionizing radiation.
5. No liability shall attach to an operator for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident directly due to an act of armed conflict, hostilities, civil war or insurrection.
 - a. Except insofar as the law of the Installation State may provide to the contrary, the operator shall not be liable for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident caused directly due to a grave natural disaster of an exceptional character.
6. National law may relieve an operator wholly or partly from the obligation to pay compensation for nuclear damage suffered by a person if the operator proves the nuclear damage resulted wholly or partly from the gross negligence of that person or an act or omission of that person done with the intent to cause damage.
7. The operator shall not be liable for nuclear damage:
 - to the nuclear installation itself and any other nuclear installation, including a nuclear installation under construction, on the site where that installation is located; and
 - a. to any property on that same site which is used or to be used in connection with any such installation;

- b. unless otherwise provided by national law, to the means of transport upon which the nuclear material involved was at the time of the nuclear incident. If national law provides that the operator is liable for such damage, compensation for that damage shall not have the effect of reducing the liability of the operator in respect of other damage to an amount less than either 150 million SDRs, or any higher amount established by the legislation of a Contracting Party.
8. Nothing in this Convention shall affect the liability outside this Convention of the operator for nuclear damage for which by virtue of paragraph 7(c) he is not liable under this Convention.
9. The right to compensation for nuclear damage may be exercised only against the operator liable, provided that national law may permit a direct right of action against any supplier of funds that are made available pursuant to provisions in national law to ensure compensation through the use of funds from sources other than the operator.
10. The operator shall incur no liability for damage caused by a nuclear incident outside the provisions of national law in accordance with this Convention.

Article 4 **Liability Amounts**

1. Subject to Article III.1(a)(ii), the liability of the operator may be limited by the Installation State for any one nuclear incident, either:
- a. to not less than 300 million SDRs; or
 - b. to not less than 150 million SDRs provided that in excess of that amount and up to at least 300 million SDRs public funds shall be made available by that State to compensate nuclear damage.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the Installation State, having regard to the nature of the nuclear installation or the nuclear substances involved and to the likely consequences of an incident originating therefrom, may establish a lower amount of liability of the operator, provided that in no event shall any amount so established be less than 5 million SDRs, and provided that the Installation State ensures that public funds shall be made available up to the amount established pursuant to paragraph 1.

3. The amounts established by the Installation State of the liable operator in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2, as well as the provisions of any legislation of a Contracting Party pursuant to Article 3.7(c) shall apply wherever the nuclear incident occurs.

Article 5

Financial Security

1. a. The operator shall be required to have and maintain insurance or other financial security covering his liability for nuclear damage in such amount, of such type and in such terms as the Installation State shall specify. The Installation State shall ensure the payment of claims for compensation for nuclear damage which have been established against the operator by providing the necessary funds to the extent that the yield of insurance or other financial security is inadequate to satisfy such claims, but not in excess of the limit, if any, established pursuant to Article 4. Where the liability of the operator is unlimited, the Installation State may establish a limit of the financial security of the operator liable provided that such limit is not lower than 300 million SDRs. The Installation State shall ensure the payment of claims for compensation for nuclear damage which have been established against the operator to the extent that yield of the financial security is inadequate to satisfy such claims, but not in excess of the amount of the financial security to be provided under this paragraph.
- b. Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (a), the Installation State, having regard to the nature of the nuclear installation or the nuclear substances involved and to the likely consequences of an incident originating therefrom, may establish a lower amount of financial security of the operator, provided that in no event shall any amount so established be less than 5 million SDRs, and provided that the Installation State ensures the payment of claims for compensation for nuclear damage which have been established against the operator by providing necessary funds to the extent that the yield of insurance or other financial security is inadequate to satisfy such claims, and up to the limit provided in sub-paragraph (a).

2. Nothing in paragraph 1 shall require a Contracting Party or any of its constituent sub-divisions to maintain insurance or other financial security to cover their liability as operators.
3. The funds provided by insurance, by other financial security or by the Installation State pursuant to paragraph 1 or Article 4.1(b) shall be exclusively available for compensation due under this Annex.
4. No insurer or other financial guarantor shall suspend or cancel the insurance or other financial security provided pursuant to paragraph 1 without giving notice in writing of at least two months to the competent public authority or, in so far as such insurance or other financial security relates to the carriage of nuclear material, during the period of the carriage in question.

Article 6 Carriage

1. With respect to a nuclear incident during carriage, the maximum amount of liability of the operator shall be governed by the national law of the Installation State.
2. A Contracting Party may subject carriage of nuclear material through its territory to the condition that the amount of liability of the operator be increased to an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of liability of the operator of a nuclear installation situated in its territory.
3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not apply to:
 - a. carriage by sea where, under international law, there is a right of entry in cases of urgent distress into ports of a Contracting Party or a right of innocent passage through its territory;
 - b. carriage by air where, by agreement or under international law, there is a right to fly over or land on the territory of a Contracting Party.

Article 7 Liability of More Than One Operator

1. Where nuclear damage engages the liability of more than one operator, the operators involved shall, in so far as the damage attributable to each operator is not reasonably separable, be jointly and severally liable. The Installation State may limit the amount of public funds made available per incident to the difference, if any, between the amounts hereby established and the amount established pursuant to Article 4.1.

2. Where a nuclear incident occurs in the course of carriage of nuclear material, either in one and the same means of transport, or, in the case of storage incidental to the carriage, in one and the same nuclear installation, and causes nuclear damage which engages the liability of more than one operator, the total liability shall not exceed the highest amount applicable with respect to any one of them pursuant to Article 4.

3. In neither of the cases referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall the liability of any one operator exceed the amount applicable with respect to him pursuant to Article 4.

4. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 3, where several nuclear installations of one and the same operator are involved in one nuclear incident, such operator shall be liable in respect of each nuclear installation involved up to the amount applicable with respect to him pursuant to Article 4. The Installation State may limit the amount of public funds made available as provided for in paragraph 1.

Article 8 Compensation Under National Law

1. For purposes of this Convention, the amount of compensation shall be determined without regard to any interest or costs awarded in a proceeding for compensation of nuclear damage.

2. Compensation for damage suffered outside the Installation State shall be provided in a form freely transferable among Contracting Parties.

3. Where provisions of national or public health insurance, social insurance, social security, workmen's compensation or occupational disease compensation systems include compensation for nuclear damage, rights of beneficiaries of such systems and rights of recourse by virtue of such systems shall be determined by the national law of the Contracting Party in which such systems have been established or by the regulations of the intergovernmental organization which has established such systems.

Article 9 Period of Extinction

1. Rights of compensation under this Convention shall be extinguished if an action is not brought within ten years from the date of the nuclear incident. If, however, under the law of the Installation State the liability of the operator is covered by insurance or other financial security or by State funds for a period

longer than ten years, the law of the competent court may provide that rights of compensation against the operator shall only be extinguished after a period which may be longer than ten years, but shall not be longer than the period for which his liability is so covered under the law of the Installation State.

2. Where nuclear damage is caused by a nuclear incident involving nuclear material which at the time of the nuclear incident was stolen, lost, jettisoned or abandoned, the period established pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be computed from the date of that nuclear incident, but the period shall in no case, subject to legislation pursuant to paragraph 1, exceed a period of twenty years from the date of the theft, loss, jettison or abandonment.

3. The law of the competent court may establish a period of extinction or prescription of not less than three years from the date on which the person suffering nuclear damage had knowledge or should have had knowledge of the damage and of the operator liable for the damage, provided that the period established pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be exceeded.

4. If the national law of a Contracting Party provides for a period of extinction or prescription greater than ten years from the date of a nuclear incident, it shall contain provisions for the equitable and timely satisfaction of claims for loss of life or personal injury filed within ten years from the date of the nuclear incident.

Article 10 Right of Recourse

National law may provide that the operator shall have a right of recourse only:

- a. if this is expressly provided for by a contract in writing; or
- b. if the nuclear incident results from an act or omission done with intent to cause damage, against the individual who has acted or omitted to act with such intent.

Article 11 Applicable Law

Subject to the provisions of this Convention, the nature, form, extent and equitable distribution of compensation for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident shall be governed by the law of the competent court.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - IV

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

ASEAN**066. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Delhi Dialogue-II.****New Delhi, January 21, 2010.**

Mr. Harsh Pati Singhanian, President, FICCI,

Ms. Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), MEA,

Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies,

Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI,

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to share my thoughts at the second edition of the Delhi Dialogue. I see that several well known experts, senior business and industry representatives, from India and ASEAN are participating in this Dialogue on the theme of 'India and South East Asia in the Changing Regional Economic Dynamics of Asia: Shared Interests and Concerns'. I welcome His Excellency Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Laos, and others who have travelled to Delhi to participate in this Dialogue.

2. India since the early 1990's has been closely pursuing closer relations with South East Asia and the Pacific region as envisioned in our 'Look East Policy'. It is our belief that expanding our dialogue and cooperation would greatly contribute to our common endeavour for inclusive socio-economic development of our peoples.

3. As a part of our Look East policy, we have evolved a multifaceted partnership with ASEAN in recent years. The India-ASEAN partnership saw a remarkable transformation from a sectoral dialogue partnership to a Summit-level interaction within the short span of a decade, with the first Summit level interaction in 2002. We would be privileged to be able to host the India - ASEAN Summit in 2012 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of our Summit level dialogue with ASEAN.

4. We have diversified and strengthened our relations with the ASEAN countries and stepped up our bilateral relations to the strategic level with

some countries of the region. Regular exchanges of high level bilateral visits and close interaction at regional and multilateral fora characterise our growing engagement. Today's Delhi Dialogue is being held, even as a State visit by the Prime Minister of Malaysia to India is underway. India and ASEAN have also been engaged in developing a broader regional architecture in the Asia- Pacific region. The ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit provide useful opportunities for productive interaction. We see ASEAN as a key element of an Asian economic community architecture that would help bring peace and prosperity to our region.

5. India-ASEAN cooperation is varied and functional. It includes cooperation in sectors such as Trade and Investment, Science & Technology, Human Resource Development, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Space Sciences, Agriculture, Information and Communication Technology, Transport and Infrastructure, Tourism, Culture, and Small and Medium enterprises.

6. India ASEAN trade has grown rapidly in recent years. The India - ASEAN Trade - in - Goods Agreement under a Free Trade Agreement, which came into force on 1 January 2010, has opened new possibilities for the expansion of our trade with the region. We hope that agreements on Trade-in-Services and Investment would also be concluded as soon as possible. In addition to the India-ASEAN FTA, with several countries of the region, bilateral FTAs and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) have been concluded or are being negotiated. With several ASEAN countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, our bilateral trade turnover has crossed US\$ 10 bn. each.

7. People -to- people contacts and cultural and academic exchanges between India and the countries of the region have continued to grow. The revival of the Nalanda University as an international institution of excellence has emerged as an important initiative that underlines our ancient linkages.

8. We strongly believe in sharing our developmental experiences with our fellow developing countries. We have been happy to participate in development cooperation programmes with ASEAN countries, and in the "Initiative for ASEAN Integration' Programme. We have given particular emphasis to human resource development through training, scholarships, establishment of entrepreneurship development centres and language

training centres. The ASEAN - India S&T Fund, which has been operationalised, would promote joint collaborative research projects in Science and technology. The proposed India - ASEAN Green Fund, with a corpus of US\$ 5 million, would promote adaptation and mitigation technologies in the area of climate change.

9. At the 7th India - ASEAN Summit, our Prime minister had announced several initiatives to further strengthen the links between India and ASEAN, including establishment of an India-ASEAN Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives that would provide policy inputs to the governments of India and the ASEAN countries on future areas of cooperation; intensification of negotiations on an open skies policy; further simplification of the visa regime to encourage business and tourist travel; more youth exchange programmes; enhanced cooperation in the agriculture sector to meet the challenges of food security; cooperation in the application of space technologies; holding an ASEAN trade and industrial exhibition in India; among others. As announced by Prime Minister, we are ready to allocate upto US \$ 50 million to support these initiatives. We would continue to explore ways to further enhance our cooperation and benefit from our complementarities.

10. In the wake of the recent global financial and economic crisis, which was not of our making, it is imperative to develop greater cooperation among developing countries, so that we have an effective voice in the international financial architecture and a new global economic order.

11. Energy Security is an issue of great importance for the development, progress and well-being of our peoples. A regional approach on energy matters can accommodate competing demands and constraints while shifting the focus from competition to cooperation based on mutual interests. We look forward to continued engagement with ASEAN countries and our partners in the East Asia Summit on this issue.

12. The Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is serving as an important platform for sharing of policy-related research and other experiences. The Government of India has always been supportive of the efforts made by ERIA. I am happy to know that the Executive director of ERIA is participating in this Dialogue.

13. I take this opportunity to thank and commend the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for organising this event and hope that the Delhi Dialogue would see fruitful interaction that would contribute to the strengthening of our relationship with South East Asia.

14. I inaugurate this Delhi Dialogue with a sense of satisfaction, and also with a sense of expectation.

Thank you



067. Press Releases issued by the Embassy of India in Vietnam on the visit of Minister of State Shrimati Preet Kaur to Hanoi for the 17th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial meeting.

Hanoi, July 23, 2010.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preet Kaur (MOS (PK)) led the Indian delegation to the 17th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial meeting held in Hanoi today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers and officials from all 27 ARF members.

The ARF Ministers discussed regional and international security issues. They reaffirmed the importance of ARF in the emerging regional architecture and supported ASEAN's role as the driving force in the ARF process. A highlight of the meeting was the adoption of the "Hanoi Plan of Action" for the implementation of ARF Vision Statement for 2020. The Vision Statement was adopted by the 2009 ARF Ministerial.

Canada and Turkey (not an ARF member) acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia. The Third Protocol to amend the TAC was signed to enable EU's accession to the Treaty as a regional organization. MOS (PK) signed the Protocol from the Indian side.

In her interventions at the meeting, MOS (PK) said that ARF has provided a useful platform for interaction and cooperation to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges. She called on ARF members to reaffirm

their resolve to decisively act against terrorism. She emphasized the importance of the early adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. MOS (PK) underlined India's commitment to a stable and peaceful Afghanistan as evidenced by India's developmental and humanitarian assistance of more than \$1.3 billion to Afghanistan.

The ARF is a premier forum for dialogue, cooperation and confidence building on politico-security issues in the Asia-Pacific. India became a member of the ARF in 1996. India's participation in the Forum underscores our contribution to Asian security. India has organized several activities for ARF members. During the inter-sessional period 2009-10, India, alongwith Vietnam, co-chaired the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF-ISG on CBMs and PD). A meeting of the ARF-ISG on CBMs and PD was held in New Delhi in November 2009.

July 21, 2010.

[Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur arrived in Hanoi on July 21, 2010 to participate in the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Informal Consultations.]

The EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting discussed and reviewed a range of issues related to the functional cooperation between the countries of the grouping and deliberated upon the future direction of the EAS. During the meeting there was an exchange of views on regional and international issues. The Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs briefed the meeting on preparations for the Fifth EAS Summit which is scheduled to take place in Hanoi in end October 2010.

MOS Smt. Preneet Kaur reiterated India's commitment to the East Asia Summit and asserted that India regarded the EAS as a platform for strengthening the regional architecture to deepen cooperation and integration. While recognizing the progress in trade, investments and economic integration she called for more sustained efforts in creating a supportive regional financial architecture for balanced growth. She stressed the importance of working towards the realization of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) and the Mekong India Corridor

as priority areas for regional cooperation. MOS briefed the EAS Foreign Ministers on the steps taken by Government of India to establish the Nalanda University as an international institution of excellence representing the pan-Asian identity in the cultural and educational spheres.

Stressing the importance of energy security and cooperation in the energy sector, MOS called for cooperation in areas in renewable energy, energy conservation, financing for energy infrastructure and security of energy transportation.

The discussions also covered regional cooperation in meeting the challenges of Pandemics, Natural Disaster Mitigation, Sustained Economic Recovery from the Global Economic Crisis, Climate Change, Maritime Security and Terrorism.

Referring to the challenge from terrorism faced by India for several decades, MOS called for the early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations.

MOS Smt. Preneet Kaur also called on His Excellency Nguyen Sinh Hung Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam on the afternoon of July 21, 2010. During the meeting MOS conveyed that India was looking forward to the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Vietnam for the ASEAN-India and East Asia Summit meetings in Hanoi in end October 2010.

It was also agreed that the Joint Commission Meeting co chaired by the Foreign Ministers of India and Vietnam should take place during the current year. The two Ministers discussed Defence and Security cooperation between India and Vietnam including the scheduled visits of Raksha Mantri and the Chief of Army Staff to Vietnam. There was a discussion of bilateral economic and trade relations including important investment proposals. The Proposal of establishing an Indian Cultural centre in Vietnam was welcomed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam.



068. Press Statement of the 8th ASEAN Economic Ministers Conference.**Da Nang (Vietnam), August 27, 2010.**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India met at the Eighth AEM-India Consultations in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 27 August 2010. The Consultations was co-chaired by H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam and H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the global economic environment, noting with satisfaction that emerging economies in Asia were leading the recovery in the global economy. India's economy is poised to expand by 9.4% in 2010, while ASEAN's real GDP is expected to be over 5%, much higher than the 1.5% recorded in 2009. In 2009, ASEAN's trade with India remained high and India remains ASEAN's seventh largest trading partner. Over the same period, ASEAN also witnessed an increase of 40.8% in India's foreign direct investment to ASEAN. This placed India as the sixth largest investor in ASEAN. The Ministers expressed confidence in the strengthening economic ties between the two sides, further boosted by the implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement in 2010. The Ministers encouraged the full implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement by all countries within 2010 so that the private sector could reap the full benefits offered by the Agreement.
3. The Ministers noted the progress in the negotiations on product specific rules of origin under the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. The Ministers reiterated that PSRs should be liberal and trade facilitative. In this view, the Ministers encouraged officials to finalise an initial package of PSRs for possible endorsement in October 2010.
4. The Ministers noted the progress that has been made in the negotiations on services and investment. They urged both Parties to finalise the services text and concurrently complete negotiations on the schedules of commitments, noting the mandate of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India for substantial sectoral coverage and GATS-plus commitment, as well as the

need for ambitious and commercially meaningful offers. The Ministers also called for intensification of negotiation on core issues in investment.

5. In this respect, Ministers tasked the negotiators to step up their engagement for completion of these negotiations. The Ministers underscored the importance of trade in services and investment negotiations to complement the trade in goods agreement, in order to further enhance the economic integration of ASEAN and India.

6. In line with the transparency requirements of the WTO, ASEAN and India have notified the ASEAN-India FTA agreements to the WTO under the Enabling Clause. The Ministers also took the opportunity to review the progress of the WTO Doha negotiations, remaining convinced that a strong multilateral system based on mutually beneficial and balanced outcomes in agriculture, NAMA and services are key to a stable and progressive global trading system. The Ministers assured Lao PDR of their continued support in her accession to the WTO.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING MINISTERS

1. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India
4. H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
5. H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. Datuk Rebecca Fatima Sta. Maria, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia)
7. H.E. U Soe Tha, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
8. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines

9. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
10. H.E. Porntiva Nakasai, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
11. H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
12. H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN



069. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Hanoi on recognition of Observer Status for India by ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Hanoi, September 24, 2010.

India's proposal for Observer status to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly was approved by acclamation today, at its 31st General Assembly held in Hanoi, Vietnam. India's flag was ceremoniously placed on the dais where upon the leader of the delegation Shri Harsha Kumar G.V., Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) made his acceptance speech reaffirming the commitment of the Indian Parliament to further deepen and strengthen relations with ASEAN countries and Parliaments. India is the 8th Observer to AIPA. The other seven Observers are Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan, South Korea, China and Russia.

In his Plenary Statement, Shri Kumar said that cooperation between the Parliament of India and AIPA added a new dimension to India's 'Look East Policy' and reflected the high priority attached by India to strengthen its relations with ASEAN countries. The Indian delegation also included Shri R.C. Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held its 31st Session at Hanoi, Vietnam under the Chairmanship of President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong. Members of AIPA are the Parliaments of Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Philippines, Laos, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. Myanmar is a Special Observer at AIPA.



070. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of Defence Minister A. K. Antony to Hanoi to attend the meeting of the Defence Ministers of ASEAN PLUS Eight Countries.

New Delhi, October 12, 2010.

The Defence Minister Mr AK Antony today called for adoption of 'cooperative approaches' for ensuring the security of sea lanes in the Asia-Pacific Region. Addressing the first ever ASEAN Plus Eight Defence* Ministers' Meeting in Hanoi today, Mr Antony said India is participating in two projects together with the Malacca countries, within the framework of IMO, to improve the safety of navigation in this region. He said the Indian Navy is conducting anti-piracy patrolling and escort operations in the Gulf of Aden for over two years now. Mr Antony said Piracy remains a serious challenge for the world community and expressed India's commitment to work together with other countries to address piracy.

"The security of sea lanes of communication is vital in today's world. It is in the common interest of nations to keep sea lanes open, secure and free for navigation, trade and energy supplies. Piracy remains a serious challenge for the world community, as we have witnessed in the Gulf of Aden and adjoining areas. The Indian Navy is actively engaged in providing anti-piracy patrolling and escort operations in the Gulf of Aden for over two

* It was the first ASEAN + Eight Defence Ministers' Meeting. The Meeting was attended by the Defence Ministers and Representatives of Defence Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States and eight ASEAN Dialogue Partners referred to as the "Plus Eight" countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance. The Meeting recognised the positive contributions by the "Plus" countries in enhancing peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia. The Meeting also welcomed the interest of the "Plus" countries in promoting closer cooperation with ASEAN through the ADMM-Plus. The Meeting also affirmed that the ADMM-Plus is a key component of a robust, effective, open, and inclusive regional security architecture. The Meeting noted recent developments in implementing the ASEAN Charter and building an ASEAN Community by 2015 based on the three pillars of Political Security Community, Economic Community, and Social-Cultural Community. The Meeting also noted efforts by ASEAN in deepening relationship with its Dialogue Partners under the framework of ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ADMM-Plus to support the goal of building the ASEAN Community.

years now. India is committed to working together with other countries in the efforts to address piracy.

The security of sea lanes is important for the Asia-Pacific region, which is now one of the most important drivers of global economic growth. Through the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and the Malacca Straits mechanisms, we are partnering with other countries in the region to improve the safety of navigation in the region. Cooperative approaches on maritime security would offer benefits for the region as a whole", he said.

The ADMM Plus forum has for the first time brought together the defence establishments of all the key nations in the region with the objective of addressing non-traditional security challenges. Complimenting the ASEAN for bringing together the defence establishments of all the key nations in the region, Mr Antony said, Asia in general and South East Asia in particular, have learnt, through harsh experience, the various forms that such challenges take. He called for the development of synergy to counter such challenges.

"The growth of terrorism, the growing role of non-state actors, cyber threats etc are markers in the evolution of the global security construct during the last decade or so. Asia has been the theatre for the unfolding of many of these developments. Given the transnational nature of the challenges, it is important to develop synergy and build institutionalized cooperative arrangements", he said.

Mr Antony welcomed the Hanoi Joint Declaration, saying, it provides a viable framework for multilateral defence and security dialogue and cooperation in the region. He extended New Delhi's support for the five priority areas identified for cooperation and the idea of having expert groups to develop cooperation in these areas. "India looks forward to contributing to the deliberations and activities of each of these Groups", he said.



071. Hanoi Joint Declaration on the First ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

Hanoi, October 12, 2010.

WE, the Defence Ministers 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 gathered here in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 12 October 2010 for the First ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM-Plus");

WELCOMING the decision of the Fourth ADMM held on 11 May 2010 for Viet Nam to convene the inaugural meeting of the ADMM-Plus in 2010, which is a significant milestone in ASEAN's history, with the composition of ten ASEAN Member States and eight Dialogue Partners, namely 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 (hereinafter referred to as the "Plus" countries);

NOTING the significant contributions of the eight "Plus" countries to peace, stability, and development of Southeast Asia, as well as their aspiration to enhance cooperation with ASEAN through the ADMM-Plus;

ACKNOWLEDGING that security challenges in the region and in the world are more complex and transnational in nature, which requires cooperation among countries in the region;

RECOGNISING the importance of establishing the ADMM-Plus as a key component of a robust, effective, open, and inclusive regional security architecture that would enable the ADMM to cooperate with the eight "Plus" countries to address our common security challenges;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN centrality in the ADMM-Plus process and that the ADMM-Plus is an integral part of the ADMM that is to contribute positively to ASEAN's efforts to realise the ASEAN Political-Security Community by 2015;

REITERATING our commitment, as enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, on the basis of equality, non-discrimination,

and mutual benefit, and guided by the fundamental principles of sovereignty, equality, non-interference, consensus, and unity in diversity;

NOTING that the ADMM-Plus is the highest ministerial defence and security consultative and cooperative mechanism for regional security issues amongst the ASEAN Member States and the eight "Plus" countries;

RECALLING the principles and modalities included within the papers approved by the ASEAN Defence Ministers, namely the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper (2007); ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership (2009); ADMM-Plus: Configuration and Composition (2010); and ADMM-Plus: Modalities and Procedures (2010);

DO HEREBY UNDERTAKE TO:

1. Affirm our commitment to enhance peace, security, and prosperity in the region;
2. Promote the ADMM-Plus as a useful and effective platform for cooperation on defence and security issues that is able to make useful contributions to regional peace and security;
3. Enhance friendship, mutual trust, and confidence through greater dialogue and exchange among the ADMM-Plus defence establishments;
4. Strengthen regional defence and security cooperation through conduct of concrete and practical cooperation to address defence and security issues of mutual interest, with a view to building capacity, developing expertise, and enhancing coordination in areas that can contribute to regional peace and security;
5. Welcome the initiatives for practical cooperation as encapsulated in the Discussion Paper on "Potential, Prospects, and Direction of Practical Cooperation within the Framework of the ADMM-Plus";
6. Establish an ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting-Plus (ADSOM-Plus) to implement the understandings and decisions of the ADMM-Plus;
7. Task the ADSOM-Plus to establish specific Expert Working Groups on defence and security issues of mutual interest; and

8. Welcome the convening of the Second ADMM-Plus Meeting to be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2013.

Signed in HA Noi, Viet Nam, on the Twelfth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Ten, in a single original copy in the English language.



072. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's visits to Japan and Malaysia and to Hanoi for the India-ASEAN Summit.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

Please see Document No.313.



073. Media Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit.

Hanoi, October 29, 2010

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Very good morning and welcome to the media centre. You are aware the Prime Minister of India has had two very important meetings this morning, with Premier Wen Jiabao of China, and the President of Republic of Korea. The National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon is here to talk to you about the visit.

Sir, the floor is yours.

National Security Advisor (Shri Shivshankar Menon): We thought we would brief you about the two meetings that Prime Minister had this morning. He met first with the Premier of People's Republic of China Premier Wen Jiabao, and then met with the President of the Republic of Korea thereafter.

The meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao was warm, friendly and covered the entire gamut of the relationship. This was their tenth meeting actually in the last six years. As you know, Premier Wen Jiabao has visited India before; Prime Minister also visited China as Premier Wen Jiabao's guest.

During their discussions on the bilateral relations both of them took a broader strategic view of the significance of India-China bilateral relations; expressed satisfaction at the development of that relationship; and also discussed specifics in the relationship. Premier Wen Jiabao recalled what Prime Minister had said before that there is enough space in the world for both India and China to realize their development aspirations. He actually added to it and he said that there is enough space for China and India to also have cooperation in all areas.

Premier Wen Jiabao indicated that he hopes to visit India in the course of this year. This is the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. As you know, we have had a series of high-level visits. President has visited China earlier this year. Prime Minister also spoke of sensitivity to each other's core issues. Both spoke of their determination to carry their relationship forward.

In the meeting with the South Korean President, again they reviewed the bilateral relationship and the considerable progress that has been made in the relationship since President Lee visited India as the Chief Guest on Republic Day. Since then we have agreed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement; we have also finalized an agreement on cooperation in civil uses of nuclear energy which now awaits signature. We have made considerable progress in cooperation in civil aviation and space, and several areas. The economic relationship too is moving forward steadily.

They also discussed G20 issues, the stress that President Lee wishes to place on development as an outcome, and for the need for meeting not just to take decisions but to have a system of systematic implementation of those decisions so that they are carried forward over several years. They both agreed on that. Both agreed that they would work together in the G20 to that end.

I will leave it at that and maybe take questions from you.

Question: Sir, I would like to know about the India-China meeting. What were the specifics discussed with respect to climate change and the G20 Summit where China seems to be under pressure on the currency issue?

National Security Advisor: On the climate change issue they both recalled their work together in Copenhagen, and spoke of continuing to work together on a range of global issues - climate change, counter-terrorism, disaster management, energy security, food security - and that we would continue to work together. That is because these are issues where we have similar or identical positions. There was not a discussion on G20 issues during this meeting.

Question: Did the Prime Minister raise the issue of stapled visas?

National Security Advisor: The Prime Minister raised the issue of all difficult questions and showing sensitivity to each other. We were instructed, the SRs and the officials on both sides, to prepare for Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit and to work our way to solutions of all the issues that are difficult in our relationship including the boundary question. As I said, they covered the entire range of the relationship.

Question: Sir, you said that core issues were discussed and stressed the need to carry it forward.

National Security Advisor: No, I did not say that. I said that Prime Minister spoke of the need to show sensitivity to each other's core issues.

Question: Can you just elaborate on that, flesh it out for us?

National Security Advisor: No, I think that is what he said. I will give you what he said. I am not going to put a gloss on what he said.

Question: But when you say there are core issues or sensitivities on both sides, what are the core issues, and do we agree on the core issues of each other?

National Security Advisor: I think we have both indicated to each other and this is an ongoing conversation. It is not one conversation where we mention what concerns either of us. So, we will continue that discussion as we lead up to Premier Wen Jiabao's visit which we are sure will be a very successful and productive visit.

Question: Sir, how long did the meeting last between the two Prime Ministers?

National Security Advisor: About forty-five minutes.

Question: In the meeting with the South Korean President, did they talk about Posco because that is a project which has been held on for five years?

National Security Advisor: It did not come up.

Question: What are the dates of the visit? Has it been decided in the meeting?

National Security Advisor: No, we have not actually fixed the dates yet. We are consulting about dates which suit both sides.

Sorry, I forgot to mention also that President Lee also invited the Prime Minister to visit South Korea next year.

Question: Did the issue of defence exchanges come up?

National Security Advisor: As I said, they covered the entire range of relations. They did say that we have to work our way through all these issues.

Question: Can you Can you elaborate on discussions on the boundary issue?

National Security Advisor: On the boundary issue I think both sides said that they look forward to an early resolution of the issue. Both mentioned the need to carry the process forward from the guiding principles and the political parameters which were agreed and signed in 2005. Both said they would ask the Special Representatives to do so with a sense of urgency. And they agreed that in the meantime, pending a settlement, we will maintain peace and tranquility along the boundary. The SRs are likely to be meeting towards the end of November.

Question: Will the Wen Jiabao visit be in this year or next year?

National Security Advisor: He said he hopes to visit during this year.

Question: Where are the SRs meeting?

National Security Advisor: In Beijing, before the end of November. I think the last meeting was in Delhi.

Question: Sir, this point about 'we have to work our way through difficult issues' was made by the Chinese Prime Minister right in the beginning. It was part of the opening statement.

National Security Advisor: By both sides. It is agreed. I think we both feel we need to. But as I said, both took a larger, strategic view of the significance of the relationship, and the importance of good India-China relations and of working towards that goal, as we have done over several years in the past.

Question: But after the opening statements, forty-minute conversation is a long time, were these issues discussed in detail?

National Security Advisor: I just told you, they covered all the issues in the relationship.

Question: Sir, the stapled visas was a sensitive issue. What was the response of the Chinese on that?

National Security Advisor: I have told you, they both discussed the entire range of the relationship, all the issues in the relationship, and then they spoke about asking their officials and so on to prepare for the visit and to deal with each of these issues. **Question:** So, everything will be decided by officials and during the visit.

National Security Advisor: No, what I am saying is that we will continue the process of engagement and continue to deal with the issues that concern each of us as we have done for several years and will continue to do.

Question: What was the significance of the meeting?

National Security Advisor: The significance of the meeting, as I told you is three things. (1) We had a high-level review where both sides reaffirmed their determination to carry this relationship forward along the positive track that we have maintained for several years; (2) that we will, during the 60th anniversary year of diplomatic relations, hope to have a very high-level visit from China as well. Premier Wen Jiabao himself said he hopes to come; (3) that they have given new impetus to the process which we have both between the SRs and between the officials of both countries to work

our way through the issues and have given us a clear direction of how they want this handled.

Question: Did the Prime Minister raise the issue of trade imbalance? Secondly, will defence exchanges remain suspended?

National Security Advisor: Premier Wen Jiabao first said that we are very conscious of the trade imbalance and of the need to do something. He outlined some of the steps that the Chinese Government has taken to address this issue. As you know, we had a Joint Economic Group meeting. Commerce Ministers had met in the beginning of the year and they had taken several steps. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the fact that in the first nine months of the year we had achieved about 45 billion dollars worth of total two-way trade, and that we are on track to achieve the target of 60 billion dollars total two-way trade in 2010, which was the target which we had set in 2008. There is some diminution in the imbalance, but there is still an imbalance, and we will continue to work at those issues.

Question: What about defence exchanges?

National Security Advisor: On defence exchanges, we will continue to work the issue. As I said, some high-level defence exchanges for the present are paused.

Question: Sir, do you expect the visit of Mr. Zhou Yuo Kang's visit to be preparatory to that of Premier's?

National Security Advisor: We think it is a very important visit not only because he is such a senior Politburo Standing Committee Member, it is also a part of the party-to-party exchanges between the two countries. We are looking forward to that visit. They are holding a seminar on India-China relations. It will give us a chance to have a much freer, broader sort of exchange of views at a very high level with the Chinese side. And we are looking forward very much to that. He will also be calling on our state leaders.

Question: Was there any decision on both sides to avoid public statements that could create misunderstandings?

National Security Advisor: Do we ever make such statements? Never!

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



074. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 8th India-ASEAN Summit.

Hanoi, October 30, 2010.

I thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your warm welcome and generous hospitality. It is a pleasure for all of us to gather here on the auspicious occasion of the commemoration of 1000 years of the establishment of the city of Hanoi.

I deeply condole the loss of lives and property in the recent tsunami in Indonesia and floods in Vietnam. I wish the people of Indonesia and Vietnam an early recovery from the unfortunate tragedy.

I thank Cambodia, and especially Prime Minister Hun Sen, for his strong support to India as country Coordinator and look forward to our continuing close association with Cambodia.

For the past five years the achievement of the India-ASEAN partnership has been to initiate cooperation in a diverse range of sectors covering political and security ties, economic cooperation and the promotion of socio-cultural links.

I commend the officials of both sides for developing a Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity for the years 2010-2015. It is an ambitious road map and the 82 Action Points reflect the vast potential and desire to develop a multi-faceted India-ASEAN relationship.

Our experience of implementation shows that we need to work very hard at all levels if we have to accelerate the pace of engagement as outlined in the Plan of Action. I recall that the theme of the ASEAN Summit this year is "Vision to Action". This theme is equally appropriate for our own partnership.

I invite the ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan to visit India to review the mechanisms and procedures in place so that the pace of implementing agreed projects can be speeded up.

I would urge that the two sides make further efforts to identify concrete projects for cooperation under the India-ASEAN Science & Technology Fund, India-ASEAN Green Fund and the US \$ 50 million India-ASEAN Fund announced last year.

Excellencies,

India believes that ASEAN is the core around which the process of economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region should be built. India's economy has been growing rapidly for the past few years. This year we hope to achieve a growth rate of 8.5%. In the coming years, we hope to sustain a growth rate of 9-10% per year which will offer many opportunities for trade and investment. Our government has undertaken programmes for a massive transformation of rural India that is creating a huge and booming rural market for goods and services.

We hope that all formalities for implementing the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement by all ASEAN States are completed at an early date. The conclusion of a Services and Investment Agreement will be an important step in our goal of comprehensive economic cooperation.

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in people to people exchanges as a result of better air connectivity between India and ASEAN. More than 3 million Indian tourists visit ASEAN every year and about 380 flights connect Indian and ASEAN cities every week. This is well below the potential.

Excellencies

We invite many more tourists from the ASEAN countries to visit India to see the splendor of its rich cultural heritage. I am happy that the text of the ASEAN-India MoU for cooperation in Tourism has been finalized. I am also pleased to note that ASEAN will soon establish an ASEAN Promotional Chapter for tourism in Mumbai.

As a concrete measure, I am happy to announce that we will extend our visa on arrival facility to nationals of Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines and Laos with effect from 1st of January 2011.

We have always accorded high priority to the countries covered by the "Initiative for ASEAN integration". We hope to upgrade the level of youth exchanges as well as establish Vocational Training Centres in each of these countries.

Connectivity is another important area of our cooperation. As a further measure to support the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity, we will offer 100 IT scholarships to each of the 10 ASEAN countries over the next 5 years.

Science & Technology should be another focus area for our cooperation. We are ready to set up a Centre for Tracking and Data Reception and an Imaging facility for the ASEAN countries. This Centre would utilize data provided by Indian remote sensing satellites and harness it for multiple developmental applications. I propose a meeting of the heads of our space agencies in India which could work out exact details of cooperation.

Our cooperation in political and security matters is progressing well, including through expanded bilateral exchanges. These are important areas of our cooperation not only because of the common threats that we face but also because such cooperation helps to built mutual trust and understanding.

India looks forward to hosting the commemorative India-ASEAN Summit in India in the year 2012. This will be a land mark event and we must begin preparations early. The Eminent Persons Group should be set up quickly so that it can formulate a vision statement towards a long term strategic partnership between ASEAN and India that could be the theme of the Summit.

Thank you.



075. Statement by the Chairman of the 8th ASEAN-INDIA Summit.**Hanoi, October 30, 2010.**

1. The 8th ASEAN-India Summit, chaired by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was held on 30 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Meeting was attended by the Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member States and H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.
2. We reviewed ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and expressed satisfaction at the growth of our cooperation which has developed into a multi-faceted and dynamic partnership contributing to regional peace, mutual understanding and closer economic interaction. We appreciated that India attached great importance to ASEAN-India relation, considering it as a pillar of India's "Look East" policy, and shared the view that the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership was a building block for a robust architecture for regional cooperation. We also appreciated India's support for ASEAN's central role in all ASEAN-related architecture and reaffirmed our commitment to the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
3. We welcomed the proposal of India to host the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in India in 2012 and tasked our officials to work out substantive activities to mark a twin celebration of the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Summit.
4. We commended the efforts of both sides to draft the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (POA) to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), which would serve as a key instrument to make ASEAN-India cooperation more action-oriented, contributing to the deepening of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership and complementing the ASEAN integration and community building. We adopted and agreed to launch the POA on this occasion and tasked our Ministers and officials to implement the POA through concrete projects and practical cooperation.

5. We were pleased to note that in 2009, despite the global financial/economic crisis, India remained the seventh largest trading partner of ASEAN and the sixth largest investor in ASEAN with an increase of 40.8% in the foreign direct investment from India to ASEAN. In this regard, we reaffirmed our commitment made at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit to achieve our bilateral trade target of US\$ 70 billion by 2012.
6. We welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN - India Trade in Goods Agreement (AI-TIGA) for all Parties. We tasked our Economic Ministers to ensure the smooth and transparent implementation of this Agreement. We looked forward to the early completion of the negotiations on Trade-in-Services and Investments Agreement under the ASEAN - India Free Trade Area framework (AIFTA).
7. We welcomed India's proposals to convene an ASEAN-India Business Fair (AIBF) and the ASEAN-India Business Summit (AIBS) scheduled for early March 2011 in New Delhi. We also welcomed the proposal to hold Delhi Dialogue III which provides the platform for security and political dialogue between India and ASEAN.
8. We welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to take stock of the 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation and chart future direction of ASEAN-India dialogue relations by drafting a new ASEAN-India Vision 2020 Document for presenting at the Commemorative Summit in 2012.
9. We welcomed India's continued support to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Connectivity and to narrow the development gap within ASEAN. In this connection, we appreciated India's readiness to increase the number of the ASEAN-India Entrepreneurship Development Centres and Centres for English Language Training in CLMV countries as well as the establishment of the IT Training Centres in the CLMV Countries.
10. ASEAN Leaders appreciated India's continued contribution to the development of transportation networks between ASEAN and South Asia particularly through the construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and looked forward to its extension to Laos and Cambodia as well as the development of a new India-Myanmar-Laos-Viet Nam-Cambodia highway. ASEAN leaders also called for further

engagement of India in the ASEAN Connectivity Initiative, both in the hardware and the software linkages. In this regard, we also welcomed India's offer to support realisation of ASEAN Master Plan for ICT connectivity and noted with appreciation the specific proposals made by India in its Concept Paper. We also appreciated India's continued support to ASEAN countries in capacity development by offering scholarships through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Programme.

11. We noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the initiatives proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in the areas of business and tourism facilitation and the progress made on finalization of the MOU on Cooperation in Tourism and the setting up of the ASEAN Promotional Chapter on Tourism (APCT) in Mumbai, trade and industry, food security, agriculture, India-ASEAN Round Table, applications of space technology for disaster management, carrying payloads and scientific experiments.

12. We reiterated the importance of closer aviation cooperation and open skies in supporting business growth, tourism and greater interactions between our peoples. In this regard, we tasked our Ministers and officials to accelerate the discussion on the ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement for its early conclusion.

13. We welcomed the adoption of the Rules for Operation and Management of ASEAN-India Green Fund and operationalization of ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF). We noted with appreciation the decisions identifying the projects at the 1st Meeting of General Council of AISTDF held on June 1, 2010 at New Delhi and the launching of the AISTDF website. We also noted with appreciation the India's concept paper on setting up of the Network on Climate Change and tasked our Ministers and relevant officials to initiate concrete projects in support of cooperation in the areas of science and technology and environment. In this connection, we also welcomed India's proposal to set up a Centre for Tracking and Data Reception and Imaging Facility in Viet Nam, which is sponsored by the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund. We tasked our relevant Ministers and officials to considering this proposal.

14. ASEAN Leaders appreciated India's continued efforts in promoting people-to-people exchange and mutual understanding through visits to India of students, members of the media and diplomats, which help to foster ASEAN-India relations at the people's level. In this regard, we welcomed the visit of Indian India parliamentary delegation to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in September 2010 and the granting of "observer status" to the delegation during their visit.

15. ASEAN leaders welcomed the forthcoming Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting to be held in India by the end of this year which would help bring ASEAN-India relationship closer together.

16. ASEAN Leaders welcomed India's constructive role in the G-20 Summit and agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on G20-related matters, including supporting ASEAN Chair's continued participation in the G-20 Summit on a regular basis and contribution to the G-20 process.



076. Press Release issued by the ASEAN Secretariat on the 8th ASEAN-India Summit.

Hanoi, October 30, 2010.

On 30 October, ASEAN Leaders and Prime Minister of India attended the 8th ASEAN-India Summit in Ha Noi, which was chaired by H.E Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

The Leaders of ASEAN and India noted with satisfaction the fruitful developments in ASEAN-India Dialogue relation, with positive outcome in various aspects, particularly on economic-trade, science and technology, environment, health, tourism, people-to-people exchange etc. ASEAN welcomed the "Look East" policy of India, in which the ASEAN-India relation is considered as the main pillar and the crucial foundation for cooperation and linkage in the Asia region.

ASEAN Leaders noted with appreciation India's continued support for ASEAN in realising the goals of enhancing regional integration and

narrowing the development gap through the implementation of important programs and plans, especially the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity and the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI). ASEAN looks forwards to India's continued support for ASEAN's centrality in an evolving regional architecture, particularly in ASEAN-led fora.

On future direction, the two sides agreed to focus efforts and resources to effectively implement cooperation agreements, in particular, the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (POA) to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), focusing on such priority of areas as economic-trade, science and technology, information technology, biology, food, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, education and human resource development... Along with the implementation of ASEAN - India Trade in Goods Agreement, the two sides agreed to accelerate negotiation for the next Agreements of investments and services. India expressed continued support and assistance to ASEAN in its Community building narrowing development gap efforts as well as in building capacity for addressing global challenges and cooperation in the development of the Mekong sub-region... India shall also continue to support the operations of the ASEAN-India Entrepreneur Development Centres and English Language Training Centres in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV countries).

On conclusion, the Leaders of ASEAN and India reaffirmed their commitment on uplifting the ASEAN-India dialogue relation to a new height, effectively implementing the agreed cooperation plans, as well as agreed to hold the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in 2012 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership and establish the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to take stock of 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation and chart future direction.



076-A. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the fifth East Asia Summit.

Hanoi, October 30, 2010.

I reaffirm India's commitment to the East Asia Summit process. India's engagement with South East and East Asia has been a pillar of our foreign policy since the 1990s. We have participated in each of the Summits and in the many sectoral meetings. India believes in the centrality of ASEAN's role in the EAS process.

This is a special Summit, marking the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit. The EAS has come a long way since its first meeting in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005. Today, it has become an integral part of the regional architecture and a purposeful vehicle for community building in the region.

The EAS process has over the years grappled with immediate challenges such as disaster management and pandemics and energy security in 2007, the global economic crisis in 2008 and the climate change negotiations in 2009. This is in addition to the ongoing task of creating structures and institutions which lead to the overall goal of forging a wider Asian community encompassing the economic, political, security, social, cultural and people-to-people spheres.

The economic weight is shifting in favour of Asia, and it is seen as the engine of global growth. It has weathered the global economic crisis well. The EAS process is creating prosperity in the region, and helping to bridge gaps between sub-regions and nations in Asia. We are on the right track.

The theme of the Summit - from vision to action - is most appropriate. We need to move from policy declarations to greater functional cooperation.

I welcome the entry of the United States and Russia as participants in the EAS process. The EAS will benefit from their experience while remaining an ASEAN-led process.

I would like to complement the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for their work in promoting regional integration by

providing useful research and practical policy recommendations on regional connectivity, trade, investment, energy and the environment. ERIA has submitted a report on the Comprehensive Asian Development Plan (CADP) and identified three corridors for building infrastructure, connectivity and industrial activity that will support the realization of a community in the region. One of these is for a Mekong - India Economic Corridor.

Thanks to the collective efforts of G-20, the world economy has gradually stabilized even though the recovery remains fragile. Growth in developing countries would be greatly helped if threats of new protectionist measures in industrialized countries are firmly resisted and existing barriers to trade are reduced. Towards this end, a successful completion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations is important.

India welcomes further progress on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement for East Asia (CEPEA) process. Till last year we had signed CEPA Agreements with Singapore and ROK and a Trade in Goods Agreement with the ASEAN. In the last one year we have completed negotiations on a CEPA with Japan and Malaysia. An Agreement on Trade in Services and Investment is under negotiation with the ASEAN.

Forthcoming G-20 Summit in Seoul should focus on development. I am happy that development has been included as an item for discussion.

Indian economy is expected to grow at the rate of 8.5% this year. We hope to achieve a growth rate of 9.10% next year. This will encourage two way trade between India and ASEAN Member States.

We welcome the first meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus Eight in Hanoi earlier this month. India supports practical and pragmatic cooperation through this new forum by building trust and confidence among all countries. We believe that in a step by step process, at a pace comfortable to all, this forum can make a meaningful contribution to building open and transparent security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tackling the growing threats to security - non-State actors, security of sea-lanes, piracy, human trafficking, terrorism and protection of global commons - would require concerted response.

At the 4th East Asia Summit, EAS member countries had supported the establishment of the University as a non-state, non-profit, secular and self-governing international institution to bring together the brightest and the best in East Asia. I am happy to report that the Nalanda University Bill has been passed by both Houses of the Indian Parliament earlier this year. The Nalanda Mentor Group (headed by Nobel Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen) will act as the interim Governing Board of the University till such time as the members of the Governing Board have been nominated. The statutes of the University are being drafted. Land has been acquired for the University. We invite EAS member countries to participate in the Nalanda University project. I hope that Nalanda University will be an important element in the community that we hope to build in the East Asian region.

India supports a collaborative approach to energy issues. Our present energy policy involves adopting a multi-pronged strategy by broadening our energy mix, including nuclear energy.

We want positive outcome in Cancun at the 16th Conference of Parties. It should build upon the Copenhagen Accord. India is doing everything possible within the limitation of her own resources to contribute to the global action on climate change. Under our ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change, we have embarked upon measures to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy intensity and enhance the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

We listened with great interest to remarks of the President of the Asian Development Bank. In near future, we believe that Asia's growth and intra-ASEAN trade can make an important contribution to global recovery.



077. Hanoi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit.**Hanoi, October 30, 2010.**

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand, meeting on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the East Asia Summit (EAS);

RECALLING the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit and reaffirming the importance of the Declaration in setting, inter alia, the EAS broad vision, principles, objectives and modalities;

SATISFIED with the important progress and achievements recorded by the EAS over the past five years, including those in the five priority areas of cooperation and addressing common challenges in the region;

GRATIFIED that the East Asia Summit process had brought about mutual benefits and closer linkages among the participating countries and contributed to community building in the East Asia region;

RECOGNISING the increasing economic dynamism and strategic importance of the East Asian region and the value of multilateral dialogue and cooperation to further enhance regional peace and economic prosperity;

REAFFIRMING further that the East Asia Summit is an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum in which we strive to strengthen global norms and universally recognised values with ASEAN as the driving force working in partnership with the other participants of the East Asia Summit;

STRESSING our conviction that the EAS should continue to advance the shared interests in achieving peace, security and prosperity in East Asia and help build an integrated and prosperous East Asia;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. To further strengthen the EAS as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in East Asia;

2. To reaffirm that the EAS with ASEAN as the driving force, working in close partnership with the other participants of the EAS, is an important component of the evolving regional architecture, which includes other existing and mutually-reinforcing processes such as the ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+), and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and promotes community building efforts in East Asia;
3. To redouble efforts to move progress and cooperation in the EAS further forward, including in the priority areas and in the promotion of regional integration through supporting the realisation of the ASEAN Community and such initiatives as the ASEAN Plus FTAs and other existing wider regional economic integration efforts including studies on East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA);
4. To enhance intra-regional connectivity in East Asia, including physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity and express support for the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan and readiness to partner with ASEAN in its implementation;
5. To reiterate commitment to the principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS as established in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration, and continued support for ASEAN's central role in the EAS, including in developing, in close consultation with other EAS participants, the EAS agenda and priorities;
6. To invite the Russian Federation and the United States of America, given their expressed interest in and commitment to the EAS process, to join the EAS in 2011, which would promote the principles, objectives and priorities of the EAS;
7. To conduct, in this regard, stock-take reviews and reflections aimed at further consolidating and strengthening the EAS on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities;
8. To consider also measures, including those of follow-up and coordination within the EAS, as appropriate, to further enhance the effective implementation of the EAS decisions;

Adopted on this 30th day of October 2010 in Hanoi.



078. Relevant extracts from the Interaction by Prime Minister with the media on board VVIP flight on way back to New Delhi from Hanoi.

October 30, 2010.

Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh): Ladies and gentlemen, I believe you have been briefed by our officials about the three important visits that I have had, first to Japan, then to Malaysia and finally to Hanoi. If there are any questions that you would like to ask I will be happy to answer them.

* * * *

Question: About engagement with Pakistan?

A- I cannot say how soon. It is our policy to engage with Pakistan. That does not mean we should surrender or give up our essential and vital interests. But Pakistan happens to be our neighbour and I have often said that you can choose your friends but you cannot choose your neighbours. And therefore we are obliged to engage Pakistan.

Question: Were certain measures suggested during the East Asia Summit to remove protectionist policies of the industrialized nations?

A- I do not think the conference went into the details of these matters. This is a general statement that protectionism is not a solution to the trade problems or the balance of payment problems that have arisen and that it is a principle with which all people have agreed.

Question: On meeting with Hillary Clinton and relationship with USA?

A - I will ask the NSA to brief you . I think the India-United States relationship has entered a new phase. There is cordiality, there is understanding and it is our common desire to bring about a qualitative change in our relationship. We have economic interaction, we have strategic interaction ,we are strategic partners and therefore there are many areas where we have interest which we must explore with the United States to find out if there is any commonality of interests.

Question: Rare earth agreement with Japan?

A - Well there is a subsidiary of Toyota which had entered into some arrangement with Indian Rare Earths Ltd. I think that got caught in some

difficulties. I have promised that when I return to India we will try to sort out the difficulties.

Question: On meeting with Premier Wen Jia Bao of China

A- Well in a general way we discussed the totality of our issues. We reaffirmed our two countries resolve to find practical , pragmatic, mutually satisfactory solutions to the border problem. And recognizing the complexity of the issues we agreed that meanwhile peace and tranquility should be maintained along the border.

* * * *

Question: on relations between India and China.

A- I do not want to get into ups and downs of relations. Whatever Premier Wen Jiabao has said, I agree with that. The relations between India and China should be strong; whatever misunderstanding is there, should be removed; for this I have invited him to India and he has accepted it also; he will come to India in the very near future.

* * * *

Question: The Kashmir interlocutors have made recommendations that go against the state of Kashmir

A- They have not made any recommendations that I am aware of. Comments in a democracy are free but they have not made any recommendations that I am aware off.

Question: Is India gearing up to integrate into the manufacturing supply chain of the global economy

A- If your question is whether we are integrating Indian economy into the evolving global economy, yes, at a measured pace we are making every effort to open up the Indian economy recognizing full well the opportunities that exist in a globalised economy and also the risks that are inherent in throwing our economy to greater competition from abroad. So, we have to have a balance of interest in order to integrate our economy in the evolving global economy.

* * * *



079. Media briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon onboard special flight from Hanoi to New Delhi.

October 30, 2010

National Security Advisor (Shri Shivshankar Menon): As you know, Prime Minister received a call by the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton this afternoon. It lasted about 45 minutes. The main topic discussed was actually President Obama's visit. Both sides were looking forward to the visit and were sure that it would be a historic visit which would enable us to add content to the strategic partnership and would also explore various ways, as Prime Minister just told you, of expanding the relationship in the various areas in which we cooperate together - whether political, whether security, whether economic and trade, commercial relations and in other areas.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the state of preparations and looked forward to the conversations that will take place during the visit. Apart from the exchange on the visit itself which took most of the meeting, they also had a discussion about the situation in the region. Secretary of State Clinton mentioned to Prime Minister about the strategic dialogue that the US has just conducted with Pakistan, and about US determination to continue with their goals that they are presently pursuing in Afghanistan. She welcomed the work that India is doing to contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

That about sums it up. I will be happy to take one or two questions.

Question: Was China discussed?

National Security Advisor: No

Question: Was sharing of information discussed?

National Security Advisor: They spoke in general terms about counter-terrorism cooperation.

Question: Were the concerns that the US still has on the Nuclear Liability Bill discussed?

National Security Advisor: One of the things that we are working on certainly is, how we will carry our civil nuclear initiative forward. That is one

of the issues which I think is being discussed by the Department of Atomic Energy with the US firms concerned. But those are practical discussions.

Question: Sir, can you please explain what this effort is to reduce the list of high-tech items with the US, and what are those high-tech items and how do they help India?

National Security Advisor: The US has a double system of export controls which is built up over the years whether in terms of crime control, regional stability concerns, nonproliferation, some are related to missile proliferation. In effect they categorise countries, and depending on your category you are cleared for certain levels of exports of high-tech goods or dual use goods. They also have a list of entities to which US companies cannot supply to or can only supply with a licence, if they are on the entities list. We have been discussing with the US how to amend the system, and the US has been very positive. This actually has been going on for some time, since 2005 when we set up high-technology cooperation group under the Foreign Secretary which has been discussing what to change, how to change. You know India has adhered to the NSG guidelines. After all we have a very good nonproliferation record. We have passed our own export control laws which more than meet international standards and in fact, in some respects are even higher. So, we have been arguing that, therefore, the older restrictions need to be changed. And the US agreed with us that these restrictions need to be brought in line with present reality. That is the exercise we have been engaged in. I think we have made considerable progress in that.

Question: During talks with the American Secretary of State, this issue of Pakistan ...(Inaudible)... has come up again and again? ...(Inaudible)... said we will gradually taper off defence supplies to Pakistan and we will sort of gradually start giving them only economic assistance. Is this something Americans are seriously considering particularly in the light of ...(Inaudible)...

National Security Advisor: Ask the Americans! First you are informing us of a fact. Then you are telling us what the Americans think. Ask the Americans! Where is the question?

Question: Sir, they have given naval aircraft. Are we going to speak to them about it?

National Security Advisor: For us, US arms to Pakistan which are not related to counter-terrorism certainly are an issue which we have discussed. The US knows our view. We have consistently made clear what we think about them.

Question: Sir, Foreign Secretary said that we may ask the US for setting up a legal mechanism to make more accountability of the aid which is given to Pakistan. Are we considering anything?

National Security Advisor: I am not going to comment on what Foreign Secretary said. We all speak for the same Government She speaks for India too.

Question: Can you elaborate on that, Sir?

National Security Advisor: No, that is not fair.

Question: Sir, I wanted to ask whether we are going to finalise any agreement on the entities issues with the US during Obama's visit.

National Security Advisor: As I said, this is a matter of US law and practice and regulations. This is not something that we do by an agreement between India and the US. We will reflect the state of our discussions with the US in the announcements that we make during the visit. I do not want to anticipate outcomes now. But as said this is primarily their own regulations, their own system which is being adjusted to reflect today's reality. That is something we will do.

Question: In your talks with the Chinese side did you get a feeling that they are trying to force decisions, or they are going to stress on resolving the boundary issue?

National Security Advisor: I think we are both agreed that what we would like is a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of boundary question. Both Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Premier Wen Jiabao said that during the meeting of yesterday. It was quite clear. So, I do not think it is a question of either side trying to somehow force their views. Both want a mutually acceptable settlement.

Question: But he said that he wants his visit to be productive in what sense?

National Security Advisor: We would also like the visit to be productive.

Question: Sir, I just wanted to ask whether the meetings with the Japanese Prime Minister and Malaysia came up with ...(Inaudible)... several very strong remarks from China in the last couple of days.

National Security Advisor: No, they did not come up. There was not enough time. This was basically about the visit and the immediate region



080. Extract relevant to India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits from the Suo Motu Statement in the Lok Sabha by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Prime Minister's visits abroad.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit

* * * *

16. Prime Minister visited Vietnam to attend 8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit.

17. The 8th India-ASEAN Summit on 30th October provided India with the opportunity to hold close consultations with our ASEAN colleagues on the progress of our relationship. Our ASEAN colleagues exuded warmth and friendship for India and expressed their desire to take our relationship to new heights.

18. As a rapidly growing economy, India offers to ASEAN the prospect of a productive economic relationship. An economically robust relationship between the two sides has enormous potential. Keeping this in view, a new and comprehensive India-ASEAN Plan of Action 2010-2015 was adopted at the Summit. The phenomenal growth of our trade during the last decade has inspired us to conclude a trade-in-goods agreement with ASEAN which has become operative from January 1, 2010. We hope to conclude the Trade-in-Services and Investment agreement soon to complete the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, which will act as a catalyst to bring down the cost of production on both sides and further increase our

trade.

19. The leaders recognized the importance of connectivity to ensure free flow of goods and people through the region. In this connection, progress of ongoing projects in promoting North-east of India as the bridge to ASEAN, such as Trilateral Highway and its extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia, was reviewed by the leaders. The leaders acknowledged India's readiness to offer assistance in the forthcoming ASEAN ICT master plan to improve ICT connectivity. In addition to about 380 air-flights operating between India and ASEAN, the leaders encouraged the officials of both sides to conclude an India-ASEAN Air Transport Agreement at an early date.

20. Distinguished members of parliament would kindly recall that at the last Summit Prime Minister had proposed an India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in India in 2012. I am happy to announce that the idea has met with a positive response from the ASEAN side. A series of events beginning with India-ASEAN Business Summit and Exhibition from March 2-6, 2010 are proposed to be held culminating in the Commemorative Summit. India and ASEAN have agreed to form an Eminent Persons Group, whose Terms of Reference were adopted at the Summit. The Eminent Persons Group will draft a new India-ASEAN vision 2020 document for presenting at the Commemorative Summit, taking into account the shift of global economic currents towards Asia in the 21st Century.

21. Prime Minister announced new initiatives in the field of people-to-people contacts, space cooperation, capacity building and Information and Communication Technology as a means to infuse more depth in our relationship. Specifically, the initiatives included extension of Visa-on-arrival facility to nationals of Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines and Lao PDR from January 1, 2011, setting-up a Centre for Tracking and Data Reception and imaging facility in an ASEAN country, establishing Vocational Training Centres, and offer of 100 IT scholarships to each of the 10 ASEAN countries over the next 5 years. I am glad to say that these initiatives were welcomed and appreciated by the ASEAN countries.

22. Prime Minister also attended the 5th East Asia Summit on the same day. The East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism provides India the forum to engage with a larger number of countries of the region in both strategic and economic spheres. This year marked the entry of US and Russia into

the EAS process as 'guest of the host' with formal entry scheduled for 2011. We welcome their entry which, we believe, will add to peace and stability in the region and also enhance the ongoing cooperation. We appreciate ASEAN's efforts in piloting the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia.

23. PM took the opportunity to brief his EAS colleagues on the progress made by India on the Nalanda University Project, including the passage of Nalanda University Act by this august parliament. The unanimous passing of the Nalanda University Bill by both the houses reflected our desire to revive the historical legacy of this world center of learning and education.

24. Madam Speaker, we were able to drive our agenda of regional integration with success. We will work on all the potential ideas, which have been shared with us for implementation, with re-doubled effort and take our relationship with ASEAN and East Asia to new heights.

* * * *



ASEM

081. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari's visit for ASEM Summit.

New Delhi, October 1, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. As you are aware, Vice-President Hon. M. Hamid Ansari will be leaving for Brussels on the 3rd for the Eighth ASEM Summit. Secretary (East) Ms Latha Reddy is here to brief you about the visit. She is also joined by two of our colleagues. I would like introduce them. To my left is Mr. P. Harish, Joint Secretary to Vice-President. To the right of Secretary (East) is Mr. Suresh Reddy our Joint Secretary (MER).

Secretary (East) would be making an opening statement and thereafter would be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the visit of the Vice-

President to Brussels for ASEM. May I invite Secretary (East) to make her opening remarks?

Secretary (East) (Ms Vijaya Latha Reddy): Thank you all friends for coming for this briefing.

As you all know, Hon. Vice-President is visiting Brussels from 3rd to 5th October to lead the Indian delegation to the Eighth Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting more commonly known as ASEM. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Ansari. Official Delegation will include senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Vice-President's Office.

On the 4th October, the programme of the Summit will begin with the usual welcome ceremony and the opening ceremony followed by closed session for the leaders. There will be a working dinner on the 4th of October. The Financial and Economic Governance will be the theme of the first session as well as during the working dinner. Hon. Vice-President will address the first Plenary Session on 4th October itself on the subject - Financial and Economic Governance.

The following day, Tuesday the 5th October, we have three closed sessions and a working lunch where all leaders discuss the remaining themes which are: Sustainable Development, Global and Regional Issues, and People-to-People Visibility and the Future of ASEM. In other words there are three sessions - Sustainable Development, Global Issues, Regional Issues, and the last session would be People-to-People Visibility and Future of ASEM.

A reception will be hosted for all ASEM leaders by His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium on 5th October at lunch time at 12:30. On the evening of 5th October around 4:45 p.m. there will be the Closing Ceremony.

As is usual Hon. Vice-President will also have bilateral engagements on the sidelines of the Summit. He will certainly be meeting with the President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, and with the Prime Minister of Belgium Mr. Yves Leterme. We are also in the process of finalizing several bilaterals with the other leaders, which are in the process of being worked out. We will issue further updates on this in due course.

The overarching theme of the Summit itself is Achieving Greater Wellbeing and Dignity for all Citizens. The short theme is Quality of Life. To be specific, as mentioned, the four sub-themes or agendas we have already gone over - (1) Financial and Economic Governance; (2) Sustainable Development; (3) Global Issues; (4) Regional Issues; and (5) People-to-People Visibility and Future of ASEM. The Chair's Statement and a Statement on Effective Global Economic Governance are the two documents which are expected to be issued at the conclusion of the Summit.

This is the second summit level participation for India. The Summit will witness expansion of ASEM membership further and will welcome three new partners - Australia, New Zealand and Russia who will be attending the ASEM Summit for the first time. Our high-level participation at ASEM 8, as this meeting is known, will reaffirm the importance we attach to carrying forward ASEM process through its cooperation, discussions and activities.

ASEM brings together 27 European Union members and the European Commission from the European side, and from the Asian side it has ten ASEAN members and six other countries - China, India, Japan, Mongolia, Pakistan and South Korea. The six other countries are under a subgroup called NESAs which stands for North, East and South Asia. Australia, New Zealand and Russia will now join ASEM at Brussels. With this combination of 27 European Union partners, the ten ASEAN, the six members of NESAs, the three new members, the European Union, and the ASEAN Secretariat, the total number will now come to 48.

The ASEM process itself is underpinned by three pillars which are political, economic, and the social, cultural and intellectual pillars. The dialogue under the political pillar is carried forward mainly through the biennial ASEM Foreign Ministers' meetings and the biennial summits. In other words, with a summit taking place once every two years and a Ministerial taking place once every two years, there is an annual high-level meeting of ASEM leaders.

These meetings focus on major global issues on the international agenda including terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, nonproliferation, climate

change, migrations, dialogue of cultures and civilizations, and human rights. These are under the political pillar. Under the economic pillar we focus on issues relating to WTO, trade facilitation and trade security, trade and development, regionalism and multilateralism, information and communication technology, investment issues. The third pillar - the social, cultural, intellectual pillar - focuses on promoting closer people-to-people contacts through cultural, artistic, educational activities and exchanges involving particularly the young people and students from the two regions.

Other Ministerial meetings are held including Economic Ministers' meetings, Finance Ministers' meetings, Culture Ministers' meetings, Education Ministers' meetings, and Environment Ministers' meetings.

ASEM is a unique framework which brings Asia together with Europe on one platform for cross-continental dialogue and cross-fertilization of ideas on a wide range of topical issues. One of the objectives of ASEM is to focus on issues in which it can add value to ongoing processes in other multilateral frameworks.

ASEM not only offers a platform to the leaders for informal dialogue on topical issues but also helps to shape the international policy agenda. Given our growing stakes both in Asia and in Europe there are obvious advantages to India for being a member of ASEM particularly in terms of trade and investment facilitation.

It may be of interest to all of you to note that ASEM members together account for more than 40 per cent of the world's population; 50 per cent of global GDP; and 60 per cent of world trade. Twelve ASEM countries figure among the top 25 trading partners of India. We see this as a valuable forum for our bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

I also would like to simply touch on one subject. There have been some issues highlighted by the organizers of the conference, hosts Belgium, as well as the European Commission and the European Union. What they talk about is that priority number one would be moving towards more effective global financial and economic governance.

The last ASEM incidentally was held in Beijing in October 2008, which was attended by the Prime Minister. That was the first summit level

meeting attended by India, as we were only just before that admitted as members of ASEM. ASEM initially started with just the EU and ASEAN and slowly went on to admit other countries.

Because they have identified as priority number one Effective Global Financial and Economic Governance, they also decided to adopt a separate declaration on this subject rather than to include it in the Chair's Statement which is traditionally the only document that issues. The second in the order of priority has been subject of sustainable development. Again, they feel that this is important because of the Beijing meeting there was a declaration on sustainable development which needs to be reviewed and monitored.

In the third session they wish to concentrate on a number of global issues of great concern. These, as I have already mentioned, will include the fight against terrorism and organized crime, elimination of acts of piracy at sea, reversal of the proliferation of WMD and delivery system. And they will talk about disaster management and relief assistance.

The fourth topic in regional issues will concentrate on several regions or sub-regions of interest in both Europe and in Asia. I am sure that they would talk about political developments in countries or relationships between individual countries which have been problematic both in Asia as well as in Europe. Finally they wish to talk about fostering cooperation between civil societies in all our countries. That is where we would have the people-to-people segment which I mentioned as the fifth subject.

There will also be side by side a Parliamentary partnership meeting, a business forum, a people's forum, and a civil society event put together by the Asia-Europe Foundation which is called ASEF. This is centred in Singapore and India is a also contributor to ASEF.

The main issue is that the draft statement will finally issue which I think will express the collective wisdom of all the 48 leaders who have gathered. There is also going to be a very impressive exhibition called A Passage to Asia which is at the Palais de Bozar in Brussels, which will be visited by all the leaders on the 5th evening. While the exhibition has several exhibits from India - India has a very visible presence there - it has many other contributions from other Asian countries as well.

I think that is the end of my presentation. If there are any questions, I will be happy to take them.

Question: Why the Vice-President and not the PM?

Secretary (East): I think the Prime Minister at the moment will have obligations in connection with the Commonwealth Games and his commitments here. And the timings were coinciding. That was the reason.

Question: Can you elaborate a bit on the elimination of acts of piracy at sea? What is India looking at?

Secretary (East): It is not just India. This would have to be a collective decision by all the European countries and all the Asian countries. Draft language is currently under discussion. In fact, at one stage there was an idea to have a separate document on piracy at sea. But it was also felt that a proliferation of documents may not really serve the purpose. So, we will be actually having senior officials' meetings over Saturday and Sunday where some of the documents will be discussed and further negotiated. And that is where each country would raise its concerns and try to modify or renegotiate certain language. But there is no doubt that all Asian countries and all European countries at this meeting have been seriously affected by the piracy at sea question. So it remains a matter of concern.

Question: What was the motivation behind a grouping of this kind?

Secretary (East): The rationale for the establishment of ASEM itself was to balance relations between the three engines of the global economy which were seen as America, Europe and Asia. America and Europe have strong trans-Atlantic links. America has links with East Asia through APEC and now of course they also will become a part of the East Asia Summit in October. But there was no framework for linking all of Europe with major countries in Asia. This is the only sort of regional or multilateral forum that exists to link the two regions. I think thus ASEM was initially seen as an initiative to complete the missing part of this triangle. The formation of ASEM is also seen as motivated perhaps by some fears of a protectionist movement in Europe and the European reaction to APEC which they were not part of. So, this was seen as a forum that could eventually develop to include both regions.

Question: What is the format of this organization? Does it have a Secretariat anywhere? Secondly, there is a multiplicity of organizations like G74, G20, G8. Does this organization not undermine the authority of the United Nations? ... (Unclear)... And what are the regional issues which would be discussed in this?

Secretary (East): I think as far as ASEM is concerned it does not have a Secretariat. It is regarded as a much more informal forum where leaders can come together to discuss issues of importance. There are four Coordinators of ASEM. One each for the European Union and the European Commission - they do it jointly - on the European side; and ASEAN and NESAC on the Asian side. So, you would have the EU Coordinator, you would have the EC Coordinator, you would have the ASEAN Coordinator, and you would have the NESAC Coordinator.

Question: Who is the Coordinator for NESAC?

Secretary (East): The Coordinator at the moment is Republic of Korea. The four Coordinators essentially hold regional meetings among their respective groups. Then the Coordinators hold a special meeting to put things together before the Summit. Therefore, the draft which we are discussing is already the combined wisdom of the four Coordinators who have in turn consulted all their members. But even so, individual countries would then be free to comment later. ASEM, therefore, works you can say through the European and the Asian sides coordinating among themselves through their respective Coordinators. So, we had a coordination meeting, for example, with the NESAC. That was in Cambodia, which was attended by our side, and the NESAC leader would then carry that to the coordination meeting which was later held.

The other question I think is a philosophical question. This could be asked of any multilateral or regional organization - does it take away from or does it enhance the UN? I think that each organization has its own place. I think people are very conscious of the fact that whatever we say in one organization should not be at odds with what we say overall in the umbrella organization which is the UN. In the UN because of the number of countries involved the articulation of certain common positions becomes I think harder than in certain regional groups. I think we have found some regional groups more active and more purposeful

than others. But at the same time I think we have to participate in any major regional group where leaders from other major countries in Asia are participating. India cannot be seen as not participating in those groups. And where we see there is a value to India, where our voice will be heard, where what we say matters, I think we should participate in these regional groups, while we do not neglect either the bilateral relations with individual countries which is very important for us or the overall multilateral framework of the United Nations. I believe there is space for all these different mechanisms to function side by side.

Question: Ms Reddy, between the 2008 Beijing meeting and now what has been the progress on the declaration, the intent of the declaration which was there?

Secretary (East): I think this is partially what the meeting will be doing. They will review the progress over the last two years as to whether we have met the goals that were set at the Beijing meeting, and whether some of these goals need to be carried over for their forward planning as well. But I do not think there has been a systematic review yet of what have been the achievements between 2008 and 2010.

Question: Madam, you said that someone from Pakistan will be attending the Summit. Is there any possibility of having a meeting with the Pakistan's representative?

Secretary (East): We have no confirmation on those bilateral meetings yet.

Question: Are you prepared if Pakistan raises the Kashmir issue again as they have done in the UN?

Secretary (East): I think we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

Question: Who is the representative from Pakistan?

Secretary (East): Under their list of confirmed representatives as of date, it would be the Foreign Minister Mr. Qureshi. It was originally the Prime Minister Mr. Gilani. But I understand that because of the flood situation in Pakistan it will now be Mr. Qureshi.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



082. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Eighth ASEM Summit.

Brussels, October 4, 2010.

Excellencies

I thank the Chair for this opportunity to address you. When we last met in Beijing in October 2008, we discussed the international financial and economic crisis and agreed on the imperative need to properly handle the relationship between financial innovation and regulation and to maintain sound macro-economic policy.

Today, we are faced with a new challenge - how to ensure global growth amidst debt sustainability concerns, especially in some of the Eurozone countries. Fragile economic recovery and weak private demand in developed economies has meant that while dealing with such sovereign debt problems we must give utmost priority to fiscal consolidation. Yet, a cookie-cutter would not work and a differentiated strategy would need to be crafted to take into account the special circumstances of each country.

International trade and investment thus offers an important route forward towards non-inflationary and sustainable global economic recovery. Developing economies are focusing on increasing domestic demand, especially through enhanced infrastructure investment. We therefore need to facilitate for this purpose enhanced multilateral and private capital flows to developing economies.

A recent OECD-WTO-UNCTAD Report on G-20 Trade and Investment Measures has noted that the potential for non-transparent and discriminatory application of emergency measures remains a serious challenge. It highlighted the need for governments to be vigilant in opposing protectionism, and devise and publicly announce exit strategies from emergency trade restrictive measures, to ward off protectionist pressures seeking to make them permanent.

Excellencies

Neither sustainable global economic recovery nor growth in developing economies would be possible if the new non-traditional methods of protection continue as part of stimulus and emergency support measures, mainly in the developed economies, for extended periods of time.

The fact that some of these measures are focused on services and manufacturing sectors where developing economies tend to have a comparative advantage, adds to the problem.

Needless to say, we believe a successful completion of the Doha Development Round would be a strong signal and provide a growth impetus to the global economy.

Excellencies

We in India have addressed the crisis through an effective fiscal and monetary stimulus and have contained its impact on our economy. We have had a real GDP growth of 8.8 per cent that was broad-based for the first quarter of 2010-11. Yet, this is lower than the average level of growth experienced earlier. We are gradually reversing the fiscal stimulus and propose to halve the fiscal deficit by 2013-14.

Our approach is thus in step with the overarching theme of ASEM 8 which is "Achieving greater well being and more dignity for all citizens". We are focused on an inclusive growth and development process that seeks to encompass all geographic and demographic segments, especially those who are marginalized, and we look forward to working in close consultation with our partners in ASEM.

Thank you.



083. Intervention by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Eighth ASEM Summit: Intervention on Economic and Financial Governance.

Brussels, October 4, 2010

Excellencies

I thank the Chair for this opportunity to address you. When we last met in Beijing in October 2008, we discussed the international financial and economic crisis and agreed on the imperative need to properly handle the relationship between financial innovation and regulation and to maintain sound macro-economic policy.

Today, we are faced with a new challenge - how to ensure global growth amidst debt sustainability concerns, especially in some of the Eurozone countries. Fragile economic recovery and weak private demand in developed economies has meant that while dealing with such sovereign debt problems we must give utmost priority to fiscal consolidation. Yet, a cookie-cutter would not work and a differentiated strategy would need to be crafted to take into account the special circumstances of each country.

International trade and investment thus offers an important route forward towards non-inflationary and sustainable global economic recovery. Developing economies are focusing on increasing domestic demand, especially through enhanced infrastructure investment. We therefore need to facilitate for this purpose enhanced multilateral and private capital flows to developing economies.

A recent OECD-WTO-UNCTAD Report on G-20 Trade and Investment Measures has noted that the potential for non-transparent and discriminatory application of emergency measures remains a serious challenge. It highlighted the need for governments to be vigilant in opposing protectionism, and devise and publicly announce exit strategies from emergency trade restrictive measures, to ward off protectionist pressures seeking to make them permanent.

Excellencies

Neither sustainable global economic recovery nor growth in developing economies would be possible if the new non-traditional methods of protection continue as part of stimulus and emergency support measures, mainly in the developed economies, for extended periods of time.

The fact that some of these measures are focused on services and manufacturing sectors where developing economies tend to have a comparative advantage, adds to the problem.

Needless to say, we believe a successful completion of the Doha Development Round would be a strong signal and provide a growth impetus to the global economy.

Excellencies

We in India have addressed the crisis through an effective fiscal and monetary stimulus and have contained its impact on our economy. We have had a real GDP growth of 8.8 per cent that was broad-based for the first quarter of 2010-11. Yet, this is lower than the average level of growth experienced earlier. We are gradually reversing the fiscal stimulus and propose to halve the fiscal deficit by 2013-14.

Our approach is thus in step with the overarching theme of ASEM 8 which is "Achieving greater well being and more dignity for all citizens". We are focused on an inclusive growth and development process that seeks to encompass all geographic and demographic segments, especially those who are marginalized, and we look forward to working in close consultation with our partners in ASEM.

Thank you.



084. Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Vice-President's Bilateral Meetings in Brussels.

Brussels, October 4, 2010.

Secretary (East) (Ms Vijaya Latha Reddy): Dear friends, thank you all for being here and I apologise for the delay in coming to speak to you. As you all know, the Hon'ble Vice-President arrived yesterday with most of you in Brussels. Today, the programme began at 9:50 a.m. with the meeting between Hon'ble Vice-President and the President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy. They both reviewed the state of India-EU relations, which they described as strategically important. Mr. Van Rompuy said that they were looking forward to the India-EU Summit to be held in December in Brussels. As I said, they both said that it was a strategic partnership. Mr. Van Rompuy also said that he had met with our Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Nuclear Summit earlier this year in Washington and they had exchanged views.

Both Hon'ble Vice-President and the President of the European Council expressed happiness on the larger areas of convergence in EU-India positions on many important issues. One particular issue that was touched upon was our shared values on democracy and pluralism. There were discussions on the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement. Both leaders expressed the hope that substantial progress can be made in the near future. Mr. Van Rompuy also explained the present economic situation in the different European States. Both leaders discussed the need for greater parliamentary exchanges to create bodies of positive public opinion on both sides.

Hon'ble Vice-President described the European Union as a unique achievement. Mr. Van Rompuy pointed out that the EU had gone very far in its task of uniting 27 countries of Europe. The introduction of the common currency in Eurozone countries was one of their big achievements. They are now concentrating on economic and budgetary issues. They are looking forward to engaging with emerging Asian powers including India. The European Union has 22 per cent of world GDP and over 500 million people, and remains an important global player.

I think these were the main issues that were discussed between both sides. I will ask the Ambassador Mr. Jaimini Bhagwati if he would like to add anything on India-EU relations as a background perhaps for all of you.

Indian Ambassador in Brussels (Mr. Jaimini Bhagwati): Maybe it makes more sense to do it in terms of response to questions. If you just finish the three bilaterals and in the course of questions if somebody wants elaboration I could do that.

Secretary (East): Certainly. I think that would be excellent. If we could go on to the Finnish Prime Minister's meeting with our Hon'ble Vice-President, the Finnish Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi expressed her happiness at the state of India-Finland bilateral relations. Both leaders reviewed the bilateral relationship and particularly the notable presence of Finnish investment in India with several high profile companies operating there. The Finnish Prime Minister welcomed Indian investment in Finland. She outlined several areas where she felt there could be some cooperation, particularly in clean technology, renewable energy, ICT, forestry and education. Our Vice-President said that there was enormous scope for investment in India both from our own national sources as well as through foreign investment. They both reviewed the situation on the international financial crisis, and exchanged views on India and Finland's respective strategies which had dealt with the issues.

The Finnish Prime Minister acknowledged the positive role played in the global recovery by the relatively higher growth rates in Asian countries. Regarding the ASEM Summit, it was felt that the economic, trade and growth agenda were very important for this meeting. The Finnish Prime Minister referred to the need for more political exchanges between ASEM countries. Both leaders exchanged views on climate change.

Hon'ble Vice-President said that decisions have been taken already and we need to implement those decisions. These include the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali process, which remain the basis for international negotiations. We see Copenhagen as a political message which does not detract from the ongoing negotiating process. We cannot

sidestep obligations which have already been agreed to internationally. Commitments made at the Kyoto Protocol remain unimplemented. At the same time, the process of development in developing countries cannot be retarded. India has made national commitments on climate change to be implemented on a voluntary basis. On the international financial crisis both leaders agreed that economic recovery should not be at the risk of growing protectionism and that growth in trade was itself necessary for economic recovery. These were the main issues covered in the meeting between the Finnish Prime Minister and Hon. Vice-President.

The last bilateral held this morning was between the President of Latvia Dr. Valdis Zatlers and Hon'ble Vice-President. They reviewed the state of our bilateral relations which remain problem free. The President of Latvia informed Hon'ble Vice-President that Latvia would be celebrating special events for the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore next year. The Hon'ble Vice-President asked the Latvian President to brief him on the situation in Eastern Europe which he did. On the bilateral front the Latvian President suggested that food-processing, timber, pharmaceuticals and IT are possible areas for cooperation. He also invited more Indian students to come to Latvia for studies. Both leaders discussed the need for reform in the United Nations in various areas.

I think these were some of the main issues discussed in the bilateral meetings this morning. As you all know, in the afternoon there would be the ceremonial welcome by His Majesty the King for all the world leaders attending the Summit. Thereafter, there would be the formal opening ceremony which will then be followed by the first session which starts at five o'clock. The Session will be on economic and financial governance. Hon'ble Vice-President will be presenting a statement at that time.

This would be the programme for today. The first session would continue till seven o'clock. It is also expected that there would be a brief meeting with the Prime Minister of Malaysia during the break. Then they go straight into a working dinner where discussions continue on the same subject.

I hope to give you another briefing later tomorrow. We will try and work it out at a convenient time tomorrow afternoon where we will bring you up to date on what has happened in the intervening period. I hope this

is satisfactory. Thank you. Should we take some questions? Any particular issues?

Question: I was just wondering on what basis were these bilaterals with the Finnish and the Latvian leaders chosen? Now the Malaysian leader is also going to meet the Vice-President. Was it because these were seen as somewhat strategically important? What was the reason that these out of the 40 Heads of State and Government are chosen?

Secretary (East): I think it is a question of what requests were received, how much time is available. As you can imagine, with 48 Heads of State here there are a lot of meetings going on. We also anticipate there will be a fair number of exchanges with other leaders in terms of pull-asides or informal interactions during the social events, the working dinners, lunches, coffee breaks and the reception to be hosted this evening as well as tomorrow afternoon. I think there would be opportunities to exchange views with many leaders. But these were the structured bilaterals that were set up. I think it was inevitable that there would be bilateral meetings with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission as also the host country Belgium. I think others would evolve as we go along.

Question: Is a meeting with President Barroso fixed?

Secretary (East): Again it would be a brief meeting tomorrow in one of the breaks but yes, there is one anticipated for tomorrow.

Question: You said that there were discussions with President Van Rompuy about the FTA. Was there any indication about when we might have an in principle agreement, in time for the Summit in December?

Secretary (East): Both sides said that we need to work hard at achieving agreement and I think there was a sense that the negotiations are progressing well, better than before. I think there is a spirit of optimism. That is as far as we can say at the moment.

Question: Any request from Pakistan for a bilateral?

Secretary (East): Nothing so far.

Question: We asked this yesterday also. Do you expect them to make any noise?

Secretary (East): We have finished the Senior Officials' Meeting. The issues which were discussed were those on the agenda. No new issues were raised.

Question: Could you just give us a flavor of ASEM? Senior Officials I think have finalized the draft and all.

Secretary (East): Certainly. It is still at the draft stage, so the actual Chair's statement would only be released at the time of the actual adoption. I think that in itself is a good indication. The document has been under negotiation for a long time. It is usually a Chair's Statement, but it issues with some detailed consultations between members. A lot of it is online. We have had a preparatory officials' meeting earlier this year also in Brussels. I am sure you would find a lot of material on the ASEM 8 website itself. I would direct you all there for some of the background on what were the main areas of interest. I can also inform you that there was a communication addressed jointly to the Hon'ble Vice-President of India as well as other leaders by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy the President of the Council; Mr. Yves Leterme, the Prime Minister of Belgium; and Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission on the eve of the Summit. This was sent to all the leaders, outlining what would be the main areas of interest. As I said also in my briefing in Delhi, they said their priority number one would be moving towards more effective global financial and economic governance.

They did say that they felt that ASEM 8, the present summit, should display the resolve and unity of Asia and Europe on pursuing the reform of financial regulation and supervision aimed at strengthening our financial institutions. They also said that we should send signals on the modernization of the international financial institutions taking account of the needs of today's world economy and of the shifts that have taken place as a result of strong growth in dynamic emerging markets and in developing economies. This is why they also felt that apart from the Chair's Statement there should be a separate declaration entitled 'Towards More Effective Global Economic Governance'.

The other very important subject they outlined was that of sustainable development. This would be addressed in the second session on the second day, Tuesday on 5th October. Following up on the Beijing

Declaration on Sustainable Development, they emphasized the need to agree to concrete actions that clearly express our resolve. They also talked about the need to promote non-distorting market policies and incentives leading to the adoption of more sustainable forms of goods and services production. I think they also mentioned that another area which would be important would be environmental protection with the aim to develop a message to move forward on negotiations on biodiversity and, of course, looking forward to the climate change negotiations in Cancun.

In the third session they were going to talk about global issues which we will be discussing. And this is the fight against terrorism and organized crime, the elimination of acts of piracy at sea, and the reversal of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems. Again it was felt that this is an area where ASEM, considering its geographical scope and the flexibility of its mechanisms, could be instrumental in achieving better cooperation.

They are going to look at several regional issues which will be outlined in the final draft statement. I think you will have to await the release of that because some of these issues are still under discussion though a lot of progress was made in the Senior Officials' Meeting towards achieving an agreed text. As we all know, it is not over till it is over. I think it will be formally adopted at the last session on Tuesday. So, that would be formally released to the media and to the public only at the close of the session which would be on the 5th evening I believe at about five o'clock or so.

Finally, they want to boost exchanges among European and Asian civil country representatives and leaders. That is why they have the Parliamentary partnership meeting, the business forum, a peoples' forum and a civil society event, as well as the exhibition "Passage to Asia."

I think this give you in a very broad sense what are the areas of interest, what will we be talking about in the Chairman's Statement and what will we be saying in the Declaration Towards More Effective Global Economic Governance.



IBSA–BRIC–RIC**085. Media Briefing by Secretary (Economic Relations) and Secretary (West) on Prime Minister's Visit to Brazil for IBSA and BRIC Summits.****New Delhi, April 9, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to all of you. As you are aware, Prime Minister would be leaving tomorrow for Washington to attend the Nuclear Security Summit. Thereafter, on the 14th he would be reaching Brasilia to participate in the IBSA and BRIC Summits.

We have here Secretary (ER) Shrimati Parbati Sen Vyas to brief you on the Prime Minister's visit to Brasilia for the BRIC Summit. To her right is Secretary (West) Mr. Vivek Katju, who would be briefing you about Prime Minister's participation in the IBSA Summit. Let me introduce another colleague Joint Secretary (MER) Mr. Vinod Kumar, who is to the right of Secretary (West). First, Secretary (ER) would be making her opening remarks and next Secretary (West) would be making his opening remarks. May I request Secretary (ER) for her opening statement?

Secretary (ER) (Shrimati Parbati Sen Vyas): Thank you Vishnu and good afternoon to all of you. I would like to brief you on the Second BRIC Summit that will take place during Prime Minister's visit to Brasilia. Prime Minister is leading the delegation to the Summit in Brasilia on 16th April. He will be accompanied among others by Commerce Minister, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, National Security Advisor and other senior officers from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs. The delegation is still a bit fluid and some more people may join.

You would be aware that the first standalone BRIC Summit was held in Russia in Yekaterinburg last year in June. Prime Minister of India and Presidents of Brazil, China and Russia had attended. The Second Summit in Brasilia begins on the 16th morning with a meeting of the leaders in a restricted session. This will be followed by a 45-minute long plenary session.

The agenda of the Second BRIC Summit includes discussions on the international financial and economic crisis, the G20 related matters, climate change, UN reform, regional issues including Iran, the Middle East and

Haiti, and a general follow-up of the dialogue of BRIC countries. It is expected that a joint statement will be issued at the conclusion of the Summit. A BRIC statistical publication is also expected to be issued at the end of the Summit meeting. The plenary session will be followed by a press conference.

Prime Minister may also meet some of the other leaders on the sidelines of the Summit for bilateral discussions. As I mentioned, National Security Advisor is a part of the delegation. This will be the second meeting of the BRIC High Representatives of Security, the National Security Advisors. This will be on 15th April. It is expected that NSA may also hold bilateral strategic dialogues with Brazil and perhaps with some of his other counterparts, i.e., the Russian and Chinese NSAs. You might recall that the first meeting of BRIC NSAs was held in Moscow also in May 2009.

In addition to these government-to-government meetings there are several other outreach events planned on the sidelines of the second summit. Prime Minister of India had proposed setting up a BRIC Business Forum at the First Summit. Following that proposal a joint IBSA and BRIC Business Forum will be held in Rio on 14th April. From the Indian side, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM are participating. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma will address the closing session of the Business Forum.

In addition to the Business Forum there will be meetings of commercial and development banks of the BRIC countries. The meeting of commercial banks is in Sao Paulo on 13th and 14th April. Chief Economists of the banks have been invited. Representatives of Bank of India and HDFC Bank among others are expected to participate. The meeting of development banks is also taking place in Rio. As of now the CMD of Exim Bank of India is attending the meeting. We hope, we expect other development banks will also participate. Brazil is also hosting a Track-II seminar of BRIC think-tanks. The participants from India are scholars from the ORF, RIS, ICRIER and IIM Ahmadabad.

I will conclude with some brief highlights regarding the background of BRIC. As you are aware, Foreign Ministers of the BRIC countries had first met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2006. Since then they have been meeting annually on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. A standalone meeting of the Foreign Ministers was held in

Yekaterinburg in May 2008. BRIC Finance and Economic Ministers have been meeting regularly. This has been found particularly useful especially in the context of the world economic and financial crisis. Finally, the first BRIC Agriculture Ministers meeting was held recently in Moscow on 26th March to discuss cooperation in the agricultural field. I think I will stop there and perhaps take some questions later. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: May I invite Secretary (West) to please make his opening remarks?

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): The IBSA Summit would be held on the 15th afternoon. The Prime Minister will be leading our Delegation and he will be accompanied by, as for the BRIC Summit, the Commerce Minister, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the National Security Advisor, and other officials. The Summit will be attended by President Lula da Silva of Brazil and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa. The format will be a restricted meeting and thereafter a plenary meeting.

Just to give you some background about IBSA, you might recall that the IBSA grouping was formalised as the IBSA Dialogue Forum at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa in June 2003. Thereafter, three Summits have been held. This would be the fourth Summit. The First IBSA Summit was held in Brazil in September 2006; the second in South Africa in October 2007; and the third in New Delhi in October 2008.

The IBSA Dialogue Forum has been conceived as a mechanism to promote intensive and comprehensive dialogue between the three countries that, as you know, occupy a significant place not only in their respective regions but also globally. Thus cooperation within IBSA was conceived as cooperation both at the governmental level and at the level of civil society. The structure of governmental level cooperation consists of, apart from the Summit, a trilateral Commission which meets at the level of the Foreign Ministers and meetings of the Trade Ministers. In addition, there are sixteen Working Groups covering the entire spectrum of the relationship. To give you an example, there are Working Groups in transport, in the field of energy, in trade and investment, in health, in science and technology, information society, in public administration, in social development, etc. We have a list of these sixteen and to those of you who are interested, we will be happy to give these.

At the level of civil society there are dialogue forums for interaction between parliamentarians, academics, the media, business and women among others. The purpose of the dialogue at both governmental as well as civil society levels is to exchange ideas, adopt strategies and if possible common positions which are relevant not only to the three countries but to the developing world as a whole.

Prior to the IBSA Summit on the 15th, we will have the meeting of two working groups in Brasilia. These are the Working Groups on energy and science and technology. There will also be meetings of six civil society, or people-to-people fora. These are the Parliamentary Forum for which there will be Members of Parliament from India who would be taking part; the Academic Forum, the Business Forum. The Business Forum would meet along with the BRIC Forum. That will be the first exercise of its kind. This would be at Rio de Janeiro on the 14th. There will also be an Editors' Forum, a Women's Forum, and a Round Table on Inter-governmental Relations and Local Governance. In addition there will be a meeting of the three nations on small business. You will observe that prior to the Summit there is a Comprehensive Dialogue which is going to take place.

The discussions that would take place in the different fora will be reported to the leaders during the plenary. The plenary will be followed by a press conference. On this occasion there may be the signing of a few trilateral MoUs. We expect that there will be an MoU on solar energy and on science and technology that will be signed on the occasion of the Summit. There are other MoUs under consideration. For example, an MoU for cooperation in the field of sports and cooperation among the diplomatic academies of the three countries. These MoUs at the moment represent work in progress.

The Women's Forum has been working on a publication which is entitled Towards an Inclusive Macro Economic Framework - A South-South Feminist Approach. It is expected that this would be launched during a post-summit press conference.

There has been progress in cooperation since the last Summit, the Summit in Delhi. Exchange of ideas within the Working Groups has been taking place. Some of these have resulted in MoUs or in concrete projects. In other cases ideas continue to be discussed between the three countries. Workshops too have been held under the aegis of these sixteen Working Groups.

Finally, IBSA has been undertaking projects in other developing countries and this is part of the IBSA Trust Fund. These projects are managed by the UNDP. This is a novel initiative of IBSA in the spirit of South-South cooperation. Currently the IBSA Fund projects are going on in seven countries. In the wake of the recent earthquake in Haiti there had been an announcement to develop more projects in that country. The space agencies of the three countries have also been working for cooperation in the field of space sciences. A concept paper has been developed for a weather space satellite and discussions are in progress in this area.

The last point I wish to make is that these three countries are separated by fairly substantial distances and connectivity is important. We have been working for better connectivity, whether it be surface route or air connectivity. I will stop at this moment. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The Secretaries will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to Prime Minister's visit to Brasilia for the IBSA and BRIC Summits.

Question: My question is addressed to Secretary (ER). Madam, BRIC is possibly the only institution of its kind in the world in the sense that the idea was thrown up by something and the Heads of Government have been meeting regularly and so on. Is there any effort to institutionalise BRIC as such? Secondly, there have been suggestions that it should be expanded. Indonesia is the likely candidate and South Africa is known to have expressed an interest in joining BRIC. Is there any move to admit more members and expand BRIC?

Secretary (ER): On institutionalizing BRIC, as you said yourself, it started as an economic modeling exercise about the future economic trends and this acronym was picked up by actually the then Russian President who directed that the Foreign Ministers should meet. It has this economic basis. If you remember, the Goldman Sachs paper says the world needs more economic BRICs. So, these are the four emerging developing countries. It is still in a nascent stage, I would say. Unlike the IBSA which is an older grouping and has this pattern which is based on south-south cooperation, this is still in a nascent stage but has acquired its particular importance in view of the world economic and financial crisis. In this context the meeting of the BRIC Finance Ministers and the leaders has acquired a very special

significance. Therefore, I should say over the years it has become well-known, even fairly popular let us say. As you rightly said, there are some countries wanting to join. The decision will naturally be taken by the leaders of the four countries themselves. Nothing has been decided yet about new members. It is still, as I said, in a nascent stage. It needs to have perhaps more of a substantive agenda before it can either be institutionalized, especially the Summit. This is just the Second Summit. I would say the Foreign Ministers' meeting has become something of an institution, the one on the sidelines of the UNGA summit every year. That has been taking place since 2006. I hope that answers your question.

Question: Are the applications of new members under consideration? How many countries are exactly interested in joining?

Official Spokesperson: Secretary (ER) has already explained the position. She has just mentioned that this matter will evolve in the course of time. So, it is premature so to say, to address that question at this juncture.

Question: Are any bilateral meetings scheduled?

Secretary (West): There will be a bilateral meeting of the Prime Minister with the President of Brazil on the 15th morning. That will provide an occasion to the two leaders to go over the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship which, as you know, is very substantial.

Question: Could you tell us which bilaterals are scheduled in Washington? The White House has already announced the Obama-Manmohan Singh meeting. If you could tell us, we can plan ahead.

Official Spokesperson: I believe that a few bilaterals are being contemplated and being worked out during Prime Minister's stay at Washington. As the bilaterals are firmed up, we will be very happy to share the details with you.

Question: This question is addressed to Madam Secretary. ... (Inaudible)... about China's currency valuation which India has been getting some ... (Inaudible)... Secondly, can you give us any detail about some of the non-financial, economic ... (Inaudible)... under discussion like climate change?

Secretary (ER): I just mentioned that there will be a general discussion of the world financial and economic situation. Apart from the non-governmental meetings, the BRIC and IBSA Business Forum would be an important Forum to work out synergies in the area of trade and investment. Apart from that if you actually see the four countries it is a very interesting mixture of two energy producers and two consumers who do not have so many natural resources in the field of energy. So, it is possible to work out partnerships for acquiring energy supplies. As I said, it is still at a nascent stage but the very anchor of this grouping is the economic grouping, the economic development issues. I had mentioned the agenda items. Of course there will be a discussion on climate change. It is on the agenda. In the economic side climate change is the most important agenda item.

Question: What about non-economic issues?

Secretary (ER): Part of the agenda will discuss regional issues which is Middle East, Haiti and Iran. Apart from that there is the UN reform. These are the main agenda items.

Question: China's currency?

Secretary (ER): It is not on the agenda. It could come in, as I said, the international and financial crisis. But it is not on the BRIC agenda.

Question: Secretary, you mentioned that there could be an MoU in the field of sports. Could you elaborate and throw some light on it?

Secretary (West): All three countries are, as you know, going to host very significant sporting events. So, that will be one aspect of the MoU that is under discussion. The other aspect is coaching. I think all three countries have great strengths in different sports. There is a discussion going on of how we can complement each other when it comes to these sports. There is some discussion on sports facilities. It is a fairly wide-ranging MoU. Because it is under discussion, I think I will limit myself to these three points.

Question: My question is addressed to Mr. Vishnu. It is expected that an Indo-Pak bilateral will be held on the sidelines of the NSS in Washington. What may be the major ...(Inaudible)... agenda has been prepared...

Official Spokesperson: Thank you for the question. As I said, Prime Minister is expected to have a number of bilateral engagements. We are in the process of finalising the arrangements, the meetings. We will be most happy to share with you the details as soon as the meetings and bilaterals are finalised.

Question: This is actually meant for Vivek. Ten-fifteen years ago before IBSA was born there was a study done by a banking institution that if we use South African ports to export our goods to South America, we will be able to save 40 per cent of the trade cost and all that. Now IBSA has come into existence. But you still have a problem getting to Brazil from here and flights to South Africa are not all that conveniently available and so on. Has any work been done on this?

Secretary (West): I think that is a very valid question. About fifteen years ago distance was a psychological impediment. But it is our experience that it is no longer so. Indian trade with the South American region as a whole has been expanding. There is still great potential. But if one takes the last decade for instance, it has gone up from about a billion and a half dollars to something like nine billion dollars today. Even more encouragingly, Indian investments are growing. Today, with the approach and the attitude that our business has South America is no longer a remote place. I think if there is an impediment it is in the minds of those who are not involved in business. For business people it is an area where they are very good which only brings me to this fact that connections are increasing. But as I mentioned in my opening remarks, there is need to enhance connectivity and that is a matter of special focus for the three countries.

Question: Madam, does the BRIC have a formal position on the way forward on the Iranian nuclear issue?

Secretary (ER): There are lot of similarities and commonalities, as you know, amongst the BRIC countries on various global issues. On Iran, I would say that this is the first time it has been a focused agenda item. Let us see how it evolves. Let us see what the discussions are about. Question: On the Middle East also is it the first time that BRIC will be talking about Middle East?

Secretary (ER): I think in general terms it has been referred to. But now it is an agenda item in the leaders' meetings.

Secretary (West): If I may add, I think within the IBSA format too there would be a focus on the situation in West Asia.

Question: On the issue of UN reform, is any consensus likely to emerge in the Summits?

Secretary (ER): Again this is interesting. There are two members who are already permanent members of the UN Security Council and two aspirants. But we do have a common formulation already extending support for the aspirations of India and Brazil. In other matters, in general terms that the international organisations in the world should be more democratic, more inclusive, the voting rights should be more inclusive, and more voting rights for the developing countries in view of the fact that the world has changed so much since 1947 when these institutions were set up, there is a great deal of commonality. In fact, I would say that the grouping is based on this common attitude towards the reform of the UN institutions including the international financial institutions.

Secretary (West): As far as IBSA is concerned there is consensus that the United Nations must reflect contemporary realities. Two of the three IBSA countries - India and Brazil - are part of the G4. South Africa is not part of this grouping. But there was great cooperation between the G4 and South Africa over the past few months in urging the facilitator at the United Nations in New York to come up with a negotiating text for inter-governmental negotiations to take place on UN Security Council reform in the informal plenary of the General Assembly. I think there is one more significant point on UN reform in the sense that it is the G4 position that there has to be expansion both in the permanent and the non-permanent categories in the UN Security Council. South Africa shares that view as part of the African position.

Question: I would like to direct this question to Secretary (West). Is the Prime Minister going to raise the issue of nuclear cooperation with both Brazil and South Africa? They are both members of the NSG and both have expressed willingness to supply us uranium. Is that going to be on the PM's agenda?

Secretary (West): There is no specific focus on civil nuclear cooperation. You are right, both countries have supported us in the past. But during this Summit there is no specific focus as yet. But when the leaders meet and discussions take place, who can predict what will emerge?

Question: Sir, in Brazil when NSA meets his Chinese counterpart will the boundary issue come up?

Secretary (ER): We cannot say yet about the agenda. In fact, I am not even sure that this particular bilateral with China on the sidelines of the Summit has been agreed to yet. But certainly we will keep you informed.



086. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for USA for the Nuclear Security Summit and Brazil for the IBSA and BRIC Summits.

New Delhi, April 9, 2010.

I am leaving tomorrow to attend the Nuclear Security Summit being hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington DC, and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) and Brazil-Russia-India-China (BRIC) Summits being hosted by President Lula da Silva in Brasilia.

India welcomes President Obama's initiative to hold a Summit on Nuclear Security. Nuclear energy is poised to play a growing role in addressing the developmental challenges of our times. This will be possible only if we, as individual nations, and as a global community ensure the highest standards of security which reinforce public faith in the benefits of nuclear science. India is an important stakeholder in this global endeavour.

I expect the Summit to focus on nuclear terrorism and the security of sensitive nuclear materials and technologies. These are legitimate concerns which require firm responses. India has a well developed indigenous nuclear energy programme, which dates back six decades. We have an impeccable record of security, safety and non-proliferation which reflects our conduct as a responsible nuclear power.

India has been a consistent advocate of complete and universal global nuclear disarmament. We were among the first countries in the world to call for a world free of nuclear weapons. I am encouraged by the fact that this approach is finding greater resonance today. We will continue to call for more meaningful progress in this direction.

During my stay in Washington I look forward to having bilateral meetings with President Obama, President Nazarbaev of Kazakhstan, President Sarkozy of France, Prime Minister Harper of Canada and other world leaders.

From Washington, I will proceed to Brasilia to attend the fourth IBSA Summit and the second BRIC Summit. These groupings reflect the growing role of emerging economies in shaping the global economic order.

The IBSA process has come of age. Today, it encompasses a wide range of activities which supplement the excellent bilateral relations we enjoy with each of these countries. Our coordination on important international issues has expanded, and our trilateral cooperation is beginning to bear fruit in many sectors.

The BRIC countries are among the largest and fastest growing economies with rich human and material resources. They represent the future of the global economic landscape. We have a high stake in the revival of the global economy, an open trading system, energy security, combating climate change and addressing non-traditional threats to international security.

I will also hold separate bilateral discussions with President Lula da Silva. Relations with Brazil are an important pillar of our policy towards Latin America and have witnessed substantial expansion in recent years.

In Brasilia I will also have bilateral meetings with President Hu Jintao of China and President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia.



86-A. Press Statement of IBSA Forum on the occasion of the election of India, Brazil and South Africa as non-permanent members of UNSC.

New York, October 12, 2010.

The Permanent Representatives of India, H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri; Brazil, H.E. Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti; and South Africa, H.E. Mr. Baso Sangqu have taken note of the historic occasion in 2011 in which all three IBSA countries will serve in the UN Security Council following the election of India and South Africa to the Security Council as non-permanent members on 12 October 2010, and the election of Brazil in 2009.

The Representatives noted that as countries from the global South, India, Brazil and South Africa will, as a highest priority, promote the principles and objectives of the South on the UN Security Council including to work to make the Security Council more transparent in its working methods.

The Permanent Representatives reiterated the statement issued by the Ministers of IBSA on 25 September 2010, during the General Debate of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, in which IBSA reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and to increased participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral organisations and institutions. In this regard, IBSA reiterated the urgent need for the UN to be reformed so as to become more representative and reflective of the needs and priorities of developing countries, specifically the UN Security Council.

In this context, the Permanent Representatives reiterated the call of the IBSA Ministers for the urgent need to expand the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, in order to increase participation of developing countries. This will make the UNSC more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and would also enhance its effectiveness and legitimacy, as well as the implementation of its decisions.

The Permanent Representatives again stressed their firm commitment to collaborate in the Security Council with the aim of making the Council more responsive and transparent in the execution of its mandate. The Permanent Representatives committed themselves, and their delegations to enhance cooperation in the Security Council on all priority agenda items. One such priority area will be to promote and enhance the Security Council's cooperation with regional organizations, particularly the African Union's Peace and Security Council.



087. Opening Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Press Conference after the IBSA Summit.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

President Lula, President Zuma and I have just concluded a very useful round of discussions on our multi-faceted cooperation under IBSA, and on several important global issues. I thank President Lula and the Government and people of Brazil for hosting the Summit and other meetings preceding the Summit.

The IBSA framework has become the embodiment of South-South Cooperation. In a period of seven years, when the idea of establishing IBSA was first discussed, IBSA has moved from strength to strength.

This is our fourth Summit, and marks the commencement of the second cycle of Summits. We have developed an institutional structure for enhancing our trilateral cooperation in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, energy, economic cooperation, transportation, ocean research and space science.

Promotion of people-to-people interaction and greater mutual awareness of each other is the hallmark of IBSA. The several forums and Working Groups that have met here for the past few days strengthen my belief that we are proceeding in the right direction of strengthening civil society interface among our countries. IBSA is largely a peoples project. The

collaborative activities within the IBSA framework hold immense promise for our people.

IBSA countries have rich experience of consulting each other on global issues. We have worked together on trade, development and climate change issues. We share similar views with regard to the reform of global institutions of governance. We are united by the primacy we accord to development and issues such as food security, social inclusiveness and energy security.

IBSA has entered a phase of consolidation. In this Summit we have agreed to focus our efforts on the implementation of the various initiatives we have launched under the IBSA framework. We have issued a Joint Declaration that spells out our common approach on global issues confronting our societies.

I firmly believe that IBSA has developed into a vibrant organisation, and will continue to play an important role in global affairs.

Thank you.



088. Joint Communiqué issued by the Ministers of the IBSA countries on the Situation in the Middle East.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

On the occasion of the Fourth IBSA Summit, in Brasilia, on April 15th 2010, the Ministers of Brazil, India and South Africa met with the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki

2. The Ministers indicated that India, Brazil and South Africa, as members of the IBSA Forum, are convinced that a comprehensive peace in the Middle East is crucial, not only for the peoples and countries of the region, but also for the international peace and security.

3. In line with the relevant UN Resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative, the IBSA countries 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.

4. They note that a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace process, including between Israel and Palestine, must reach concrete progress on all tracks and reiterate their support to efforts aimed at reactivating talks between Israel, Syria and Lebanon. An enlarged participation of the international community in this endeavour, including developing countries with good relations with all parties, could bring a fresh perspective to the peace process, and IBSA countries will actively support this process.

5. The IBSA countries strongly urge the Israeli government to freeze all settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories, including "natural growth", and to reverse its decision to advance planning for new housing units in East Jerusalem. Concerned by the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, they also call on Israel to alleviate circulation restrictions on the movement of people and goods, both in Gaza and in the West Bank. In addition, they expressed deep concern at the issuance by Israel of Military Order 1650.

6. Conflicts in the Middle East remain essentially political in nature and cannot be resolved by force. The IBSA countries therefore call upon all actors not to pursue policies, measures and actions that inflict damage and suffering, particularly to civilians.

7. They express support for mediation efforts with a view to reaching domestic Palestinian reconciliation and urge all interested parties to contribute to that purpose. They call on the international community to contribute, on a sustained, concrete and urgent basis, to the state-building efforts undertaken by the Palestinian National Authority, recalling the IBSA readiness to continue its commitments in this regard.

8. IBSA countries will continue consultations on the matter.



089. Brasilia Declaration of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum Fourth Summit Conference.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma (hereinafter referred to as "the Leaders") met in Brasília, Brazil, on 15 April 2010 for the 4th Summit of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum.

2. The Leaders highlighted that the three countries' commitment to democratic values, inclusive social development and multilateralism constitutes the basis for their growing cooperation and close coordination on global issues. They noted that a first round of IBSA Summits of Heads of State/Government (Brasilia, 2006; Tshwane, 2007; New Delhi, 2008) has strengthened the three countries resolve to continue to work for enhancing the role of developing countries, increasing the interchanges amongst themselves with the participation of their peoples, and for implementing concrete projects in partnership with other developing countries.

3. Recalling the Declarations and Communiqués issued during the previous Summits, they took the opportunity to deliberate on the topics hereunder.

Global Governance

4. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to increase participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions. They also reiterated the urgent need for the reform of the United Nations (UN) to render it more democratic and consistent with the priorities of developing countries. 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 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 geopolitical realities and to have the

representativeness and legitimacy it needs to face contemporary challenges. They committed to keep close coordination amongst the three countries and the broader UN membership to achieve substantial progress in the intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform presently underway in New York. They recalled that an overwhelming majority of the UN member states agreed to proceed with a fifth round of intergovernmental negotiations based on a negotiating text.

5. The Leaders stressed the need to reform the Bretton Woods Institutions in order to increase their effectiveness and enhance their accountability, credibility and legitimacy. They stressed the importance of increasing the role of developing countries in these institutions.

The social dimensions of globalization

6. The Leaders reaffirmed that people must come first in the formulation and implementation of public policies, allowing for fair, equitable and sustainable development. They considered this issue a relevant priority in the context of an increasingly globalized world, in which the economic and financial crisis, and the restructuring of the international financial architecture that ensued, directly affect the welfare of people, particularly of vulnerable groups. In this regard, they stressed the need to strengthen social policies and to fight hunger and poverty, especially in times of global economic crisis.

7. The Leaders also reiterated the need to promote a job-intensive recovery from the downturn and create a framework for sustainable growth. In this context, they underlined their support for the global jobs pact, adopted by the 98th session of the international labour conference, which, while demonstrating the linkages between social progress, economic development and recovery from the crisis, offers policy options adaptable to national needs and circumstances. The Leaders also reaffirmed that their actions in response to the crisis are guided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) decent work agenda and the 2008 declaration on social justice for a fair globalization.

Gender

8. The Leaders stressed the importance of empowering women, increasing their participation in economic activities and addressing the

negative impact of the international financial crisis on their situation. They received with satisfaction a letter from the IBSA Women's Forum and instructed all areas of government involved in IBSA cooperation to pay due attention to its recommendations. In addition, the Leaders reiterated their support for the full implementation of UN Resolution 1325 (2000). They also recalled the importance of formulating and implementing appropriate policies and programs in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action.

Human Rights

9. The Leaders attached the highest priority to human rights issues and acknowledged the positive advance represented by the creation and functioning of the Human Rights Council. They noted the importance of their close collaboration therein. They expressed their hope that the 2011 review will result in a further strengthening of the Council.

10. They also emphasized the need to continue to strengthen international human rights law, norms and standards, particularly in the area of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

11. The Leaders welcomed the adoption of an IBSA proposal in the Human Rights Council related to the importance of access to medicine (A/HRC/RES/12/24).

Intellectual Property Rights

12. The Leaders recognized that innovation plays a central role in addressing the key global challenges of our times such as food security, poverty eradication, health, access to knowledge and climate change. They emphasized, in this context, the need for a balanced international intellectual property system capable of meeting those challenges on a truly global scale and reducing the technological gap. To that effect, they called for the full implementation of the Development Agenda of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

13. They warned against attempts at developing new international rules on enforcement of intellectual property rights outside the appropriate fora

of WTO and WIPO, that may give free rein to abuses in the protection of rights, the building of barriers against free trade and undermining fundamental civil rights.

14. They further expressed renewed concern about the continuous application of enforcement measures that allow seizures of generic medicines in transit to developing countries, in violation of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and posing a serious threat to developing countries access to medicines.

Internet Governance

15. 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).

16. The Leaders highlighted the importance of building a wide political concertation at international level for making the global internet governance regime as multilateral, democratic and transparent as provided by the WSIS. They recognized the advances reached by the multistakeholders participants in the international dialogue on internet governance in the last five years. They recalled, with satisfaction, the fruitful coordination amongst IBSA countries and the efforts of Brazil and India for hosting the second and third editions of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Rio 2007 and Hyderabad 2008, respectively.

Climate Change

17. The Leaders reiterated the importance of a positive result for the current climate change negotiations at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Mexico. They stressed that the result should be reached in an inclusive and transparent manner, and should effectively address the challenge of climate change, in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC, especially the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They

urged developed countries to take ambitious action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide adequate international financing and transfer of technology to support the efforts of developing countries to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change.

Sustainable Development

18. The Leaders stressed the importance of promoting sustainable development. They welcomed the resolution of the UN General Assembly to convene a Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, in 2012. They called for a comprehensive preparatory process, to ensure that the Rio+20 Conference can adequately address existing implementation deficits and emerging issues in sustainable development, with a view to further strengthening international cooperation in this field.

Trade

19. The Leaders stated that a positive outcome of the Doha Round of trade talks within the World Trade Organization would be instrumental in economic recovery, particularly in job creation, as international trade experiences its sharpest decline in many decades. A development oriented, balanced and successful conclusion of the Round at an early date would bolster the credibility of the multilateral trading system in the face of increased protectionist pressures. In this respect, they expressed their concern over the excessive demands made on some developing countries without any indication of adequate additional concessions in favour of developing countries.

20. They recalled, with satisfaction, the First Trilateral MERCOSUR-SACU-India Ministerial Meeting held in Geneva on November 30th, 2009 and expressed their confidence that trade agreements and ongoing negotiations between MERCOSUR and India, MERCOSUR and SACU and SACU and India will lead to a future Trilateral Trade Arrangement which would form the largest trade agreement in the developing world.

Global financial and economic crisis

21. The Leaders welcomed signs of recovery from the global financial and economic crisis. They however remained concerned over the consequences of the crisis for the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals. They recalled the vital contribution made by developing countries to the global recovery. The Leaders underlined that developed and developing countries should continue to coordinate approaches and responses to the crisis in order to achieve sustainable and balanced recovery. They stressed that global economic efforts have to respond to the needs of developing and low income countries, particularly in Africa. The Leaders recognized that the impact of the crisis has been severe in many developing and low income countries. They welcomed pledges to increase IMF resources and Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) lending, and called for the urgent implementation of all commitments in meeting the needs of low income countries, including the Gleneagles commitment to double aid to Africa to \$50 billion by 2010. They called for a substantial increase in the capital base of the World Bank, so that it could sustain enhanced levels of lending. They agreed to enhance cooperation between India, Brazil and South Africa in relevant international fora where recovery efforts are being considered.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

22. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable manner, and expressed concern over the lack of progress in the realization of that goal. They underlined the need for reducing the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and expressed their support for effective international agreements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Leaders expressed support for an International Convention Prohibiting the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Nuclear Weapons, leading to their destruction. They reiterated that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes, requiring continuous irreversible progress on both fronts.

Terrorism

23. 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 threats to international peace and security. They regretted and condemned the recent attacks in India that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. The Leaders of Brazil and South

Africa offered condolences to the government and the people of India. The three Leaders also encouraged cooperation among States and regional organizations. In this regard, they emphasized the urgent need to finalize the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and called upon all states to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues with the objective of an expeditious conclusion of negotiations and adoption of this Convention. They note that the fight against international terrorism must be done with full respect to the UN Charter and International Law.

Peace-building Commission Review

24. The Leaders recognized the central role played by the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in the establishment of the foundations for sustainable peace in countries that are on the verge of or emerging from conflict and express their intention to join efforts and coordinate positions in the context of the PBC review process.

South-South Cooperation

25. Welcoming the outcome of the UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (Nairobi, December 2009), the Leaders concurred that South-South cooperation is a particular and essential instrument for development. Developing countries tend to share common views on national development strategies and priorities when faced with similar development challenges. In the three decades since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, technical cooperation amongst developing countries has evolved to embrace all forms of development cooperation. In this context, developing countries have designed and implemented technical cooperation projects, based on their own capabilities, aimed at the promotion of effective actions and policies for social and economic progress. These include the sharing of knowledge and experiences, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions.

26. 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. Therefore South-South Cooperation should not be seen as aid, nor should

developing countries engaged in South-South cooperation be perceived as donors and recipients. They expressed the view that the United Nations system needs to better adapt to support the growth of South-South cooperation.

The IBSA Facility Fund

27. They noted with appreciation that people and authorities of Haiti, Palestine, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Burundi and Cambodia are benefiting from projects being undertaken under the IBSA Facility Fund. They reiterated the continued commitment of India, Brazil and South Africa to each contribute with at least US\$ 1 million per year to the Fund. They also concurred that cooperation through the IBSA Fund is a concrete gesture reflecting their political determination to contribute to the development of other developing countries in the spirit of South-South Cooperation.

Regional Issues

Haiti

28. They reaffirmed their solidarity with the Haitian people and with the Government of Haiti at these most trying times. They called upon international community to unite and coordinate, under the Leadership of the United Nations and of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), to align strong international support to the national priorities set forth by the Government of Haiti. They commended MINUSTAH for ensuring a secure and stable environment in Haiti and effectively coordinating international aid. They recognized that MINUSTAH has a critical role to play in the reconstruction phase and reaffirmed their full support for the Mission and the United Nations agencies. They also commended the UN Development Programme (UNDP) for the results achieved so far in implementing "cash for work" programs.

29. Leaders recalled the IBSA resolve to contribute additional US\$ 2 million to the reconstruction of Haiti. They agreed that the solid waste management project in Carrefour Feuilles, a successful initiative supported by IBSA, in partnership with local authorities and UNDP, should be expanded to other areas in Haiti, deepening on the expertise accrued since 2006. They also noted with appreciation that the Haitians involved in the

project got back to work soon after the tragedy, testifying that the dedication of the people of Haiti will be at the core of the reconstruction effort.

Chile

30. The Leaders expressed their condolences to the Government and people of Chile for the tragedy caused by the earthquake that struck South-Central Chile on February 27, 2010, and expressed their willingness to support the Chilean efforts for overcoming the effects of the tragedy.

Iran

31. The Leaders recognized the right of Iran to develop nuclear programs for peaceful purposes in keeping with its international obligations. They called upon Iran to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions. [They reiterated the need for a peaceful and diplomatic solution of the issue].

Afghanistan

32. The Leaders expressed concern at the continuing deterioration of the military and political situation in Afghanistan, the growth of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism promoted by Taliban and al Qaeda, and its links with international terrorism. They reiterated, in this context, that a coherent and a united international commitment, both in its developmental and security/military aspects, remained of paramount importance. In this context, they also emphasized the need to strengthen the Afghan National Security Forces. They agreed to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts to impart greater strength to the process. They reaffirmed their commitment to a democratic, pluralistic and stable Afghanistan. They underlined the centrality of the regional aspect in the reconstruction and development process in Afghanistan. The Leaders condemned the terrorist attack targeting Indian humanitarian and development workers in Kabul on February 26, 2010.

NEPAD/AU structure

33. The Leaders welcomed the 2010 decision of the AU Assembly to further integrate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the AU structures and the re-naming of the NEPAD Secretariat to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA). The Leaders took

note that the NPCA will focus on taking further the programmes of the AU by translating decisions of the AU Assembly and the AU Executive Council into tangible projects and programmes for the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement. They further took note that the NPCA's mandate now includes the coordination and monitoring of such programmes and projects amongst the RECs and member states.

34. The Leaders recognized that the further integration of NEPAD as well as the augmented mandate of the NPCA will promote a more holistic and coordinated approach to infrastructural development and in the growth and development of Africa, which will benefit the attainment of NEPAD's identified priorities in such sectors as ICT, energy, water and sanitation and transport.

Guinea-Bissau

35. The Leaders expressed their concern about the recent military incidents in Guinea-Bissau. They urge the military and political leadership to uphold the constitutional order and resolve differences through peaceful dialogue in order to ensure the progress recently achieved by Guinea-Bissau in the ongoing process of consolidation of peace and democracy. The Leaders hope that these events do not jeopardize the engagement of international partners. in the International Donor Conference expected to take place in 2010. They highlighted the role of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and confirmed their commitment to continue to support, through concrete actions of cooperation, the efforts of the Guinean Government to consolidate the political and institutional stability, building the basis for sustainable socio-economic development. In this context, they took note with satisfaction that the IBSA Project in Guinea-Bissau has entered its second phase, distributing tools for farmers and organizing literacy classes for women living in rural areas, in coordination with national authorities.

Republic of Guinea

36. The Leaders acknowledged progress made by the Republic of Guinea in its efforts towards normalisation of the political environment since the signing of the Ouagadougou Accord on 15 January 2010. They welcomed the appointment of the Transitional Authority led by a civilian Prime Minister. The Leaders encouraged the Transitional Authority to hold the Presidential

elections, as stipulated in the Ouagadougou Accord, scheduled for 27 June 2010 to be followed by the second round of the Presidential elections on 18 July 2010.

Madagascar

37. They noted with concern the current stalemate in the negotiation process to return Madagascar to constitutionality and endorsed the continuance of the SADC Mediator in his efforts towards the restoration of constitutional order and good governance in Madagascar, through an inclusive, transparent and credible dialogue. The Leaders called for the establishment of a Transitional Government and the holding of all inclusive, transparent, free and fair elections as envisaged by the Maputo and Addis Ababa Agreements.

Sectoral cooperation and People-to-People Fora

38. The Leaders noted that besides promoting increased consultation and coordination on global issues among the three countries, IBSA also provides for important sectoral cooperation and promotion of people-to-people contacts. The Leaders welcomed the effective interaction among specialists from the three countries, within the working groups on Agriculture, Environment & Climate Change, Culture, Defence, Education, Energy, Health, Human Settlements, Information Society, Public Administration, Revenue Administration, Science & Technology, Social Issues, Tourism, Trade & Investment, and Transport. Their activities have already resulted in the signing of a number of Memoranda of Understanding. Furthermore, seminars and workshops have been regularly undertaken and proven beneficial.

39. The Leaders noted with appreciation the organization and the outcome of the Women's Forum, the Parliamentary Forum, the Business Forum, the Editor's Forum, the Academic Forum and the Round Table on Inter-governmental Relations and Local Government Dialogue, which lay roots in the three societies. The Leaders also noted the cooperation among the three countries in the format of the Tri-Nations Summit of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises.

40. The Leaders welcomed the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding on Science and Technology and Solar Energy. They noted

with appreciation the adoption of the "IBSA Social Development Strategies"[and of the "Future of Agriculture Cooperation in IBSA"].

IBSA Satellites

41. The Leaders decided to the early development of satellites in the areas of space weather, climate and earth observation. These satellites will address common challenges in climate studies, agriculture and food security. The IBSA micro satellites aim to promote and strengthen space programs amongst the three countries.

Final remarks

42. They affirmed the importance of encouraging the dialogue among civilizations, cultures, religions and peoples. In this respect, they supported the "Alliance of Civilizations", a United Nations' initiative aimed at building bridges, mutual knowledge and understanding around the world. They commended the Brazilian decision to host, in Rio de Janeiro, on May 2010, the 3rd Global Forum and confirmed their intention to be represented at an appropriate high level.

43. The Leaders expressed confidence in the success of the FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa, of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, of the FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil and of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. They recognized that hosting these events reflects the positive momentum of developing countries, and of the three countries in particular, and that they are potentially a tool for their social and economic development.

44. They decided that the VII Trilateral Commission will be held in India by the end of 2010. They also decided that South Africa will host the VIII Trilateral Commission and the V IBSA Summit of Heads of State/ Government towards the end of 2011.

45. The Prime Minister of India and the President of South Africa expressed their gratitude to the President and the people of Brazil for successfully convening the 4th IBSA Summit.



090. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the IBSA Trust Fund Receiving 'Millennium Development Goal' Award.

New Delhi, September 21, 2010.

The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) received the 2010 MDG Award for South-South Cooperation. The Award recognizes the work of the three countries in using innovative approaches to share, replicate and scale up successful development experiences for combating poverty and hunger in other parts of the world through the IBSA Trust Fund.

The annual MDG Awards support and raise awareness for the Millennium Development Goals. The award for IBSA was received by high-level representatives of the three countries and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programme at a prestigious Gala at the Waldorf Astoria in New York on 19th September 2010.

The IBSA Trust Fund brings together three emerging economies and vibrant democracies that span three different continents in the quest to combat poverty in other developing countries. Each country contributes 1 million US dollars annually to this Fund which is managed by the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. Projects are executed by various UN Agencies and partners on the ground across the globe with a strong emphasis on national ownership. IBSA projects focus on the sharing of best practices and proven experiences and include initiatives as diverse as improving agricultural techniques in remote villages, reducing urban violence in slums, on delivering safe drinking water. Current IBSA initiatives include projects in Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Burundi, Palestine, Cambodia and Lao PDR.



091. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at IBSA Ministerial Meeting.

New York, September 25, 2010.

Your Excellency, Foreign Minister of South Africa

Your Excellency, Foreign Minister of Brazil

I am delighted to be here among friends once again. Let me begin by thanking our host, Her Excellency Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of South Africa and the South African delegation for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

IBSA is a unique forum in that it brings together three dynamic democracies from three continents bound together by shared values and a common commitment to democracy, pluralism, human rights and the rule of law. These attributes make IBSA an exemplary body for global cooperation.

I am particularly happy that we have this opportunity to meet on the eve of the elections for the UN Security Council non-permanent seats (for the period 2011-2012) at which India and South Africa are the sole candidates from their respective Groups. In a unique and fortuitous development, all three of our countries may have the opportunity to serve together in the Security Council from 1st January 2011. I would like to wish South Africa the very best. We hope to join Brazil in the Council from next year.

It is no coincidence that all three of our countries are key drivers behind the demand for greater democratization and reform of the UN system. I think we all agree that our collaboration should focus foremost on reform of the UN Security Council to make the organization representative of contemporary global realities.

UN Security Council reforms

Excellencies, our meeting assumes added significance as it is being held following the renewed momentum imparted to the reform process

by the start of text-based negotiations from July this year. This was made possible by the demand from more than 140 countries for the launch of text-based negotiations. Our Missions here in New York played a commendable leadership role in mobilizing support for this demand.

India, Brazil and South Africa are important constituents of the L.69 Group on Council reform, besides being part of the G4 and African Groups which have been extremely critical to the reform process and will remain so.

We are aware of the sensitivities within the African Group on the matter. We are willing to go by South Africa's advice both in respect of strategy and tactics to progress the reform process.

As my South African counterpart is aware, the G4 Foreign Ministers met yesterday and had very useful and substantive discussions. We also issued a press statement. This forward looking statement explicitly supports the central role of Africa and the need for African representation in the permanent membership in an enlarged Council.

As we discuss modalities for enhanced cooperation, I would like to reiterate the need for us to remain steadfast in our demand for expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. Any dilution in our principled position would weaken the movement for UN reform and strengthen the hands of those who favour the status quo.

It is my delegation's sincere hope that reform of the Security Council will be achieved by the end of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly so that IBSA countries could convert their short-term presence in the Council into a more permanent one.

Collaboration at the UNSC in 2011

With our shared values and ideologies and common priorities, the IBSA countries should be in a position to collaborate closely on major issues before the agenda of the Security Council. I would propose that our PRs remain in close contact to exchange ideas and coordinate positions.

In January 2011, the international community will have to address important developments in the Sudan. This is likely to be among the major issues that the Security Council would have to address. We need to coordinate our positions on this. South Africa has been playing an important role and we look forward to your wise counsel on the matter.

The Iran nuclear issue is another important matter that our three countries would have to deal with. We know that Brazil has been playing an active role in the Council and outside. India has substantial interests in the region and traditional friendship with Iran. This applies in large measure also to South Africa. Clearly we have a great deal of shared interests. Our delegations should coordinate positions on the matter.

Our three countries are also major peacekeeping nations. We have built up a large reservoir of experience and tools. We hold a lot of common positions on the matter. We look forward to exchanging views on this important area as well.

I would also advocate the establishment of a formal mechanism for institutionalized exchanges between our Foreign Ministries on UN issues, particularly those involving the Security Council.

I am eager to listen to your views and suggestions.

Thank you



092. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the "IBSA - Joint Statement": Open consultations on Enhanced Cooperation at the UN.

New York, 14 December, 2010.

Please see Document No.747.



093. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the BRIC Summit.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

Your Excellency President Lula da Silva,

Your Excellency President Dmitry Medvedev,

Your Excellency President Hu Jintao,

Distinguished delegates,

I wish to convey my deep gratitude to His Excellency President Lula for hosting the BRIC Summit and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

The holding of the second stand alone BRIC Summit represents the growing multi-polarity in the world.

In the short period of 10 months since our last Summit in Yekaterinburg we have made good progress. Our Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, National Security Advisers and Governors of Central Banks have met. The first BRIC Business Forum was held a few days ago, and several other side events have taken place.

We are four large countries with abundant resources, large populations and diverse societies. We together account for almost one-fifth of the world's GDP. We aspire for rapid growth for ourselves and for an external environment that is conducive to our development goals. The people of our countries expect us to work together so as to bring the benefits of inclusive social and economic development to them.

Brazil has taken impressive strides in social inclusion under President Lula's leadership, from which we can all learn. We in India have put in place massive schemes for social intervention such as the enactment of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Right to Education Act. We can each benefit by sharing our experiences in the field of inclusive growth.

Energy and food security are two specific areas where we can work together. Our grouping includes two of the largest energy producers and two of the largest consumers in the world. We can cooperate in both upstream and downstream areas, and in the development of new fuels and clean energy technologies.

Similarly, BRIC countries are both large producers and consumers of agricultural products. The meeting of our Agriculture Ministers is a welcome initiative. We should consider putting in place an architecture of food security that focuses on increasing agricultural productivity, better land use, sustainable farming practices and agro-processing.

Besides this, there is vast potential for cooperation in areas such as science and technology, trade and investment, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure. Investments in human capital will create new sources of growth.

BRIC countries have an important role to play in the shaping the pace, direction and sustainability of global economic growth. I am glad to note that our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have been meeting regularly. At our last Summit we had decided to commission a BRIC Study on which way the world economy will move in the period ahead. India has circulated the draft terms of reference for the study and we would be happy to carry this idea forward.

While it appears that the immediate global economic and financial crisis is behind us, it is still early to say that we are on the path of long term recovery. A lot will depend on how the developed economies fare. Sustainable recovery will also depend on several factors such as enhanced investment for infrastructure development, stable capital flows to the developing markets, appropriate macroeconomic adjustments, and avoiding complacency in the area of financial sector reforms. Financial inclusion will be a major determinant of success.

We should prepare for the forthcoming G 20 Summits in Toronto and Seoul. Their outcomes need to be supportive of the post crisis-phase of the recovery process. This requires the avoidance of protectionism in all its forms, commitment to a fair and rule-based trading system, reform of international financial institutions and better regulation and supervision. Capital adequacy of international institutions should be ensured to fund

development needs. Our Finance Ministers should be in regular touch with each other.

BRIC nations represent an important voice in the global climate discourse. Despite its shortcomings, the Copenhagen Conference did generate a broad understanding on several contentious issues. Our approach to the Cancun Conference should be anchored within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Roadmap.

Technology will be a key element in our strategy to meet the challenge of climate change. Each of us has our own strengths in climate-friendly technologies. If we pool our best scientific and technological resources, BRIC nations can set a fine example in promoting collaborative development, deployment and dissemination of clean energy and renewable technologies.

BRIC countries are uniquely placed to contribute to reforming the architecture of global governance. A genuine reform of the Security Council by expansion in its permanent membership as well as non-permanent membership and improvement in its working methods is essential to make the United Nations reflective of contemporary realities.

Terrorism poses a special challenge to our development efforts. We should unite in our efforts to combat this scourge. We should also step up our cooperation in addressing other non-traditional threats to security.

The Joint Statement we will be issuing today along with the Follow-up document BRIC contain many ideas for expanding our cooperation. I am particularly glad that the scope of our activities is expanding, with a focus on greater people-to-people contacts. We should simultaneously strive for greater convergence of views on key global challenges.

In conclusion I wish to thank President Lula for his most able guidance and leadership in making this Summit a success.

Thank you.



094. Opening Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during Media Interaction following the BRIC Summit.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

Your Excellency President Lula da Silva,

Your Excellency President Dmitry Medvedev,

Your Excellency President Hu Jintao,

Distinguished delegates,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join President Hu Jintao and President Medvedev in thanking President Lula for the excellent arrangements made for the second BRIC Summit.

I also take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the people and Government of India, our deepest condolence on the devastating earthquake in China. I also offer our deepest sympathies to the victims of the recent mudslides in Brazil.

We have had a very successful Summit under President Lula's leadership.

This is the second stand-alone Summit of the BRIC countries in less than a year. Our countries have gathered here today because we stand to gain from cooperation with each other, and because we believe that greater cooperation among us is also good for the world.

The BRIC grouping was not borne out of a crisis. It was an act of long term faith in our people and in our economies. However, the global economic and financial crisis has created a new relevance for BRIC.

Sustaining global economic recovery and making it inclusive would be the major challenges before us in the near term. With their internal economic strengths, BRIC countries have the potential to play a

constructive role in contributing to world economic growth and prosperity. We are all part of the G20 process.

We have also had useful discussions on other issues of common interest. These include climate change, sustainable development, food security, energy security and reform of international financial institutions and of the United Nations.

We support a multipolar, equitable, democratic and just world order with the United Nations playing a central role in tackling global challenges.

I once again thank President Lula for hosting this Summit and the leadership he has consistently given to the BRIC process.

Thank you.



095. Joint Statement issued at the end of the II BRIC Summit.

Brasilia, April 16, 2010

We, the leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China, met in Brasília on 15 April 2010 to discuss major issues of the international agenda as well as concrete steps to move forward the cooperation and coordination within BRIC.

We have agreed on the following:

Common Vision and Global Governance

1. We share the perception that the world is undergoing major and swift changes that highlight the need for corresponding transformations in global governance in all relevant areas.
2. We underline our support for a multipolar, equitable and democratic world order, based on international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making of all States.

3. We stress the central role played by the G-20 in combating the crisis through unprecedented levels of coordinated action. We welcome the fact that the G-20 was confirmed as the premier forum for international economic coordination and cooperation of all its member states. Compared to previous arrangements, the G-20 is broader, more inclusive, diverse, representative and effective. We call upon all its member states to undertake further efforts to implement jointly the decisions adopted at the three G-20 Summits.

We advocate the need for the G-20 to be proactive and formulate a coherent strategy for the post-crisis period. We stand ready to make a joint contribution to this effort.

4. 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, with a view to making it more effective, efficient and representative, so that it can deal with today's global challenges more effectively. We reiterate the importance we attach to the status of India and Brazil in international affairs, and understand and support their aspirations to play a greater role in the United Nations.

5. We believe the deepened and broadened dialogue and cooperation of the BRIC countries is conducive not only to serving common interests of emerging market economies and developing countries, but also to building a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. We have agreed upon steps to promote dialogue and cooperation among our countries in an incremental, proactive, pragmatic, open and transparent way.

International Economic and Financial Issues

6. The world economic situation has improved since our first meeting in June 2009, in Ekaterinburg. We welcome the resumption of economic growth, in which emerging market economies are playing a very important role. However, we recognize that the foundation of world economic recovery is not yet solid, with uncertainties remaining. We call upon all states to strengthen macroeconomic cooperation, jointly secure world economic recovery and achieve a strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We

reiterate our determination to make positive efforts in maintaining domestic economic recovery and promoting development in our own countries and worldwide.

7. We underline the importance of maintaining relative stability of major reserve currencies and sustainability of fiscal policies in order to achieve a strong, long-term balanced economic growth.

8. We are convinced that emerging market economies and developing countries have the potential to play an even larger and active role as engines of economic growth and prosperity, while at the same time commit to work together with other countries towards reducing imbalances in global economic development and fostering social inclusion.

9. G-20 members, with a significant contribution from BRIC countries, have greatly increased resources available to the IMF. We support the increase of capital, under the principle of fair burden-sharing, of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and of the International Finance Corporation, in addition to more robust, flexible and agile client-driven support for developing economies from multilateral development banks.

10. Despite promising positive signs, much remains to be done. We believe that the world needs today a reformed and more stable financial architecture that will make the global economy less prone and more resilient to future crises, and that there is a greater need for a more stable, predictable and diversified international monetary system.

11. We will strive to achieve an ambitious conclusion to the ongoing and long overdue reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions. The IMF and the World Bank urgently need to address their legitimacy deficits. Reforming these institutions' governance structures requires first and foremost a substantial shift in voting power in favor of emerging market economies and developing countries to bring their participation in decision making in line with their relative weight in the world economy. We call for the voting power reform of the World Bank to be fulfilled in the upcoming Spring Meetings, and expect the quota reform of the IMF to be concluded by the G-20 Summit in November this year. We do also agree on the need for an open and merit based selection method, irrespective of nationality, for the heading positions of the IMF and the World Bank. Moreover, staff of these

institutions needs to better reflect the diversity of their membership. There is a special need to increase participation of developing countries. The international community must deliver a result worthy of the expectations we all share for these institutions within the agreed timeframe or run the risk of seeing them fade into obsolescence.

12. In the interest of promoting international economic stability, we have asked our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to look into regional monetary arrangements and discuss modalities of cooperation between our countries in this area. In order to facilitate trade and investment, we will study feasibilities of monetary cooperation, including local currency trade settlement arrangement between our countries.

13. Recent events have shattered the belief about the self-regulating nature of financial markets. Therefore, there is a pressing need to foster and strengthen cooperation regarding the regulation and supervision of all segments, institutions and instruments of financial markets. We remain committed to improve our own national regulations, to push for the reform of the international financial regulatory system and to work closely with international standard setting bodies, including the Financial Stability Board.

International Trade

14. We stress the importance of the multilateral trading system, embodied in the World Trade Organization, for providing an open, stable, equitable and non discriminatory environment for international trade. In this connection, we commit ourselves and urge all states to resist all forms of trade protectionism and fight disguised restrictions on trade. We concur in the need for a comprehensive and balanced outcome of the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks, in a manner that fulfills its mandate as a "development round", based on the progress already made, including with regard to modalities. We take note and strongly support Russia's bid for accession to the WTO.

Development

15. We reiterate the importance of the UN Millennium Declaration and the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We underscore the importance of preventing a potential setback to the efforts of poor countries aimed at achieving MDGs due to the effects of the

economic and financial crisis. We should also make sustained efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015, including through technical cooperation and financial support to poor countries in implementation of development policies and social protection for their populations. We expect the UN MDG Summit, in September 2010, to promote the implementation of MDGs through policy recommendations. We stress that sustainable development models and paths of developing countries should be fully respected and necessary policy space of developing countries should be guaranteed.

16. The poorest countries have been the hardest hit by the economic and financial crisis. The commitments regarding the aid to the developing states, especially those related to the MDGs, should be fulfilled, and there should be no reduction in development assistance. An inclusive process of growth for the world economy is not only a matter of solidarity but also an issue of strategic importance for global political and economic stability.

Agriculture

17. We express our satisfaction with the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development in Moscow, where they discussed ways of promoting quadripartite cooperation, with particular attention to family farming. We are convinced that this will contribute towards global food production and food security. We welcome their decision to create an agricultural information base system of the BRIC countries, to develop a strategy for ensuring access to food for vulnerable population, to reduce the negative impact of climate change on food security, and to enhance agriculture technology cooperation and innovation.

Fight against poverty

18. We call upon the international community to make all the necessary efforts to fight poverty, social exclusion and inequality bearing in mind the special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, small islands and African Countries. We support technical and financial cooperation as means to contribute to the achievement of sustainable social development, with social protection, full employment, and decent work policies and programmes, giving special attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women, youth, migrants and persons with disabilities.

Energy

19. We recognize that energy is an essential resource for improving the standard of living of our peoples and that access to energy is of paramount importance to economic growth with equity and social inclusion. We will aim to develop cleaner, more affordable and sustainable energy systems, to promote access to energy and energy efficient technologies and practices in all sectors. We will aim to diversify our energy mix by increasing, where appropriate, the contribution of renewable energy sources, and will encourage the cleaner, more efficient use of fossil fuels and other fuels. In this regard, we reiterate our support to the international cooperation in the field of energy efficiency.

20. We recognize the potential of new, emerging, and environmentally friendly technologies for diversifying energy mix and the creation of jobs. In this regard we will encourage, as appropriate, the sustainable development, production and use of biofuels. In accordance with national priorities, we will work together to facilitate the use of renewable energy, through international cooperation and the sharing of experiences on renewable energy, including biofuels technologies and policies.

21. We believe that BRIC member countries can cooperate in training, R&D, Consultancy services and technology transfer, in the energy sector.

Climate Change

22. We acknowledge that climate change is a serious threat which requires strengthened global action. We commit ourselves to promote the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Mexico, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and binding result to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol. We believe that the Convention and the Protocol provide the framework for international negotiations on climate change. The negotiations in Mexico should be more inclusive, transparent, and should result in outcomes that are fair and effective in addressing the challenge of climate change, while reflecting the principles of the Convention, especially the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Terrorism

23. We condemn terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations. We note that the fight against international terrorism must be undertaken with due respect to the UN Charter, existing international conventions and protocols, the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism, and that the prevention of terrorist acts is as important as the repression of terrorism and its financing. 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.

24. Brazil and China express their sympathy and solidarity with the people and Governments of Russia and India which suffered from recent barbaric terrorist attacks. Terrorism cannot be justified by any reason.

Alliance of Civilizations

25. We affirm the importance of encouraging the dialogue among civilizations, cultures, religions and peoples. In this respect, we support the "Alliance of Civilizations", a United Nations' initiative aimed at building bridges, mutual knowledge and understanding around the world. We praise the Brazilian decision to host, in Rio de Janeiro, in May 2010, the 3rd Global Forum and confirm our intention to be present at the event, in appropriate high level.

Haiti

26. We reaffirm our solidarity towards the Haitian people, who have been struggling under dire circumstances since the earthquake of January 12th, and reiterate our commitment to gather efforts with the international community in order to help rebuilding the country, under the guidance of the Haitian government, and according to the priorities established by the Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti.

Cooperation

27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our countries:

- a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development;

- b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks;
- c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues;
- d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts;
- e) the first Meeting of Development Banks;
- f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions;
- g) the Conference of Competition Authorities;
- h) the first Meeting of Cooperatives;
- i) the first Business Forum;
- j) the Conference of think tanks.

28. We also endorse other important manifestations of our desire to deepen our relationship, such as:

- a) the joint publication by our respective national statistical institutions which is going to be released today;
- b) a feasibility study for developing a joint BRIC encyclopedia.

29. We reaffirm our commitment to advance cooperation among BRIC countries in science, culture and sports.

30. We express our confidence in the success of the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, the 2013 World Student Games in Kazan, the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi, the FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil and the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

31. We reaffirm the efforts to strengthen our cooperation and assistance for reduction of natural disasters. Russia and India express their condolences and solidarity with the people and Governments of Brazil and China, for the lives lost in the mudslide in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in the earthquake in Yushu, China.

III BRIC Summit

32. Brazil, Russia and India appreciate the offer of China to host the III BRIC Summit in 2011.

33. Russia, India and China express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil for hosting the II BRIC Summit.



096. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the Prime Minister's visits abroad to attend the Nuclear Security, IBSA and BRIC Summits.

New Delhi, April 23, 2010.

Please see Document No.62.



097. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Wuhan for RIC Ministerial meeting.

New Delhi, November 13, 2010

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and good to see you all even on a Saturday evening. My colleague Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia), and I would like to brief you about the forthcoming visit of the External affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna to Wuhan in the Hubei Province of China, for the 10th IRC or RIC -India, Russia, China - Ministerial meeting.

EAM leaves tomorrow. The meeting would take place over two days on the 14th and 15th of November. This is the tenth Ministerial meeting and the sixth standalone meeting.

The delegation of EAM will include Foreign Secretary, our Ambassador in Beijing, Advisor to External Affairs Minister, my colleague Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (ERS) Mr. Ajay Bisaria and me.

Briefly the programme includes a working dinner on the 14th November, that is tomorrow evening. Thereafter on the 15th there will be three Plenary Sessions followed by a Joint Press Conference around midday and a banquet which will be hosted by the Government of Hubei Province.

By way of background I may add that the first RIC Ministerial meeting took place on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York in 2002. The first standalone Foreign Ministers meeting took place in Vladivostok in June, 2005.

India has key multifaceted relationships with Russia and China. Both Russia and China are our strategic partners. Together we account for 40 per cent of the global population and over 20 per cent of the global land mass. We are among the fastest growing major emerging economies in the world. We also have influential voices which are heard beyond the region, beyond Asia.

The trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers broadly covers political issues which include UN reforms, terrorism, West Asia, Asia Pacific regional cooperation, Korean peninsula, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, SCO and so on. Besides political issues it also focuses on trade and economic matters which would include the G20 process, global economic governance architecture, climate change, Doha Round and WTO, development cooperation, energy, to mention a few.

Three trilateral governmental Expert Groups have since been established to give RIC cooperation greater vigour and content. These three sectors are: agricultural cooperation, cooperation in health and medicine, and in disaster mitigation. Talking about agricultural cooperation, the first meeting was held in Beijing in April 2008, and the next meeting is likely to be held in New Delhi soon. I will be happy to touch upon further details if there is an interest.

On cooperation in health and medicine, the first meeting was again held in Delhi in September 2008, and the next meeting is expected in Russia soon. In the area of disaster mitigation, the first meeting was held in Sanya in

China in November 2009, and the second meeting will be concluding later in the day today in New Delhi.

We also have now regular trilateral academic seminars which have become an important forum for exchange of ideas which feed into the Ministerial meetings. Three designated institutes from three countries are: the Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi, the Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Moscow, and the Institute of International Studies in Beijing. Specialists and scholars have been meeting on an annual basis. The ninth meeting was held in New Delhi in December 2009. The tenth meeting was held from the 20th to 23rd of September 2010 in Moscow. The meetings dwell on subjects like counter-terrorism, energy security, trade, culture, science and technology, regional and global cooperation, to mention a few.

Economic and trade relationship is a very important component of our relations both with China and Russia. To provide greater impetus to the sector, a biennial Trilateral Business Forum has been taking place. It was first held in New Delhi on 15th of September 2007 and second in Changchun in China on 17th September 2009. Leading Business Chambers in the three countries spearhead the consultations. From the Indian side it is FICCI and CII. The CCPIT or China Council for Promotion of International Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russian Federation.

I may add that the third meeting of the Business Forum will take place in Russia, in 2011. But an important preparatory meeting will be held in New Delhi on the 30th of November this year.

The Tenth IRC Ministerial meeting would focus on - international and regional issues; the international situation; enhancing trilateral cooperation in the G20 framework and on enhancing India, China, Russia practical cooperation. A Joint Communiqué is expected to be released at the conclusion of the talks.

Also the External Affairs Minister will be having bilateral meetings with his Russian and Chinese counterparts when issues of bilateral interest are likely to be discussed. I will stop here. My colleague and I will be happy to take your questions.

Question: Can you say a little bit about counter-terrorism and agriculture? What kind of cooperation will it be in agriculture and terrorism?

Official Spokesperson: You can appreciate that agriculture is a very important sector for us with more than 60 per cent of India living in the rural areas. The sectors that have been identified in the sector of agricultural cooperation include: management of wasteland, watershed management, agricultural research, pest control, strengthening credit delivery systems, risk management in agriculture, exchange of experiences in institution-building, soil health management, storage, preservation, marketing and so on. So, you have a whole array of areas that have been identified. You would appreciate that the first meeting of experts in the sector of agricultural cooperation was held in April 2008, and the next meeting is likely to take place, as I said, in New Delhi shortly.

Question: Sir, what I am asking is, is it the officials sitting down and talking or is it a private initiative?

Official Spokesperson: These are the experts who meet. This is a governmental body. The recommendations of all these expert groups are then taken on board by the Ministers and they decide on which sectors in particular we ought to give greater focus. You mentioned terrorism and counter-terrorism. This is an area which all three countries - China, Russia and India - have been paying attention to, especially the challenge of international terrorism. This is one of the important areas of consultations both amongst the academics and among the Ministers in the two countries. I will invite your attention to the Joint Communiqué which was issued in Bangalore on 27th of October 2009. If you see para 12 of the Communiqué you will find that the Ministers have condemned terrorism, they have spoken in favour of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and they have touched upon various other aspects which are of interest to all the three countries.

Question: Sir, you said that as part of the agenda the issues include UN reforms, terror and Af-Pak. Since EAM is meeting Foreign Minister Yang I think on Sunday evening, can you tell us what is likely to be discussed as far as terror and Af-Pak are concerned? That is because China also is close by and there is a lot of Chinese involvement in this and especially in

the light of what Secretary of State Clinton had said, as you are aware, that Pakistan has used terror as an instrument of state policy against India and Afghanistan.

Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): I think it will be difficult to prejudge what the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of China will discuss not merely in terms of issues and subjects and topics but also on a particular topic how the discussion will go. So, really I do not think we can at this point in time ahead of the meeting answer this question. But definitely after the meeting I think we will be able to answer this question, at least to the group of journalists who will be travelling with us and to the media as a whole. I do not want to prejudge what the discussions will be.

Official Spokesperson: Can I just add slightly to what my colleague has mentioned? You mentioned the bilateral meeting with Mr. Yang Jiechi. In my opening remarks I had referred to the fact that in the bilateral meetings the External Affairs Minister would be taking up issues of bilateral interest or bilateral subjects of interest, with both his counterparts. When I was talking of the IRC Ministerial meeting, I mentioned that one of the sessions, this is the session on international and regional issues which will be held tomorrow evening, will include the three items that you have mentioned. Of course, as my colleague said, the details will be reflected in the Joint Communiqué which will be issued on the 15th.

Question: Sir, the second thing I asked about Secretary Clinton's remarks, can you just give us an Indian perspective on that?

Official Spokesperson: We have always very unequivocally spoken of the challenge of terrorism, especially terrorism that originates from our neighbourhood. And we have time and again called upon our neighbor to dismantle the terror infrastructure. It has also been mentioned, and I would here invite your attention to the meeting of the two Prime Ministers in Thimphu on the 29th of April when it was decided that India and Pakistan would be open to, would be willing to do everything possible to enhance mutual trust and to discuss all issues of interest or concerns to both sides. From our perspective the only aspect on which we hope to see movement on the part of our Pakistani friends is on the issue of terrorism.

Question: You said that the three Ministers will be discussing the new security architecture in the Asia Pacific region. Could you tell more about what they are planning to discuss on this topic?

Official Spokesperson: What they will discuss, at the moment obviously I am not in a position to share. But that will find a suitable reflection in the Joint Communiqué. I may add though that Russia, China and India are key members of the Asia Pacific community. Russia is also going to soon join the East Asia Summit process. And India has welcomed the decision or the invitation to Russia and USA to join the EAS. I also mentioned that India and Russia are strategic partners; it is a very important relationship for us. So, we are also looking forward to the very important second state visit of President Medvedev to India in December. On the bilateral side we have a very active and multifaceted programme of cooperation. I also mentioned that the cooperation in the Asia Pacific would figure as one of the items on the agenda of the RIC Ministerial meeting.

Question: Recently China has made a statement that it has a significant role to play in South Asia. As you said that you are going to discuss SCO, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is there any Chinese proposal to discuss about SAARC also in that meeting?

Official Spokesperson: As you know, China has an Observer status in SAARC. China had participated as an Observer in the Thimphu SAARC Summit meeting that was held. India is also currently an Observer in the SCO process. At Tashkent in June, a decision was taken to lift the moratorium on the expansion of SCO. And India has since evinced an interest in continuing to play a constructive role, an important role and a greater role in the SCO process.

Question: But Chinese are eager to join SAARC as equal member.

Official Spokesperson: I have already mentioned the status. SAARC is a South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation. It is an association of South Asian countries as the name itself suggests. I did mention that China is an Observer in SAARC.

Question: Sir, how do you react to the statement made by the Pakistan Foreign Minister yesterday that there is unanimity between China and

Pakistan that India should not be allowed to become a permanent member of UNSC?

Official Spokesperson: This briefing is about the forthcoming RIC Ministerial meeting that is going to take place, in Wuhan tomorrow. But on the subject of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, suffice it to say that we believe that we have impeccable credentials for assuming the role and responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Question: Sir, after Tashkent one had gathered or one was given to understand that India will soon become a member of SCO and the membership rules would be relaxed to accommodate India. What is taking so long? Is it that China is resistant to the idea of India becoming an SCO member? Second, what according to MEA have been the successes of RIC in the last eight years? Third, can we have a statement on Aung San Suu Kyi?

Official Spokesperson: Let me reiterate that this briefing is on the visit of the External Affairs Minister for IRC Ministerial meeting, and so my colleague and I will be very happy to take questions pertaining to the visit. As far as the SCO process is concerned, it was only in June this year - not that long time ago as you have mentioned - when the Tashkent Summit meeting had taken place. I already mentioned our position with respect to our involvement with the SCO. As an Observer since 2005 we have been playing an active and constructive role and we are willing to play a larger role in the process. Currently we are engaged, we are having consultations with the SCO members to get a better understanding of the modalities of proceeding further in the matter.

As far as the RIC Ministerial meetings or the process is concerned, I did allude to the fact that India, Russia and China are three of the most important countries in the region and beyond. We have a very important relationship with both these countries. RIC or IRC has become a very important forum for the Ministers to meet regularly and to consult, to exchange views on a host of issues of interest. The focus of RIC is on political matters, on trade and economic matters. I have touched upon already a number of items on the canvas. It is (a) a process and (b) I think it is a very efficacious process.

For example, when you said that what has come out of it or what are the achievements, let me again draw your attention to the Joint Communiqué of the Ninth Ministerial meeting which was issued on the 27th of October in Bangalore. If you see para 9, and this is just to cite an example, the Ministers have spoken about the international situation and particularly about the G20 process. They have emphasized the principle of transparency and equity. They have emphasized that the developed countries and the emerging markets and developing countries by rotation should be holding the Summits. They have spoken about the reforms in the international financial institutions, and the equitable distribution of voting power between developed and developing countries. And you have already, for example, seen movement on some of these, whether you are talking of the voting power, whether you are talking of the quotas. This is just one example. Basically it is a very important body where the three countries sit together and have an exchange of views.

Question: After President Obama's visit, China said it will be happy to have consultations with India on the issue of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. So, would there be consultations in the bilateral meeting or at the Ministerial level?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I would just like to draw your attention to the meeting that took place on the 29th of October in Hanoi between Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh of India where it was announced that Premier Wen Jiabao will be visiting India before the end of this year. One of the points that both Prime Ministers agreed to was to prepare well for that visit. The bilateral meeting that will take place in Wuhan between the External Affairs Minister and his counterpart Foreign Minister Yang of China will be the first bilateral interaction since then. And I am pretty sure that the two Foreign Ministers will discuss how to approach the visit of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China to India. I also want to let you know that following this interaction in Wuhan, Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao will travel to Beijing for the fourth meeting of the India-China Strategic Dialogue which will take place in Beijing with her counterpart the Vice Foreign Minister of China, a person called Mr. Zhang on the 16th of November. That will be yet another opportunity for the two sides to discuss bilateral issues, as we have been

saying, of mutual interest and mutual concern. I do not want to go into what issues will be discussed because I do not want to prejudge that point. But I am sure that both sides will discuss issues in these two meetings which are of interest to each other.

Question: Will Foreign Secretary's visit be basically for preparing for Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): It is actually for the fourth meeting of the India-China Strategic Dialogue. We have a dialogue where we talk about strategic issues, what the Americans called 'over the horizon' issues. But I have no doubt that this meeting will also be utilized for discussing bilateral issues, for preparing for Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit too to India.

Question: Is NSA's visit also going to take place simultaneously?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): NSA is expected to visit towards the end of this month. He is expected to be in Beijing towards the end of November. You are right, that will be yet another opportunity for the two sides to discuss various issues of mutual interest and mutual concern.

Question: Will the NSA's visit also be a preparatory visit or will that be the next round of boundary talks?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): It will be the next round of the boundary talks. But it will afford an opportunity to discuss issues which will obviously go into preparation for the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in December.

Question: Are we expecting any big ticket items from China?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think you asked this question before the Obama visit and I saw how Foreign Secretary Mrs. Rao had answered it. But in diplomacy it is a series of small steps and very rarely are there big ticket items. But yes, sometimes there are. But I think you should approach it as a series of small steps which when you add up make a big step forward. So, I really do not have much more to say beyond that.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you.



098. Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the 10th Russia-India-China (RIC) Ministerial Meeting.

Wuhan (China), November 15, 2010.

1. The Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and the Republic of India held their 10th meeting in Wuhan, China on 15 November 2010.
2. The Ministers expressed conviction that the trilateral meeting mechanism had deepened coordination and cooperation among the three countries on international and regional issues and helped promote multilateralism and democracy in international relations. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that the cooperation between China, Russia and India does not target any other country.
3. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the follow-up efforts made by the three parties on the decisions arrived at during the Bangalore meeting on 27 October 2009. The Ministers reviewed the progress of trilateral cooperation in various fields and agreed that the cooperation between think-tanks and businesses and in the fields of agriculture, disaster mitigation and relief, and medical and health services furthered their trilateral relations. They renewed their solid commitment to advancing existing cooperation, further exploring cooperation potential and reinforcing cooperation in, inter alia, energy, high-tech sectors, innovation and modernization, aerospace, people-to-people and cultural exchanges.
4. The Ministers noted that the three countries have suffered loss of life and property due to natural disasters during the current year. The Ministers appreciated the outcome of the China-Russia-India trilateral expert meeting on disaster mitigation and relief held on 12-13 November in New Delhi and looked forward to the next meeting scheduled for the second half of 2011 in Russia.
5. The Ministers noted the large potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of healthcare and medicine. They looked forward to the report of the next Expert-Level Meeting on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medicine to be convened in Russia in the first half of 2011. They also noted that further interaction would include shaping effective mechanisms for combating infectious diseases and for food safety.

6. The Ministers underlined the importance of exchanging experiences in the agricultural sector, and looked forward to the recommendations of the Trilateral Expert-Level Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation to be held in New Delhi in 2011.

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the growth in trade and investment relations among the three countries. They hoped that the business chambers in their meeting in New Delhi on 30 November, preparatory to the 2011 Trilateral Business Forum in Russia, would be able to chart out innovative mechanisms for true, meaningful trilateral business alliances in identified priority sectors.

8. The Ministers commended the trilateral meetings of scholars for their significant contribution in stimulating scholarly discourse on political and strategic issues of policy relevance to the three countries. They welcomed the outcomes of the tenth meeting of scholars from China, Russia and India held in September 2010 in Moscow, and looked forward to the eleventh meeting to be held in 2011 in China.

9. The Ministers welcomed the proposals by Russia on sectoral cooperation in the field of energy and innovation and agreed to hold expert-level consultations in these areas.

10. The Ministers exchanged views on the current international situation and agreed that they share close or similar views on various international and regional issues and their cooperation is solidly grounded. The Ministers shared the perception that the world is undergoing major and swift changes. They expressed their support for a multi-polar, equitable and democratic world order, based on principles of international law, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making by all states. The Ministers expressed their strong commitment to the use of multilateral instruments for finding common solutions to global and regional problems.

11. The Ministers noted that this year marks the 65th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and paid tribute to all those who fought against fascism and for freedom. The Ministers reiterated that the three countries would continue to work with all peace-loving countries and peoples to establish a fair international order and prevent war and conflict.

12. The Ministers noted that the global economic recovery remains uneven, fragile, unbalanced. They agreed that major economies shall work

together and step up macro-economic policy coordination. They called for global coordinated efforts to promote strong, sustainable and balanced world growth.

13. The Ministers reiterated their support for the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, and welcomed the decisions of the G20 summit in Seoul including on IMF quota reform. They reiterated that the goal of the reform of international financial institutions was to achieve, step by step, equitable distribution of voting power between developed and developing countries.

14. The Ministers urged all parties to take concrete actions to oppose all forms of protectionism and work for early, comprehensive and balanced outcomes from the Doha Development Agenda, consistent with its mandate, based on the progress already made, including with regard to modalities. The Ministers emphasized that international trade frictions should be handled in the spirit of equality, consultation, mutual benefit and within the framework of WTO. The Ministers of China and India supported Russia's accession to the WTO in 2011.

15. The Ministers called for continued international adherence to the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol including that of "common but differentiated responsibilities". The Ministers of Russia and India appreciated China's hosting of the 12th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperation under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the 14th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in October this year. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to step up their cooperation to enable positive outcomes at the Cancun conference.

16. The Ministers expressed the view that global energy security is of great significance to advancing world economic recovery and development, and such security can be achieved through greater dialogue and cooperation between producing and consuming countries. The international community should work together to ensure stable energy supply, the security of international energy transportation and stable energy prices so that the energy demand of all countries, especially developing ones, are met. Efforts should be made to build an open and transparent energy market system and an advanced energy technology R&D and dissemination system for enhanced technological transfer and financial support to

developing countries consistent with existing international non proliferation obligations and relevant national policy. The Ministers agreed to step up cooperation in the field of energy security, taking into account, inter alia, the initiative of President Medvedev to negotiate an international legal instrument in this area.

17. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the UN Millennium Declaration and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, welcomed the outcomes of the UN high-level meeting on the MDGs held in September 2010 and urged members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee to honor their commitment of devoting 0.7% of their Gross National Income to official development assistance as early as possible.

18. The Ministers commended the indispensable role played by the United Nations in international affairs. The Ministers reiterated the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations to make it more democratic, representative and efficient so that it can deal with today's global challenges more effectively. The Ministers of China and Russia appreciated the role played by India in international affairs and welcomed India's election to the UN Security Council for the 2011-2012 term, and looked forward to deepening cooperation with India within the Council.

19. The Ministers stressed that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery as well as its association with international terrorism poses a grave threat to international peace and security and represents a cause for deep concern. The Ministers proceed from the understanding that dialogue over the problems of preventing risks and threats to the global non-proliferation regime must be built on the basis stipulated by the international obligations of states. The prospects for the non-proliferation regime to a large extent depend on ensuring the security of all states, as well as states' ability to establish an effective export control system and to secure sensitive materials.

20. The Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there could be no justification for any act of terrorism anywhere. They emphasized the need for full international cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, to prevent terrorist attacks and to prosecute terrorists and their supporters. In this context, the Ministers urged all UN member states to urgently conclude and adopt the Comprehensive

Convention on International Terrorism. The Ministers exhorted the UN Member States to implement relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council, particularly UNSC Resolution 1267, 1373, 1540 and 1624 and international conventions and protocols against terrorism as well as to contribute to implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Ministers emphasized the importance of joint efforts to counter the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist and criminal purposes. They also underscored the importance of joint efforts in countering the financing of terrorism.

21. 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 expressed concern at the deteriorating security situation and underlined the need for adequate development of the Afghan National Security Forces to enable Afghanistan to defend its sovereignty and independence. The Ministers reaffirmed their long term commitment to a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The Ministers expressed their support to the transition to increasing Afghan responsibility on national security, and to the Afghan Government's Peace and Reintegration Program. The Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation among three countries on the issue of Afghanistan within current mechanisms. The Ministers considered the SCO as an important platform for regional cooperation on this issue. The Ministers underlined the need to step up the coordinated fight of the international community against illegal trafficking of Afghan drugs.

22. The Ministers recognized that 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. The Ministers emphasized that there is no alternative to the intensification of efforts to address the Iranian nuclear issue by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiation.

23. The Ministers reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region through dialogue, and

called on the parties concerned to return to the Six-Party Talks at the earliest date and to fully implement the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005.

24. The Ministers of China and India expressed support to Russia's policy to protect its core interests, and to contribute to regional peace and stability in the Caucasus region.

25. The Ministers stressed the need to develop an open transparent inclusive and balanced security and cooperation architecture in the Asia Pacific region based upon universally agreed principles of international law and giving due consideration to the legitimate interests of all states. The Ministers agreed that experts from three countries should study this issue.

26. The Ministers expressed their determination to work toward strengthening cooperation within BRIC which is acquiring growing importance in the modern world. The Foreign Ministers of Russia and India reiterated their readiness to coordinate with China as it prepares for the third BRIC Summit and other related events in 2011.

27. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of China and India welcomed Russia to the East Asia Summit process and looked forward to Russia's positive contribution to the emerging economic and security architecture in the region.

28. The Ministers of China and India welcomed Russia's membership in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

29. The Foreign Ministers of China and Russia welcomed India's constructive participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an Observer Country and attached importance to India's intention to play a larger role in the SCO.

30. The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of Hubei Province for their hospitality and arrangements for the 10th meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

31. The Ministers tasked the Heads of relevant Departments of the MFAs of China, Russia and India to hold close consultations on issues related to trilateral cooperation.

32. The Ministers decided to hold their next meeting in Russia in 2011.



EU**099. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Meetings of Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission with Indian leaders.****New Delhi, June 23, 2010.**

Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission is on an official visit to India from 22-25 June 2010. She is accompanied by Lt. Gen Ton van Osch, Director General of the EU Military Staff and Mr Giles de Kerchove, EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator.

On 22 June 2010, Baroness Ashton had extensive discussions with External Affairs Minister Shri S.M.Krishna on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Baroness Ashton also called on the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and met with Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs and Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser.

Besides strengthening existing areas of cooperation as outlined in the Joint Action Plan between EU and India, the possibility of engaging in areas such as counter-terrorism and anti-piracy activities were discussed.

**100. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany.****New Delhi, December 7, 2010.**

Please see Document No.507.



101. Statement by the Prime Minister on the eve of his departure for Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany.

New Delhi, December 9, 2010.

Please see Document No.508.



102. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju and Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar on India-European Union Summit

Brussels, December 10, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon and apologies to keep you waiting for about ten minutes. There were other meetings that the Secretaries had to attend and they are coming straight from the meetings.

You know that the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh had participated in the India-EU Summit this morning. You were all there for the Joint Press Conference. Three documents have been adopted and I hope all of you have copies of the documents. These are the Joint Statement and the two Joint Declarations - one on Cooperation against International Terror and the other on Cultural Cooperation. Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju, along with Commerce Secretary Shri Rahul Khullar, Media Advisor Dr. Harish Khare, our Ambassador to Brussels Dr. Jaimini Bhagwati, my colleague Joint Secretary (Europe West) Mr. Seetharam are here to brief you about the very important Summit meeting today. Secretary (West) will make an opening statement which will be followed by a perspective from Commerce Secretary. Thereafter they would be happy to take a few questions.

I would invite Secretary (West) to make his opening statement.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): All of you have attended the press conference today of the Prime Minister and his EU counterparts. During

that press conference the Prime Minister and the EU leaders read out detailed statements. What I will do is highlight a few points which perhaps may be of some interest.

This was, as you know, the first Summit which took place after the Lisbon Treaty came into force. The Lisbon Treaty, as the leaders of the EU emphasized, has given the Union a new dimension in its political and strategic personality. It has, therefore, opened up avenues for a greater engagement in political and strategic matters. It has also provided an opportunity for a greater level of cooperation on these issues. The Joint Declaration on International Terrorism is an outcome in a sense of the way the EU is evolving. You have no doubt gone through that Joint Declaration. You would see that it has identified a number of areas which have a great degree of potential for concretization of our cooperation in these identified areas. So, now we will be having an intensive engagement with the EU to identify programmes which we can undertake, and the concerned people in India and the EU counterparts, will be now involved in these exercises.

The second aspect that I wanted to mention was that the EU has been and will remain an important development partner of India. In that context the discussions that took place in the context of the ongoing negotiations and the bilateral on the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement were of significance. I would request the Commerce Secretary to give you his perspective. But it would be appropriate for me to say that the leaders were quite clear, and this is reflected in the Joint Statement too, that the negotiations should be completed at the earliest. The time period mentioned is spring of 2011. This is an agreement, once it is negotiated and all the processes are complete, which will greatly benefit both India and the EU.

Discussions today between the leaders also focused on regional and global issues. They focused on areas in India's neighbourhood. They focused on developments which have been taking place in the international financial and monetary system. These discussions were comprehensive and were marked by a great spirit of friendship and candour.

I think I will stop here and request Rahul to give you his perspective of how the BTIA will now proceed.

Commerce Secretary (Shri Rahul Khullar): What I am going to do is actually give you a staccato - 1,2,3,4 - and leave it to you to ask any

questions. First, cut to the chase. March-April, 2011, that is the date, the deal has got to be done by then, at least the negotiations have to be concluded and because of perhaps your questioning during pre-lunch period we got a pretty much a directive to get the job done by March 2011 or by Spring 2011 call it what you will. That is point number one. Point number two, what has not been done. I do not know if you have received, this is the joint report on the state of negotiations. I will just give it to Vishnu, and as far as I am concerned, it is in the public domain now. That will give you actually the state of play on the negotiations.

Now, let me put one caveat right up front. One of the agreed rules of any negotiation is we do not negotiate through the media and I will honour that principle. But this will give you an idea of the work that has been completed and it will also give you a clue of what lies ahead. So, in a sense it is a sneak preview of what is being discussed, where we have closed things up, and what lies ahead.

Three, I think Vishnu opened by telling you that we were delayed because we were in a meeting, and lest you think we were actually goofing off, we were not. There was a meeting because Jean-Luc Demarty, who is the DG Trade Designate, had come to see me. Ambassador Bhagwati and I were in the room with him. It is that discussion which went on for forty minutes that delayed our arrival here. What were we talking about? Pretty much how we were going to get this job done in the remaining period that lies ahead.

The only other thing, point number four, that needs to be said is that on the trade agreement there is now some understanding that Jean-Luc will come over to Delhi sometime in January. We will fix the date on a mutually convenient basis and that will push the negotiations forward. That is all the four points I wanted to make. Thank you.

Question: This is for Mr. Katju. This is regarding the Joint Declaration on International Terrorism. The European Union from time to time converted its formulation on terrorism. Do you think this time it is ...(Inaudible)... in terms of views opposed to terrorism and where they mention about terror camps in Pakistan?

Secretary (West): I think it will be improper for me to go into the direction that you want me to go. Suffice it to say that India and the EU are serious

partners in the fight against international terrorism. The Joint Statement is witness to that seriousness and there is now every intention, as I mentioned a few minutes earlier, of engaging in a purposeful manner to identify specific areas of cooperation, which will be to mutual benefit. You have seen what the Joint Statement says also on international terrorism as well as on certain acts of international terrorism.

Question: This is a question for Mr. Khullar. I think many of us here were very surprised that we did not hear any announcement on the solving of this dispute over generic drugs seizure. That was something that was supposed to be a big takeaway from today and we have heard absolutely nothing about it. If you could tell us a little about what is going on with that.

Commerce Secretary: That is why this stunned silence, is it!

No. The point of the matter is very simple. Discussions are still going on on how to actually come up with a workable solution. Please understand, and let me for those of you who have not been following this make it clear, there is an issue arising out of the seizure of drugs or drug consignments dating to 2009 in pursuance of directive 1383. That is what Pallavi is asking about. This is completely separate from the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement, a completely separate issue altogether. The linkage is to a more touchy issue which is the production of generics through the exercise of rights under the TRIPS

Agreement. There, as you know, there is a huge amount of emotion and energy being spent by NGOs and others on whether the BTIA will in any way compromise that. The reason I am trying to separate these two is to give you answers on both so that you know. And let me begin with what is not Pallavi's question first. On the question of the BTIA it is abundantly clear that there will be no compromise on that principle. Our ability to honour public health commitments, our ability to keep and preserve public policy space stays intact, and there is no intent to compromise that in the least bit whatsoever. I have said it publicly. I am repeating exactly that so that please get that settled and put aside. We do not want to revisit that issue.

That said, now let me rephrase Pallavi's question in that context. What she is saying is why have you not sorted out this 1383 Resolution? What has happened is this. Under the WTO law we are entitled to ask the EU for what is called a consultation. The consultation is part of a legal process, which means before I actually go to a court of law to adjudicate, can I prior to that work out an understanding which settles the matter? Now, all of you must understand that even as this consultation is proceeding, this is not a chit chat. This is hard legal argument on both sides on what is legally permissible, what is my legal right, what is your legal right, what you can enforce, what you cannot enforce.

Now, we have deliberately stayed out of the media for a long time on this because consultations on these matters are best dealt with confidentially till you arrive at a conclusion which both parties can live with. When both parties can live with the outcome of that consultation, then you have to decide how to proceed further without prejudicing each other's rights to further legal recourse. Which means, supposing I come to an understanding with the EU that you will do this, and EU says, "Well, we will do it", but it is unable to do it for whatever reason, then I must retain for myself the right that I can revisit the entire issue because my legal right cannot be extinguished by anything that I write away today. That is the problem. When you have issues like this, you cannot do a slam-bang job on it and say because the EU summit is on the 10th of December, please let us come to an agreement before the 9th of December.

I would only said that at this point of time we are very very close to resolving this matter. There is an understanding being built on both sides. And it shall be my endeavour, just as it is on the EU's side to satisfactorily resolve this consultation so that, first and foremost we achieve satisfaction and (b) this sort of problem does not recur. Once we receive the comfort we need on that, then let me assure you I will be the first one to come in front of you and tell you exactly what we are doing. But till that time is reached, these are legal consultations, please let us conclude those consultations. When we have a package ready I will gladly share it with you.

Question: My question is addressed to Mr. Katju. This Joint Declaration on International Terrorism, are you planning to make some Joint Working Groups or is this like a standard operating procedure?

Secretary (West): May I draw your attention to the last paragraph on page 1 where it says, "Within the following framework details of which will be worked out through designated authorities ..." So we will have designated authorities who will go into the specific areas to identify where we can cooperate.

Question: Any convergence of views on Afghanistan? Pallavi asked a question and that was not really answered. Are we seeing Afghanistan through the same prism or a completely different one?

Secretary (West): I think that the international community has to a very large extent seen Afghanistan through similar prisms. There is a problem of terrorism in Afghanistan. That problem needs to be addressed. There is a problem of assistance, of construction, of reconstruction, of rehabilitation. There is the issue of strengthening the central authority in Afghanistan and other authorities. Certainly, India and the EU have similar approaches on these matters.

Question: Till now we did not have similar views. We had divergent views, especially regarding Pakistan and ...(Inaudible)... in Afghanistan?

Secretary (West): May I again draw your attention to the Joint Statement? I can do no better than to draw your attention to the Joint Statement. If you please see the Joint Statement, the last sentence of paragraph 16 says, "The leaders agreed that terrorism must be combated firmly and expressed concern at the continuing existence of safe havens including in the cross-border dimension." This is quite eloquent.

Question: My question is addressed Mr. Katju. This Joint Statement on Terrorism and Innovations talks about extradition treaty with the EU and mutual legal assistance agreements in that. Is there any precedence existing. Does India or any other country have a common extradition treaty with a group of nations? And when will this discussion for this whole agreement on extradition treaty with the EU begin?

Secretary (West): You are right, as of now these mechanisms are generally of a bilateral nature between sovereign states. But this is an aspect which we will examine. We will naturally while examining this aspect take into account the competencies which the EU has, and thereafter proceed. I would like to think that the EU knows the mandates that it has. But again as I said, these are areas that we have specified which we will now examine in great detail. And through that examination we will concretise specific areas where we will proceed further.

Question: My question is addressed to Mr. Khullar. Point No.11 in the Joint Statement refers to the discussions to be held on migration. Does it mean that now we have given up our demand on the tightening of visa restrictions on Indians professionals wanting to move into the EU, whether it is software engineers, doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, and other categories of Indian professionals where country by country is restricting access to Indian professionals and will not be part of the FTA what is the ...(Inaudible)...

Commerce Secretary: A very clever way to tell me to tell you about what is being negotiated. But I will evade any direct answer to that. Let me tell you what is going on though. Look, the temporary movement of natural persons, or what is called Mode-4, is the subject of discussion under the services negotiations. What will happen is that in January we will start receiving the first offers on that. When we get those offers, I will take stock of the extent to which it meets the requirements that we have. I think if you read the document that I have already circulated, which is State of Play, you will get a sense that there is still some work to be done on goods and there is still some work to be done on services. Now, the most important part of the work to be done on services in Mode 4 for us in terms of market access in Europe, and for Europe in terms of some parts of Mode 4 but more importantly on Mode 3 in terms of commercial presence which will require changes in FDI caps, legislation, etc. All this is the subject of negotiation and it is just simply, as I said, wrong for me to negotiate in public.

All I will assure you is that the migration and the temporary movement of natural persons (TMNP) issue will have to be satisfactorily resolved. When I say satisfactorily it means to my satisfaction. If there is no

commercially meaningful access becoming available, then we have to take serious stock about what exactly we are gaining on services. I think to be fair to my European counterparts, we fully understand that. All of you - some of you live here, some of you do not - also have a good understanding of why the temporary movement of natural persons is a very sensitive political issue in many economies in Europe today. So, please bear with us. Let the negotiations take place through January.

Question: But it is also a sensitive issue in some of the Indian States?

Commerce Secretary: Oh, yes, indeed, in particular the State where you come from.

Question: My question is addressed to Secretary (West). I just wanted to know from you whether it is the first time that the European Union is using words like safe havens for terrorists and cross-border terrorism.

Secretary (West): I do not recollect seeing such terms in earlier documents.

Question: Can we say that 50 per cent of the work of the visit has been done or are we still at 25 per cent range?

Commerce Secretary: Remember, a deal is not done until it is all done. So, on that criterion nothing is done. I think more than half of it has actually been completed. What you are doing is, you are entering what are called last-mile or end-game negotiations. What happens in end-game negotiations is typically all the very very difficult stuff is left right to the end. Some very very difficult stuff is left right to the end, and those require very difficult decisions. But at the end of it what happens is when there is so much on the table, the incentive to deal with those difficult decisions is, 'are you really going to wish away all that you have settled, just because you cannot grapple with this difficult problem?' And that in a sense forces people to grapple and quickly come to a conclusion. I think that is the way to look at it. I do not want to use numbers. If you want to push the envelope, well more than fifty per cent is done. What needs to be done? Till it is all done, nothing is done.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you.



103. Joint Declaration on International Terrorism issued on the conclusion of the India-EU Summit.

Brussels, December 10, 2010.

The EU, its Member states and India:

Acknowledge that International Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

Emphasize that EU and India stand united in combating threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts;

Condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose;

Denounce those who sponsor, abet and instigate terrorism and provide terrorists safe havens;

Underline that cooperation in combating International Terrorism, including cross border terrorism is one of the key political priorities in the India-EU strategic partnership.

Recall their commitments to enhance counter terrorism cooperation, as contained in the 2005 EU-India Joint Action Plan, as well as in the 2009 EU-India Summit Declaration;

Further recall that their Strategic Partnership is rooted in shared values and principles-democracy, pluralism, Constitutional and legal rights and freedoms, and the rule of law

Attach great importance to counter terrorism cooperation in the framework of United Nations and share a commitment to universal ratification and full implementation of all UN Counter Terrorism conventions;

Reaffirm their conviction that the proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism should become a vital component of the international legal framework against terrorism, and to intensify efforts to bring negotiations to a successful conclusion.

In this spirit, India and EU have come together to declare their resolve to cooperate in combating international terrorism within the following framework, details of which will be worked out through designated authorities:

Political dialogue:

- Continue to discuss Counter Terrorism cooperation at high level meetings within our security dialogue
- Encourage all countries to deny safe haven to terrorists and to dismantle terror infrastructure on the territories under their control

Law enforcement and police cooperation:

- Identify, including through seminars, areas of cooperation with respect to the designated agencies, according to their respective competencies,.
- Continue efforts to prevent access by terrorists to financial and other resources
- Enhance efforts for accessing and sharing strategic information, so as to better disrupt and prevent terrorist activity
- Intensify efforts to render the widest possible measure of mutual legal assistance and to expedite processing of extradition requests and to explore the possibility of an EU - India Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement and an EU - India Agreement on Extradition.

Research, Technology and Cybersecurity:

- Agree to closer India-EU cooperation and mutual assistance in this area.

Transport, aviation and border security:

- Work together, including in ICAO, to improve international security standards for passengers, cargo and mail, including in transit.
- Coordinate efforts against terrorists and terrorist groups so as to deny them safe haven and freedom of travel in accordance with international law.

- Encourage more efficient controls on issuance of identity and travel documents to prevent movement of terrorist and terrorist groups across national borders.

Consequence Management:

- Share experiences and best practices on managing the consequences of a terrorist attack.

Cooperation in the Multilateral system, including United Nations:

- Increase cooperation in multilateral fora like the UN, and intensify efforts to bring about a rapid adoption of CCIT
- Build on the opportunities of coordination provided by the India's membership of Financial Action Task Force of EU Member States and India by intensifying efforts to prevent access by terrorists to financial and other resources and by sharing best practices on financial controls.
- Reaffirm commitment to implement the 2006 UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy as a unique instrument to enhance national, regional and global efforts to counter terrorism.
- Encourage global ratification and effective implementation of all relevant conventions on counter terrorism.
- Promote initiatives, under the auspices of UN, inter alia, on Alliance of Civilization initiative, to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations.
- The EU and India agree that an effective and comprehensive approach to diminish the long term threat of violent extremism is an important component of our efforts to combat terrorism.



104. Joint Declaration issued on the conclusion of the Summit of the European Commission and the Government of India for cooperation and dialogue in the field of Culture.

Brussels, December 10, 2010

The European Commission and the Government of India hereinafter referred as "Sides" wish to reinforce cooperation and dialogue in the field of culture.

The European Commission and the Government of India ,declare their wish to strengthen cooperation and dialogue between the European Commission and the Government of India in the field of culture.

The European Commission and the Government of India consider that cultural cooperation is instrumental in improving mutual understanding and in promoting genuine intercultural dialogue, and both the European Commission and the Government of India share a commitment to the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity.

Both sides furthermore recognize the importance of their cultural relations as underpinned by:

- the Cooperation Agreement signed on 20th December 1993, in particular its provisions regarding cultural cooperation (article 15),
- the EU-India Joint Declaration on Cultural Relations adopted on 3rd November, 2004 at the India-EU summit in The Hague
- the 2005 EU-India Joint Action Plan supporting the Strategic Partnership.
- the Joint Statement issued at the EU-India Summit in New Delhi on 30th November, 2007.

They further acknowledge the mutually acceptable framework being discussed under future EU-funded culture programme, which will further promote and strengthen the rich cultural cooperation between the two sides.

In this context The European Commission and the Government of India recognize the positive outcome of 2008 EU-India Summit in Marseille, and

in particular the decision to develop a dialogue between the parties in the field of culture.

While building on past achievements, both sides intend to further exploit the potential for cooperation between both regions through the development of new policy-oriented activities.

The European Commission and the Government of India declare their common intentions as follows:

- Under the auspices of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005 to which both the European Community and the Government of India are parties, the Directorate General for Education and Culture on one side and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on the other side, will set up a sector policy dialogue covering issues of common interest in the field of culture that will help to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.
- The sector policy dialogue and cooperation will consist of regular exchanges of best practices, achievements and challenges, and promotion of knowledge building and sharing in relation to commonly identified issues.
- The mutual dialogue may also include discussions on existing and future cooperation in the field of Culture. Specific events such as seminars, workshops, or expert meetings will be jointly organized for the purpose of those exchanges and discussions, with the participation of relevant stakeholders. These events could be held annually, alternately in Brussels and in New Delhi or in any other venue agreed to by both sides. In addition, special promotional events, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, could be organized.
- Both sides will jointly set up a rolling work programme which will be continually updated for conducting this dialogue. They will regularly review its implementation and avenues for future cooperation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year at alternating venues. Other occasional meetings may be held as necessary.

- Both sides will bear their own delegation's costs of participation in such events and meetings. All other costs linked to the organization of these seminars, workshops and meetings will be borne by the side hosting the events, except if agreed otherwise.

The provisions of this Joint Declaration express political intent and are not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

Done at Brussels(Belgium) on the 10th Day of December, 2010 in two originals in English language.

For the European Commission
(Mr. Jan Trzczyński)
Director General of Education
Training and Youth

For the Government of India
(Mr. Jawhar Sircar)
Secretary,
Ministry of Culture



105. Joint Statement issued at the end of the EU-India Summit.

Brussels, December 10, 2010.

1. The Eleventh European Union - India Summit was held in Brussels on 10 December 2010. The Republic of India was represented by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. EU was represented by Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr. Jose Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission.

2. Leaders emphasised that EU and India, which share common values relating to democracy, rule of law, civil liberties and respect for human rights, agreed to reinforce their strategic partnership for their mutual benefit in all areas and to better contribute to the resolution of the challenges of the twenty first century. They discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest and concern. In the context of overall EU-Indian interaction, leaders noted India's development priorities as well as the new dimension of EU, following the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

Bilateral issues

3. Recognising the value of an ambitious and balanced Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement, which will bring significant economic benefits to both sides and further strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, leaders welcomed the significant progress recorded during recent negotiations, agreed on the contours of a final package, and reaffirmed the importance of an ambitious and balanced conclusion in the spring of 2011
4. They welcomed the business summit held in the margins of the summit and agreed that enhanced cooperation between business organizations from EU and India would greatly benefit their respective companies and improve opportunities for cooperation.
5. Leaders welcomed increasing cooperation in the field of security and defence. They agreed to pursue EU-India dialogue and cooperation in this area, including in the context of counter-piracy naval operations and more broadly in support of the UNSC resolutions.
6. EU and India condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their united stance in combating threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts wherever they take place. Leaders welcomed the EU-India Joint Declaration on International Terrorism.
7. Building on the 2008 EU-India Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in these fields, with a view to enhancing energy, security energy efficiency and promoting the development of renewable energy. They agreed that the results of the Joint Work Programme should be presented at the 12th India-European Union Summit. Lastly, leaders looked forward to the early conclusion of the EU-India Agreement for Research and Development Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.
8. EU and India expressed satisfaction with recent progress in negotiations on a maritime transport agreement and called for the continuation of the negotiations aiming at the conclusion of a mutually beneficial agreement. They also called for the early implementation of the civil aviation agreement.

9. In the field of space, the leaders acknowledged the active cooperation pursued by space agencies and industries of the two sides for developing, launching and operating Earth Observation and Communication Satellites through appropriate bilateral relations. The leaders welcomed the recent formation of ISO-ESA Joint Working Group on Earth Observation to concretize the cooperation areas.

10. They committed to a swift finalisation of the agreement on satellite navigation initialled in 2005 and earnestly work toward a technical agreement on the use of the frequency spectrum.

11. Recognising the important implications of the movement of people for India and EU, they agreed to explore initiatives that could lead to a regular, comprehensive and structured dialogue on migration issues, with a view to deepening cooperation in this field.

12. Both sides reiterated their joint commitment to the MDGs, with an emphasis on health and education and a special focus on vocational training. In this context, EU and India will sign the next joint development cooperation strategy (Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2011-13).

13. Both sides welcomed the new dynamic India-EU and Member States research and innovation partnership for more coordinated cooperation to tackle major societal challenges. The leaders agreed that cooperation partnership dialogues should be pursued so as to make a contribution to the objectives set out in the India's Decade of Innovation and the Europe 2010 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union.

14. EU and India signed a Joint Declaration on Culture.

15. EU and India will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Statistics.

Regional issues

16. EU and India reiterated their common interest in a stable, peaceful and inclusive Afghanistan free from terrorism, as well as their support to the Kabul Process building upon broad international partnership towards further Afghan responsibility and ownership in security, governance and development. They also underlined the need for more effective regional cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan and expressed their continued commitment to an ongoing dialogue to this

end. The leaders agreed that terrorism must be combated firmly and expressed concern at the continuing existence of safe havens, including in the cross border dimension.

17. They acknowledged their respective humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, voiced a shared hope for a speedy recovery, and emphasised that a democratic and prosperous Pakistan was in the interest of the entire region. They called upon Pakistan to expeditiously bring all the perpetrators, authors and accomplices of the Mumbai attacks to justice.

18. EU and India exchanged views on regional integration and agreed to continue efforts to enhance cooperation in the context of SAARC and other fora, as well as between SAARC and EU. Leaders recognized that closer regional cooperation is crucial for the development of South Asia.

Global issues

19. Leaders reviewed recent developments aimed at reinforcing global economic governance in particular in the G20 context.

In this regard they welcomed the agreement on the IMF reform reached at Seoul which will strengthen the legitimacy of the IMF and will increase the involvement of emerging economies in global economic governance.

Leaders welcomed the commitments made at the G20 Seoul Summit to promptly bring the Doha Development Round to an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion in 2011, consistent with the mandate of the Doha Development Round and built on the progress already achieved. They also reaffirmed their commitment to resist all forms of protectionist measures.

Leaders also reaffirmed their determination to contribute positively to address the issue of global imbalances. In this respect they welcomed the agreement reached in Seoul on a process that will set the base for closer coordination and assessing on imbalances at the global level and they called on the G20 to make rapid progress in the course of 2011 on the implementation of this process.

20. In the context of the process of negotiations on Climate Change, EU and India voiced their firm resolve to continue working for an ambitious,

comprehensive and balanced post 2012 agreement as soon as possible based on the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In parallel, EU and India are committed to further develop their bilateral cooperation and policy dialogue in this field. In particular, EU is ready to cooperate with India in implementing its National Action Plan on Climate Change.

21. EU and India reaffirmed their commitment to global and non-discriminatory disarmament and to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Leaders pledged closer cooperation aimed at providing a robust nuclear non-proliferation regime and, in particular, looked forward to a prompt commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament. They reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and expressed the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council.



106. Joint Press Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy after EU-India Summit.

Brussels, December 10, 2010.

President of the European Council (Mr. Herman Van Rompuy): I am delighted to welcome Prime Minister Singh and his delegation to the 11th EU India Summit, the first under the Lisbon Treaty, 1 year after its entry into force.

We have met several times this year - in Washington for the nuclear security summit, in Canada and Korea for the G20 Summits - but this first time (for me) in the Justus Lipsius - the European Council Headquarter - gives me particular pleasure.

President Barroso and I had a very intense and productive plenary session with the PM during which we reviewed the whole spectrum of bilateral,

regional and global issues on our agenda. We will further focus on some of these issues during our working lunch.

I am also pleased that Lady Ashton attended this Summit. Let me express my satisfaction for both the substance and the quality of our discussions and decisions. And let me thank Premier Singh for his leadership and vision.

On bilateral issues. Today we have agreed to consider the enormous potential in our bilateral relations that is still to be unlocked, and the necessity to bring our strategic partnership launched in 2004 to a higher level.

I would resume this common objective in 2 adjectives: make it wider (in the areas to be unfolded), make it deeper (in those already launched). You can see our progress reflected in the Joint Statement of this Summit.

So, wider. I have explained to Premier Singh how the new institutional EU setting will make this objective easier to achieve. More continuity brings more coherence. And more coherence paves the way for more results.

Today, we have opened a brand new chapter of political cooperation in the defence and security fields. We have in particular agreed on the need to step up together in the fight against international terrorism. The London, Madrid and Mumbai attacks showed that terrorism knows no boundaries and that a common response is essential: the Joint Declaration on Counter Terrorism we have agreed today signals a clear commitment in this regard. This Declaration sets out a series of areas of concrete cooperation.

Deeper cooperation. As cooperation became wider, we have engaged to give new momentum to the key areas that already constitute the bulk of our cooperation, in particular in the trade and investments. The EU is the 1st India export destination; India is the 9th EU export destination. The overall trade in goods in 2009 amounted to around 52 billions euro. We believe it is not enough, particularly as in a still-difficult economic situation and where fiscal and budgetary policies are limited, free trade is a powerful engine in those circumstances to promote sustainable

economic growth in two of the largest world economies, where more than one and half billion people live. President Barroso will elaborate further but I am pleased that we have created momentum in the Free Trade Agreement negotiations for an ambitious and balanced conclusion in the Spring of 2011. It would be the biggest agreement concluded by the EU and one of the biggest bilateral agreements ever.

Under this item we reiterated our common interest in a stable, peaceful and inclusive Afghanistan. I highlighted to the Prime Minister the great efforts undertaken by the EU and its Member States and the conclusion of the NATO summit in Lisbon. The aim of course is the "Afghanisation" of Afghanistan.

I have also underlined that a safe, secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan is equally in the interest of the EU. In this context I have recalled the measures decided by the European Council.

With PM Singh we have reviewed the key issues of the global agenda, starting from the response to the economic crisis. We have reaffirmed the commitment we made at the G20 Seoul Summit to contribute to address positively the issue of the "global imbalances" and to make rapid progress in 2011; we also welcomed the historic agreement on the IMF reform and the great efforts made by the European countries to make it possible, as we believe it will strengthen the legitimacy of the IMF, allowing India and the other emerging economies to increase their involvement and - I believe - responsibilities in the global economic governance. We both agreed on the need to move towards more market-determined exchange rates, as the G20 meeting said.

Bringing climate and trade negotiations to a positive outcome remain a common objective.

We have also stressed the importance of cooperation in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard I expressed to PM Singh EU concern over the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missiles program and the need to cooperate to ensure Iran meets its obligation to the AIEA of Viena and the UN Security Council.

India and the EU are natural partners. We share the same core values of democracy, rule of law, respect of human rights. The strategic partnership that binds EU and India will be instrumental in reaching the shared interests for freedom, peace and security in all parts of the world.

Prime Minister of India: Your Excellencies, President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Commission Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, Ministers, Distinguished Representatives of the Media.

I am delighted to be here in Brussels to attend the eleventh Summit between India and the European Union, and the first Summit since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

I would like to thank the leadership of the European Union for the gracious hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation. India greatly values its relations with the European Union. We see it 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. A strong and prosperous Europe, with whom India shares common values of democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights, is essential for stability and balance in the international order.

Over the years, the partnership between India and the European Union has matured tremendously. Today, it covers the entire gamut of areas ranging from the political and security to education and science. Its significance transcends the purely bilateral.

We have had extremely productive and useful discussions today. These are reflected in the Joint Statement that has been issued. We have also issued a Joint Declaration on Culture and another on International Terrorism. We reviewed the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Joint Action Plan, which is the template of our cooperation. Agreements on cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and maritime transport are under negotiation.

Our two sides have done commendable work in negotiations of an India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement. We are at the last

stages of this complex exercise. We have directed our officials to redouble their efforts to reach a conclusion by the spring of 2011. Finalisation of a balanced Agreement will bring enormous benefits to both sides.

India and Europe should take the lead in avoiding protectionist trends, keeping our markets open and encouraging the free flow and movement of people.

I conveyed to the European leadership the vast opportunities that exist for European investment in India in the areas of infrastructure, high technology, research and development, clean energy and innovation. We are particularly keen to benefit from Europe's experience in the area of skill development, vocational training and small and medium enterprises.

We discussed opportunities for greater cooperation in the political and security spheres. We have agreed to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. There is, in addition, scope for working together in combatting non-traditional threats to security such as piracy.

Europe has been a locomotive of the world's economy. India, like the rest of the world, has a vital stake in Europe's return to robust growth, innovation and the pre-crisis levels of high employment. As a member of the Group of 20, India will consult closely with the European Union and individual member States to ensure a balanced and sustained global economic recovery process.

We exchanged views on the situation in India's neighbourhood and developments in Europe. We were united in our view that the success of the international community's efforts in Afghanistan was critical for the people of Afghanistan as well as for the stability and security of India and Europe.

We also exchanged views on other global issues like sustainable development, climate change, reform of institutions of global governance including the United Nations Security Council and disarmament and non-proliferation.

I am fully satisfied with my talks today. They give me confidence that we are on the right track. Our partnership with the European Union is poised for further expansion, and we will work with the EU towards world peace, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.

Question (European Media): Dr. Singh, on the question of regional developments, in Pakistan one of the EU's recent initiatives has been to propose a WTO visa waiver for certain products from Pakistan. Does India support that initiative as a way of helping to restore the country to prosperity? And to EU President, I hear that in Geneva there are some countries which are questioning the impact and the rationale behind the EU's proposal on trade aid to Pakistan. What is your response to those countries?

Prime Minister of India: The EC officials are in touch with their Indian counterparts and we will satisfactorily resolve this matter. We support all international efforts to provide succor to the flood victims in Pakistan through direct aid and grant assistance. On our part we too had offered and remain willing to support the victims of natural calamity through relief assistance.

President of the European Union: As you know and you have said rightly, the European Union is strongly committed to help Pakistan after the devastating floods through short-term humanitarian assistance but also by mid-term trade measures. This was agreed by the Heads of State and Government in one of our European Council meetings. That is why the European Union proposed granting Pakistan targeted market access to alleviate economic problems and then that brings stability which we believe it is in everybody's interest, the stability of Pakistan. That is why we have already lodged a request for the WTO waiver in Geneva. We are of course aware that partners, including India, might have questions and concerns about those measures. We are discussing these issues with our partners.

Question (India Media): This question is for President Rompuy. This is regarding the bilateral trade agreement which has been described by

you as path-breaking and ambitious. One key area in the implementation of this agreement is the movement of natural persons and service personnel from India to the EU and vice versa. However, given the present nature of the Schengen Visa regime which is seen as restrictive, there are fears that it may pose some hurdles. How does the European Union propose to address these concerns in India, especially from our domestic IT industry?

President of the European Union: We discussed this, not yet in detail, in our discussions we had this morning, but we will discuss the general theme of migration at lunch time. I think that in the Joint Declaration you received some passages on this theme. But we have to discuss it further in our meeting at noon.

Question (European Media): You have decided today to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism. I do not know if you can give us more details if there are any proposals in this sense. The second question, if I may. Could you let us know once the free trade agreement with India is concluded how much money will this agreement be worth in exchange of goods for both sides?

President of the European Union: Just reminding you that we had published an India-EU Joint Declaration on International Terrorism with a lot of initiatives and concrete projects. So, if you have a closer look at the text of two and a half pages you would be assured that this cooperation is a real, concrete cooperation; and that we are both engaged in counter-terrorism. I also said in my opening statement and I said this also in my Declaration just a few minutes ago, that for European Union and for India, the fight against terrorism is really key because it is not only a problem of India, it is also a problem of the European Union. I have referred to what happened in London, I have referred to what happened in Madrid. So, it is a joint strategy and a joint attitude, and the Joint Declaration is really the clear signal we gave to the rest of the world that we will join efforts in the fight against terrorism.

Question (Indian Media): I have two quick questions, one for Prime Minister Singh and one for President Van Rompuy. If I could start with President Van Rompuy, Sir, Afghanistan figured in your talks today. Is

the EU ready to seriously partner with India in the region or will the concerns of Pakistan, a crucial ally of NATO, prevent this? And my question for Prime Minister Singh is, if the FTA goes ahead, there will of course be winners but there will also be losers. In India we have substantial sections of the population that remain opposed to it from shopkeepers to small farmers. And yet you remain strongly committed to a speedy conclusion to the FTA? Why is this?

President of the European Union: On Afghanistan - I am speaking now on behalf of the European Union as a Union - we are as a Union permitted to helping with reconstruction and stabilization of Afghanistan, and we are in Afghanistan for the long haul. European Union and its member states as a whole are investing nearly one billion Euro every year. EU poll mandate has been prolonged by three years. So, we keep focusing on regional cooperation and border management indispensable to addressing cross-border issues such as drug-trafficking. So, as a Union we are engaged in the construction and stabilization for the long haul, and we are collaborating with all those who make the same efforts. We came back from the NATO Lisbon Summit just a few weeks ago, and there we decided to maintain the political momentum for gradual transfer of responsibility in the security and civilian sectors to Afghanistan. But as a Union you know we are not involved in the military operations. We are engaged in reconstruction and stabilization of the society and we are there for the long haul.

Prime Minister of India: With regard to the question addressed to me I have to say that it is my firm belief that a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement between India and the European Union is in our mutual interest. There are, of course, concerns about what will happen to small farmers and small shopkeepers. I am convinced that we can build enough safeguards to protect their essential interests.



107. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the Address by Commerce Minister to the India - European Union Business Summit.

Brussels, December 10, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, today addressed the India -EU Business Summit held annually on the sidelines of India-EU Summit. The Summit took place at Brussels and was organized by the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB) and Business Europe along with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The theme of the Summit this year was "Partnership Opportunities for Sustainable Development".

In his remarks, Shri Sharma mentioned that strategic partnership between India and EU is underpinned by strong business relations and the relationship has expanded in the last few years to span all areas of engagement. Shri Sharma emphasized ten areas of cooperation for the decade, namely, Infrastructure, the entire gamut of Services industry, Skill development, entire spectrum of renewable energy, nuclear commerce, the entire value chain of agro business, innovation and research, space, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals.

In his address, Shri Sharma also expressed optimism for an early conclusion of the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with balanced gains for both India and EU.



G-20**108. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Prime Minister's Visit to Canada.****New Delhi, June 22, 2010.**

Please See Document No.555.

**109. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Toronto to attend the G-20 Summit Conference.****New Delhi, June 25, 2010.**

I am leaving today to attend the G 20 Summit in Toronto at the invitation of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The theme of the Toronto Summit is "Recovery and the New Beginning". The coordinated policy actions taken by the G 20 since the first Summit in Washington in November 2008 have not only helped to prevent a crisis of the type the world saw in the 1930s but also contributed to global economic recovery. This is a sign of the G 20's success. At the same time, we have to be conscious that the recovery is still fragile and uneven. New worrying signs have emerged in the Euro zone.

The challenge of the Toronto Summit will be three fold - to ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable; to calibrate exit strategies in the light of growing concerns over expansionary fiscal policies; and to focus on medium and long-term structural issues relating to governance issues. As the Indian economy grows and further integrates with the international system, we have an increasingly direct stake in all these matters. To meet our ambitious development targets it is necessary that the global economy continue

to recover in a stable and predictable manner. We need investment and capital flows, as well as an open and rule based trading system that does not succumb to protectionist tendencies.

The Summit is expected to deliberate on a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. India will participate in this exercise and project our expectations from the global economic and financial system, and the kind of global growth processes that we seek. We will highlight the importance of development issues in the future work of the G20.

During my stay in Canada I will also hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Our relations with Canada are becoming broad based and there is a mutual desire on both sides to impart fresh vigour and vitality to them. India and Canada share the same values and there are many opportunities for us to contribute to each other's welfare and prosperity.

I also look forward to having separate meetings with President Nicolas Sarkozy, President Barack Obama, Prime Minister David Cameron, Prime Minister Naoto Kan and to a meeting of the BRIC leaders.



110 Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the G-20 Summit.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

The central problem we face today is how to ensure protect global growth in a situation where markets have become very nervous about debt sustainability, especially in some countries in the Eurozone. Concerns about debt sustainability normally suggest a need for fiscal contraction. But circumstances are not normal. The recovery is still fragile and private demand in the industrialized countries is likely to remain weak.

Contractionary policies, if followed by many industrialized countries simultaneously, could provoke a double dip recession. This would have very negative effects on developing countries, and on the prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

I recognize that there are uncertainties and it is difficult to strike the right balance. But on the whole, I feel the risks of destabilizing the recovery are too great. We have a much greater risk of deflation than inflation. We must, therefore, give primacy to consolidating the recovery, while also taking measured steps to deal with sovereign debt problems.

This calls for careful coordination of policies among the G-20. It is precisely for this purpose that we agreed in Pittsburgh to work on a Framework to deliver strong and sustainable growth. The outcome of Phase I of this process, which is now before us, sheds valuable light on the policy responses needed in different groups of countries.

Fiscal consolidation must obviously have high priority in those advanced deficit countries that are experiencing exceptional fiscal stress and where markets have signaled serious concern. However, other advanced countries should opt for a much more calibrated exit from stimulus. We should adopt a carefully differentiated approach, reflecting the circumstances of individual countries.

The time phasing of fiscal action is also important. Markets may well be reassured by credible steps by major industrialized countries, which impact the fiscal deficit significantly over time, even if the immediate impact is more limited.

Developing countries need to rebalance their strategies to rely less upon exports and more on domestic demand. In many developing countries, this is best done through increased investment directed to infrastructure. This will sustain growth in the short run by offsetting the contractionary effect of lower exports. It will also increase growth potential in the medium term, by addressing the supply side constraints.

Aiming at higher levels of investment despite lower export growth is likely to generate larger current account deficits. This will help rebalance

global demand, but it requires an environment in which the higher current account deficits of developing countries can be financed. This requires an expansion in both multilateral and private capital flows.

Growth in developing countries would be greatly helped if threats of new protectionist measures in industrialized countries are firmly resisted and existing barriers to trade, especially those affecting developing countries, are reduced. In this context, a successful completion of the Doha Development Round is imperative.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me comment briefly on how we in India are handling the situation. Thanks to an effective fiscal and monetary stimulus, we were able to contain the effect of the global crisis on our economy. After growing at 9 percent for four years before the crisis, our economy averaged about 7 percent growth in last two years. We expect to grow by 8.5 percent in 2010-11 and we hope to go back to 9 percent by 2011-12.

This is an ambitious goal and we recognize that we have much to do to achieve it. We are taking steps to reverse the fiscal stimulus we had introduced to deal with the crisis. To this end we have outlined a medium term plan to halve the fiscal deficit by 2013-14.

We are giving a strong push to investment in infrastructure, relying on private public partnership as much as possible to reduce the burden on scarce public resources.

We have a sound and well regulated financial sector which was not affected by the crisis. We will persevere with implementing financial sector reforms to support rapid and inclusive growth in the real economy, and also to increase systemic stability in the financial sector.

Thank you.



111. Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao, Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla and Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the G-20 Summit.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

Official Spokesperson: A very good evening to all of you, and thanks for waiting.

As you know, today Prime Minister has had a packed calendar of engagements. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao is here to brief you about Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meeting with President Obama. Finance Secretary Shri Ashok Chawla will talk to you about the G20 Summit, Prime Minister's intervention at and his vision of the G20 Summit. Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju will apprise you about the bilateral segment of Prime Minister's meetings and interactions with his Canadian counterpart. I would also like to introduce Dr. Harish Khare, who is to the left of Finance Secretary. He is Media Advisor to Prime Minister. May I invite Foreign Secretary to please make her remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu.

I will just give you a heads up on the meeting between our Prime Minister and President Barack Obama of the United States. That meeting took place this evening and lasted for a little more than half an hour. It was a meeting marked by great warmth, goodwill, and cordiality between the two leaders. The focus was on the new thrust, the new areas and the new content of the strategic partnership between India and the United States. Both leaders expressed great satisfaction about the pace, about the momentum with which relations are currently developing. They spoke about the recently held strategic dialogue between the two Governments in Washington, the recently held meeting of the India-US CEO's Forum and also of the enormous opportunities that lie ahead for the development of this relationship.

They looked at areas of focus like export controls where President Obama said that both sides should think creatively on how to craft solutions to move forward. They looked at the potential for expanded

commercial relations between the two sides, especially in the light of the recently held CEO's Forum where a number of interesting ideas had been articulated. They also discussed the situation in the region and their common dedication and resolve to fight terrorism, to cooperate in countering the terrorism that affects both countries.

President Obama said that he looks forward greatly to his forthcoming visit to India in November. And Prime Minister Singh observed that intensive preparations were being made for this visit, that we wanted to make it a great success, and that President Obama, Mrs. Obama and their children would be received with great warmth, and we looked forward very much to their forthcoming visit in November. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: May I invite Finance Secretary to make his opening remarks?

Finance Secretary (Shri Ashok Chawla): Thank you. The Summit in Toronto - just to put it in perspective, this is something which you all know, not anything new - this Summit was the Fourth Summit which the G20 leaders have had. The first one in Washington in November 2008 was when the financial crisis had just started and that Summit focused heavily on how to address the immediate problems of the financial sector. The Second Summit in London, April 2009, was the trillion dollar summit where the idea was that lot of money should be spent, the governments should come in in a big way where private sector does not have the resources, is feeling shy, so that growth is sustained.

The Third summit at Pittsburgh in September 2009 put many of these things on to formal tracks and also declared G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. I am mentioning this just to indicate that it is not as if what was expected here at the Toronto Summit was one off, something which was going to happen as a specific individual activity. It is a continuation of what has been decided by the leaders, what has been commended by them to their Finance Ministers and their Technical Advisors over this period of time. So, that is the context in which I think one has to look at the Summit. That is why the Canadians called it a summit which would take stock of what has happened so far and identify the next steps.

I have no doubt you would have had occasion to see the leaders' statement, or the communiqué which has been issued. It would be on the site. You have a look at it. But I will just very briefly cover some of the important issues. Quite understandably, the main issue was on how to handle growth versus fiscal consolidation. Everybody is keen that the incipient growth impulses which are visible all around the world should not be stifled, they should not be cut off. But equally, the leaders in the G20 are conscious of the fact that it cannot go on like that for long, that you need to start the process of fiscal consolidation, and that unless you do that growth which is important is not going to be sustainable.

The overwhelming mood of the house, if I may say so, was that growth is still more important and that it should not be lost sight of. That was the predominant theme in the intervention which the Indian Prime Minister made this morning. The G20 in its Declaration has talked of the framework for sustainable, balanced growth. IMF has done some work on that. They will carry forward this work over the next few months and report the Phase-II progress which will identify individual countries and what countries need to do at the time of the Seoul Summit. But generally speaking, the G20 have declared that they should cut their fiscal deficits by half by the end of 2013. Most countries have committed to this and are sure that they will be able to do this. We have independently, even prior to the G20 coming to this understanding, a roadmap which is designed to cut our fiscal deficit, Indian fiscal deficit, to half by 2013-14.

On financial sector reforms, it is basically work in progress. The Financial Stability Board and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision are working in the direction of regulation, how to make supervision more effective, how to handle systemically important institutions. One issue which engaged the attention of the G20 and the financial community has been the proposal to levy some kind of tax on financial institutions and banks so that the burden is not borne by the governments or the taxpayers if such crises occur in future. There were divergent views on this even prior to the Summit. What has come out in the Summit is that this is something which some countries will do, some will take other steps or continue with the kind of steps that they have which need not necessarily involve specific levies of taxes. That is recorded in the

leaders' declaration. So, there is no unanimity on this. In fact, there need not be unanimity because the financial structures and the regulations are different in different countries.

On international financial institution reform, as you are aware, the World Bank change in terms of quotas moving to the developing countries has already happened. On the IMF side, the deadline is the Seoul Summit. So, that is work in progress. That will be carried forward, we are quite confident. That is what the G20 has again reiterated.

One specific intervention which has been made by the G20, and the host country Canada pushed it in a big way, is to set up a fund for small and medium enterprises after identifying the best practices and so on in this sector. The fund which will be a voluntary fund to which countries can contribute, multilateral development banks will contribute is called SME Finance Challenge. But what it basically means is that the best kind of ideas and innovative ideas which come from the SME sector will be funded through this instrumentality.

Trade and the Doha Round is something which the global community and the G20 feel it is essential to push through as soon as it is possible. But in any case there is a separate track for the WTO negotiations. What the G20 leaders meanwhile have declared is that for three years, to the end of 2013, no new trade barriers should be raised so that there are no continuation of or fresh protectionist tendencies, and that they look forward to the completion of the Doha Round as early as is possible.

There were one or two other issues, new aspects in the leaders' declaration which I thought I will highlight before you. One is that there is desired focus on issues relating to corruption, the UN Charter against corruption, its ratification and its full implementation. A call has been given by the leaders. There is also a proposal because some countries felt that the G20, now that it is moving on from issues relating to financial sector and the financial crisis, should focus on issues relating to development which concern not only the emerging market economies who are members of the G20 but the international community as a whole. So, the G20 has decided to set up a Working Group on Development.

This is broadly the contours of what the G20 deliberated upon and decided, and the intervention which the Prime Minister made. Thank

you.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you, Sir. Can I now invite Secretary (West) to please make his opening remarks?

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Thank you, Vishnu. Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The hour is getting late. So, I will be very brief.

The Prime Minister met his Canadian counterpart Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a one-on-one format followed by delegation-level talks. Following the talks, as you know, the two Prime Minister's witnessed a signing ceremony and then interacted with you. Thereafter, the Prime Minister attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. In fact, the dinner was hosted by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mrs. Harper for the Prime Minister and Shrimati Gursharan Kaur.

At the press interaction the Prime Minister had made an opening statement that will be no doubt with you or it would be with you shortly. It has been circulated already. There is also a Joint Statement that has been issued and that too is with you. The Prime Minister made a speech at the dinner. That text has been already given to you. So, taken together, there is a fair deal of information with you on what is actually a very brief but an official visit following the Prime Minister's participation in the G20 Summit. The media notes too have been given to you. So, I would not go over all that ground.

I will only highlight a couple of things. The first is that both the leaders are committed to the transformation of the relationship and the deepening of the dialogue between the two countries. You would have got a flavor of this in the remarks made by Prime Minister Harper during the press interaction when he said quite clearly that the 1970s were over and we were now in a different era, an era in which both countries can contribute a great deal to each other, and also contribute to peace and development in the world.

During the discussions there was a desire that the dialogue that I have mentioned should also include an exchange of perceptions on regional security issues, in particular about Afghanistan in which India of course has vital interest but Canada too has a significant troop presence for the last many years. There was also a recognition that the field of energy

was a significant area where the two countries could make a contribution to each other. And finally, there was a proposal by the Canadian Prime Minister to set up an Eminent Persons Group between the two countries. Our Prime Minister responded positively and he said that yes, such a group could bring in the civil society into the dialogue in a meaningful way. And the two leaders decided that officials now would discuss modalities of how this Eminent Persons Group can be established.

I think I will stop here. If there are any questions, I will be happy to answer.

Question: First of all, I congratulate all of you, especially my media friends that we have got great success in G20 and India has come closer to the world powers. Madam, India always has been a supporter of the human rights. But is it not unfortunate that those people who made 90 per cent of the sacrifices of the total sacrifices made by Indians for the freedom of the country have to today demonstrate for their rights? I have gone through the list. There are so many people against whom there is not even a single case. Your list is with me. There are some children and some old people who want to visit India, their native land before death. Will you please tell why the genuine demands have been kept so long pending by the previous governments? India's stand is very much positive and we are playing our great role for the revival of global economy and we have been successful also. Will you please tell us that when this violation of human rights will end and people will get justice?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. We are aware of the issues that have been raised by the group of people that you referred to. The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The whole matter is under review currently. We have begun a series of meetings to look at the issue in depth with a view to considering the requests that have been made by these people. I am confident that we will have an outcome before long and an outcome that will do its best to meet some of the points and the issues raised by this group of people.

Question: First a clarification from the Foreign Secretary. There have been some reports about a sense of expectation that India could use

the US bilateral talk about Warren Anderson's extradition. Was that at all on the agenda? Did it figure in the talks, Madam?

Foreign Secretary: No, it did not figure in the talks.

Question: A couple of questions on the G20. Clause No.30 essentially seems to hint that there will be a more transparent process of selecting the heads of international financial institutions. Does it, Sir, now work in favour of India? The second question really is in terms of what we have started out to achieve. Could you quantify or summarise what has India achieved in terms of its participation in the Summit because the sense that some of us get is that while the world was united during a crisis, it has sort of decided to go its own independent way in the aftermath?

Finance Secretary: On the first question about the heads of international financial institutions, this has generally been a demand all over the world that the process of selection of the Chiefs and the senior management should be more transparent, it should be merit based, it should not be confined to any specific countries or regions, as has somehow been in the past. So there is nothing in the book which says that. So, this is in a way a vindication of that position which has been acknowledged by the G20 nations who are the main shareholders in these institutions. So, the process of selection will help all countries including India.

On the second point of where the G20 is heading, what is happening, what does India get out of it, and so on, now this is, as you understand, a group of 20 countries which are certainly diverse in terms of their economic development, in terms of their regional backgrounds, in terms of what they produce and what commodities they have and so on. So, there are bound to be divergent interests even in the Group of 20. Having said that let me say that what the G20 has achieved in the aftermath of the crisis since 2008 is to really bring together the countries, the leaders, their Finance Ministers, their technicians, whether in the Government or in the Central banks, to sit and talk and think of coordinated policy strategies. And the proof of pudding is that it has helped. So, it is not as if today the feeling is that now the job is over, we need to get back to our own respective individual ways. Well, naturally every country will have its best economic interests at heart. But the spirit of cooperation, the spirit of working in coordination - coordination does not necessarily

mean that they will align their policies with each other or with what the G20 would want to do - the spirit of coordination continues. It continues in the approach to fiscal consolidation where certain kind of countries will start consolidating first. In respect of surplus countries which need to follow policies where more domestic demand is generated in respect of advanced deficit economies which need to generate more local demand so that there is some kind of optimal balancing to the extent that is possible.

It is working together even in the area of regulation where, as they decided over the last few summits, there would be international benchmarks and regulations but to be enforced, to be implemented, and to be supervised nationally. So, the broad parameters and the broad framework continue. I think that is something very important which the G20 brings to the table, what the G20 sort of signals to the financial community and the markets.

Question: My first question is addressed to the Foreign Secretary. Madam, during the discussions between President Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh you talked about the fact that they discussed about counter-terrorism. Is there any new area of cooperation that the two talked about?

The second question is addressed to Mr. Katju. Did the Prime Minister specifically raise the issue of some pro-Khalistan elements acting in Canada and did Prime Minister Harper given any specific assurance that the Canadian soil will not be used for any anti-India activity? Did he also raise the fact that there is some concern in India about injustice being given to Kanishka victims and is the Canadian Government going to do something about it?

Foreign Secretary: On your first question, when they spoke about counter-terrorism, in my opening remarks I referred to the fact that they discussed the situation in the region. And in that context the situation in Afghanistan came up, including the need to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. That was the first point. The second point was of course relations with Pakistan. President Obama was very positive in his references to the efforts that we have initiated commencing with the meeting between our Prime Minister and Prime Minister Gilani at Thimphu

to reengage with Pakistan and to view dialogue as the best way forward. That was the second point. In this context, Prime Minister referred of course to the fact that Pakistan is our neighbor and with neighbours the choice before us is really to strengthen dialogue, to resolve outstanding issues, but he added with Pakistan it is very important that Pakistan abides by its commitment not to allow its territory to be used by elements that engage in terrorism directed against India. And if that commitment was abided by and was strengthened in the future, then the relations between India and Pakistan would greatly benefit. Then they also spoke about the ongoing investigations into the activities of David Coleman Headley. Both India and the United States, have a mutual interest in ensuring that the information that is coming out of this interrogation is taken seriously by Pakistan and with a view to controlling and eliminating terrorist elements on its territory which affect the stability of the entire region. That was how it was discussed.

Secretary (West): On the questions that you had asked me, on Kanishka I think I can do no better than draw your attention to the opening statement of the Prime Minister at the press interaction where he does speak of the justice to the victims. You could have a look at that.

On the Khalistani issue, again if you recollect, at the press interaction the Prime Minister went into great detail on this and it would not really be proper for me to try to paraphrase that. That is on the record.

Question: Was there any specific assurance from the Canadian side?

Secretary (West): They do I think. If my recollection is correct, I think the Prime Minister said that the Canadian Prime Minister spoke to him about Canadian laws in this regard. But during the interaction at the delegation-level talks this matter had come up. And I think the feeling was that while laws and freedoms had to be respected, and there is freedom of expression in particular, but extremist activity itself cannot be accepted or is not acceptable if it converges into the kind of extremist activity which is now seen. So, there is a thin line between freedom of expression and extremism and that has to be monitored all the time.

Question: *Madam, You just spoke about Pakistan. There is a statement of Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik. He said that in India and Pakistan there are people, who always go on speaking about other countries. In India there are people who speak about Pakistan and people in Pakistan speak*

about India. You can't do much about such people because there is the question of freedom of speech, of democracy. No much can be done of people like Hafiz Saeed.

Foreign Secretary: I just want to say in response to that that our Home Minister has just visited Pakistan and our concerns about Hafiz Saeed have been very effectively conveyed to the Pakistani Government and it continues to be our hope that Pakistan will pay close attention to what we are saying about individuals like Hafiz Saeed. And when Pakistan says that under their laws it is difficult to take action against such people, we still think it should still be possible for Pakistan to put some control on the activities of such persons who are not doing anything good for the relationship between the two countries.

Question: Sir, there is a clarification. Is there a dilution on the new capital framework where every country will be free to decide on the phasing of new capital structure?

Finance Secretary: The communiqué, from what I recall, refers to the fact that capital norms will be fixed, capital norms will indicate what can be included as capital, and that this will have to be implemented by the end of 2012 giving them some transition period. The basic objective is that the excess of which was the problem of the financial crisis, should be arrested and should not be allowed to become a problem or a malady again in the future. I do not think there is any, while there are views on that, but the process of regulation through the Financial Stability Board is proceeding at.

Question: Sir, two things. One is, besides the Final Declaration of the G20, how much of power Prime Minister's vision on the economic policies for the world is reflected?

Secondly, specifically this is the paragraph 28 ... (Unclear)... where actually another five per cent has to go to the developing countries. What is holding it up? Last time I recall that in Pittsburgh there was an agreement that five per cent additional distribution will be done by next summit. Now you said that more work has to be done. Is there something holding out? Is the European Union still not reconciled? ... (Unclear)...

Finance Secretary: So far as India is concerned and so far as our Prime Minister is concerned, there are three main issues which we have been focusing on, not only in this summit but even in the previous discussions

and the previous summits. One is that growth should not be stifled. It is still fragile. We should not get the impression that the world is out of the woods and therefore, start rolling back very fast. That is because 1) it is generally harmful for the entire group of countries, particularly harmful for developing countries. So, that is one issue which was pushed which has come through in the communiqué. In the nuancing between growth and fiscal consolidation where the tilt or the spectrum is slightly on the side of growth.

Number two, India and the other emerging economies have been pushing for reforms in international financial institutions. One part relating to the World Bank has been achieved. The other will be achieved in the next five, six months. Now let me say very honestly and clearly and this is something which we have to all appreciate, when you say five per cent quota shift from one part to the other side, there are countries who are going to lose. There are countries whose vote share is going to go down. So obviously there will be resistance from those countries. There will be attempts to delay the process; there will be attempts to bring in extraneous and other issues to try and build up what can be called composite packages that alright if you get quotas and we want these kinds of things and there should be certain governance reforms or certain changes in the way they fund, operate and so on and so forth. So, this is a process of discussion, of negotiation, if you call it, which is going at. But the mandate from the leaders is very clear. The timeline earlier was January 2011. It has been brought forward to November 2010 so that there is a concrete deliverable at the time of the Seoul Summit. We are hopeful that will happen.

The third thing which again is very important from our point of view and from the point of view of most countries is that we must get to a multilateral agreement on trade because a more efficient trading regime itself is the pill for many of the economic and financial problems. That has been in the works for some time. You would be aware, it is called the Doha Development Round. It is supposed to be more equitable, more in favour of the developing countries. The G20 is obviously not the main forum for that. But if the G20 keeps pushing and puts its weight behind it, we hope to get that. These are the three main things on which the Prime Minister has been concentrating, on which we have been concentrating. We see some progress in these areas. More will come in the months ahead.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



112. Declaration issued at the end of the Summit Conference of G-20 countries.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

Preamble

1. In Toronto, we held our first Summit of the G-20 in its new capacity as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation.
2. Building on our achievements in addressing the global economic crisis, we have agreed on the next steps we should take to ensure a full return to growth with quality jobs, to reform and strengthen financial systems, and to create strong, sustainable and balanced global growth.
3. Our efforts to date have borne good results. Unprecedented and globally coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus is playing a major role in helping to restore private demand and lending. We are taking strong steps toward increasing the stability and strength of our financial systems. Significantly increased resources for international financial institutions are helping stabilise and address the impact of the crisis on the world's most vulnerable. Ongoing governance and management reforms, which must be completed, will also enhance the effectiveness and relevance of these institutions. We have successfully maintained our strong commitment to resist protectionism.
4. But serious challenges remain. While growth is returning, the recovery is uneven and fragile, unemployment in many countries remains at unacceptable levels, and the social impact of the crisis is still widely felt. Strengthening the recovery is key. To sustain recovery, we need to follow through on delivering existing stimulus plans, while working to create the conditions for robust private demand. At the same time, recent events highlight the importance of sustainable public finances and the need for our countries to put in place credible, properly phased and growth-friendly plans to deliver fiscal sustainability, differentiated for and tailored to national circumstances. Those countries with serious fiscal challenges need to accelerate the pace of consolidation. This should be combined with efforts to rebalance global demand to help ensure global growth continues on a sustainable path. Further progress is also required on

financial repair and reform to increase the transparency and strengthen the balance sheets of our financial institutions, and support credit availability and rapid growth, including in the real economy. We took new steps to build a better regulated and more resilient financial system that serves the needs of our citizens. There is also a pressing need to complete the reforms of the international financial institutions.

5. Recognizing the importance of achieving strong job growth and providing social protection to our citizens, particularly our most vulnerable, we welcome the recommendations of our Labour and Employment Ministers, who met in April 2010, and the training strategy prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

6. We are determined to be accountable for the commitments we have made, and have instructed our Ministers and officials to take all necessary steps to implement them fully within agreed timelines.

The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

7. The G-20's highest priority is to safeguard and strengthen the recovery and lay the foundation for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and strengthen our financial systems against risks. We therefore welcome the actions taken and commitments made by a number of G-20 countries to boost demand and rebalance growth, strengthen our public finances, and make our financial systems stronger and more transparent. These measures represent substantial contributions to our collective well-being and build on previous actions. We will continue to co-operate and undertake appropriate actions to bolster economic growth and foster a strong and lasting recovery.

8. The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth that we launched in Pittsburgh is the means to achieving our shared objectives, by assessing the collective consistency of policy actions and strengthening policy frameworks.

9. We have completed the first stage of our Mutual Assessment Process and we concluded that we can do much better. The IMF and World Bank estimate that if we choose a more ambitious path of reforms, over the medium term:

- global output would be higher by almost \$4 trillion;
- tens of millions more jobs would be created;
- even more people would be lifted out of poverty; and
- global imbalances would be significantly reduced.

Increasing global growth on a sustainable basis is the most important step we can take in improving the lives of all of our citizens, including those in the poorest countries.

10. We are committed to taking concerted actions to sustain the recovery, create jobs and to achieve stronger, more sustainable and more balanced growth. These will be differentiated and tailored to national circumstances. We agreed today on:

- Following through on fiscal stimulus and communicating "growth friendly" fiscal consolidation plans in advanced countries that will be implemented going forward. Sound fiscal finances are essential to sustain recovery, provide flexibility to respond to new shocks, ensure the capacity to meet the challenges of aging populations, and avoid leaving future generations with a legacy of deficits and debt. The path of adjustment must be carefully calibrated to sustain the recovery in private demand.

There is a risk that synchronized fiscal adjustment across several major economies could adversely impact the recovery. There is also a risk that the failure to implement consolidation where necessary would undermine confidence and hamper growth. Reflecting this balance, advanced economies have committed to fiscal plans that will at least halve deficits by 2013 and stabilize or reduce government debt-to-GDP ratios by 2016. Recognizing the circumstances of Japan, we welcome the Japanese government's fiscal consolidation plan announced recently with their growth strategy.

Those with serious fiscal challenges need to accelerate the pace of consolidation. Fiscal consolidation plans will be credible, clearly communicated, differentiated to national circumstances, and focused on measures to foster economic growth.

- Strengthening social safety nets, enhancing corporate governance reform, financial market development, infrastructure spending, and greater exchange rate flexibility in some emerging markets;
- Pursuing structural reforms across the entire G-20 membership to increase and sustain our growth prospects; and
- Making more progress on rebalancing global demand.

Monetary policy will continue to be appropriate to achieve price stability and thereby contribute to the recovery.

11. Advanced deficit countries should take actions to boost national savings while maintaining open markets and enhancing export competitiveness.

12. Surplus economies will undertake reforms to reduce their reliance on external demand and focus more on domestic sources of growth.

13. We are committed to narrowing the development gap and that we must consider the impact of our policy actions on low-income countries. We will continue to support development financing, including through new approaches that encourage development financing from both public and private sources.

14. We recognize that these measures will need to be implemented at the national level and will need to be tailored to individual country circumstances. To facilitate this process, we have agreed that the second stage of our country-led and consultative mutual assessment will be conducted at the country and European level and that we will each identify additional measures, as necessary, that we will take toward achieving strong, sustainable, and balanced growth.

Financial Sector Reform

15. We are building a more resilient financial system that serves the needs of our economies, reduces moral hazard, limits the build up of systemic risk, and supports strong and stable economic growth. We have strengthened the global financial system by fortifying prudential oversight, improving risk management, promoting transparency, and reinforcing international cooperation. A great deal has been accomplished. We

welcome the full implementation of the European Stabilization Mechanism and Facility, the EU decision to publicly release the results of ongoing tests on European banks, and the recent US financial reform bill.

16. But more work is required. Accordingly, we pledge to act together to achieve the commitments to reform the financial sector made at the Washington, London and Pittsburgh Summits by the agreed or accelerated timeframes. The transition to new standards will take into account the cumulative macroeconomic impact of the reforms in advanced and emerging economies. We are committed to international assessment and peer review to ensure that all our decisions are fully implemented.

17. Our reform agenda rests on four pillars.

18. The first pillar is a strong regulatory framework. We took stock of the progress of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) towards a new global regime for bank capital and liquidity and we welcome and support its work. Substantial progress has been made on reforms that will materially raise levels of resilience of our banking systems. The amount of capital will be significantly higher and the quality of capital will be significantly improved when the new reforms are fully implemented. This will enable banks to withstand - without extraordinary government support - stresses of a magnitude associated with the recent financial crisis. We support reaching agreement at the time of the Seoul Summit on the new capital framework. We agreed that all members will adopt the new standards and these will be phased in over a timeframe that is consistent with sustained recovery and limits market disruption, with the aim of implementation by end-2012, and a transition horizon informed by the macroeconomic impact assessment of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and BCBS. Phase-in arrangements will reflect different national starting points and circumstances, with initial variance around the new standards narrowing over time as countries converge to the new global standard.

19. We agreed to strengthen financial market infrastructure by accelerating the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge funds, credit rating agencies and over-the-counter derivatives in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory way. We re-emphasized the importance of achieving

a single set of high quality improved global accounting standards and the implementation of the FSB's standards for sound compensation.

20. The second pillar is effective supervision. We agreed that new, stronger rules must be complemented with more effective oversight and supervision. We tasked the FSB, in consultation with the IMF, to report to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in October 2010 on recommendations to strengthen oversight and supervision, specifically relating to the mandate, capacity and resourcing of supervisors and specific powers which should be adopted to proactively identify and address risks, including early intervention.

21. The third pillar is resolution and addressing systemic institutions. We are committed to design and implement a system where we have the powers and tools to restructure or resolve all types of financial institutions in crisis, without taxpayers ultimately bearing the burden, and adopted principles that will guide implementation. We called upon the FSB to consider and develop concrete policy recommendations to effectively address problems associated with, and resolve, systemically important financial institutions by the Seoul Summit. To reduce moral hazard risks, there is a need to have a policy framework including effective resolution tools, strengthened prudential and supervisory requirements, and core financial market infrastructures. We agreed the financial sector should make a fair and substantial contribution towards paying for any burdens associated with government interventions, where they occur, to repair the financial system or fund resolution, and reduce risks from the financial system. We recognized that there are a range of policy approaches to this end. Some countries are pursuing a financial levy. Other countries are pursuing different approaches.

22. The fourth pillar is transparent international assessment and peer review. We have strengthened our commitment to the IMF/World Bank Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) and pledge to support robust and transparent peer review through the FSB. We are addressing non-cooperative jurisdictions based on comprehensive, consistent, and transparent assessment with respect to tax havens, the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing and the adherence to prudential standards.

International Financial Institutions and Development

23. The International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have been a central part of the global response to the financial and economic crisis, mobilizing critical financing, including \$750 billion by the IMF and \$235 billion by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). This has underscored the value of these institutions as platforms for our global cooperation.

24. We commit to strengthening the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the IFIs to make them even stronger partners for us in the future.

25. Towards this end, we have fulfilled our Pittsburgh Summit commitment on the MDBs. This includes \$350 billion in capital increases for the MDBs, allowing them to nearly double their lending. This new capital is joined to ongoing and important reforms to make these institutions more transparent, accountable and effective, and to strengthen their focus on lifting the lives of the poor, underwriting growth, and addressing climate change and food security.

26. We will fulfill our commitment to ensure an ambitious replenishment for the concessional lending facilities of the MDBs, especially the International Development Association and the African Development Fund.

27. We have endorsed the important voice reforms agreed by shareholders at the World Bank, which will increase the voting power of developing and transition countries by 4.59% since 2008.

28. We underscore our resolve to ensure ratification of the 2008 IMF Quota and Voice Reforms and expansion of the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB).

29. We called for an acceleration of the substantial work still needed for the IMF to complete the quota reform by the Seoul Summit and in parallel deliver on other governance reforms, in line with commitments made in Pittsburgh.

30. Today we build on our earlier commitment to open, transparent and merit-based selection processes for the heads and senior leadership of all the IFIs. We will strengthen the selection processes in the lead up to the Seoul Summit in the context of broader reform.

31. We agreed to task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to prepare policy options to strengthen global financial safety nets for our consideration at the Seoul Summit. Our goal is to build a more stable and resilient international monetary system.

32. We stand united with the people of Haiti and are providing much-needed reconstruction assistance, including the full cancellation of all of Haiti's IFI debt. We welcome the launching of the Haiti Reconstruction Fund.

33. We have launched the SME Finance Challenge and commit to mobilizing funding for implementation of winning proposals, including through the strong support of the MDBs. We have developed a set of principles for innovative financial inclusion.

34. We welcome the launch of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program in fulfillment of our Pittsburgh commitment on food security, an important step to further implement the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security, and invite further contributions. Looking ahead, we commit to exploring innovative, results-based mechanisms to harness the private sector for agricultural innovation. We call for the full implementation of the L'Aquila Initiative and the application of its principles.

Fighting Protectionism and Promoting Trade and Investment

35. While the global economic crisis led to the sharpest decline of trade in more than seventy years, G-20 countries chose to keep markets open to the opportunities that trade and investment offer. It was the right choice.

36. As such, we renew for a further three years, until the end of 2013, our commitment to refrain from raising barriers or imposing new barriers to investment or trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions or implementing World Trade Organization (WTO)-inconsistent measures to stimulate exports, and commit to rectify such measures as they arise. We will minimize any negative impact on trade and investment of our domestic policy actions, including fiscal policy and action to support the financial sector. We ask the WTO, OECD and UNCTAD to continue to monitor the situation within their respective mandates, reporting publicly on these commitments on a quarterly basis.

37. Open markets play a pivotal role in supporting growth and job creation, and in achieving our goals under the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. We ask the OECD, the ILO, World Bank, and the WTO to report on the benefits of trade liberalization for employment and growth at the Seoul Summit.

38. We therefore reiterate our support for bringing the WTO Doha Development Round to a balanced and ambitious conclusion as soon as possible, consistent with its mandate and based on the progress already made. We direct our representatives, using all negotiating avenues, to pursue this objective, and to report on progress at our next meeting in Seoul, where we will discuss the status of the negotiations and the way forward.

39. We commit to maintain momentum for Aid for Trade. We also ask international agencies, including the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks to step up their capacity and support trade facilitation which will boost world trade.

Other Issues and Forward Agenda

40. We agree that corruption threatens the integrity of markets, undermines fair competition, distorts resource allocation, destroys public trust and undermines the rule of law. We call for the ratification and full implementation by all G-20 members of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and encourage others to do the same. We will fully implement the reviews in accordance with the provisions of UNCAC. Building on the progress made since Pittsburgh to address corruption, we agree to establish a Working Group to make comprehensive recommendations for consideration by Leaders in Korea on how the G-20 could continue to make practical and valuable contributions to international efforts to combat corruption and lead by example, in key areas that include, but are not limited to, adopting and enforcing strong and effective anti-bribery rules, fighting corruption in the public and private sectors, preventing access of corrupt persons to global financial systems, cooperation in visa denial, extradition and asset recovery, and protecting whistleblowers who stand-up against corruption.

41. We reiterate our commitment to a green recovery and to sustainable global growth. Those of us who have associated with the Copenhagen

Accord reaffirm our support for it and its implementation and call on others to associate with it. We are committed to engage in negotiations under the UNFCCC on the basis of its objective provisions and principles including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and are determined to ensure a successful outcome through an inclusive process at the Cancun Conferences. We thank Mexico for undertaking to host the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 16) in Cancun from November 29 to December 20, 2010 and express our appreciation for its efforts to facilitate negotiations. We look forward to the outcome of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing which is, inter alia, exploring innovative finance.

42. We note with appreciation the report on energy subsidies from the International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), OECD and World Bank. We welcome the work of Finance and Energy Ministers in delivering implementation strategies and timeframes, based on national circumstances, for the rationalization and phase out over the medium term of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, taking into account vulnerable groups and their development needs. We also encourage continued and full implementation of country specific strategies and will continue to review progress towards this commitment at upcoming summits.

43. Following the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico we recognize the need to share best practices to protect the marine environment, prevent accidents related to offshore exploration and development, as well as transportation, and deal with their consequences.

44. We recognize that 2010 marks an important year for development issues. The September 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) High Level Plenary will be a crucial opportunity to reaffirm the global development agenda and global partnership, to agree on actions for all to achieve the MDGs by 2015, and to reaffirm our respective commitments to assist the poorest countries.

45. In this regard it is important to work with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to make them active participants in and beneficiaries of the global economic system. Accordingly we thank Turkey for its decision to host the 4th United Nations Conference on the LDCs in June 2011.

46. We welcome the Global Pulse Initiative interim report and look forward to an update.
47. Narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to our broader objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all. In this regard, we agree to establish a Working Group on Development and mandate it to elaborate, consistent with the G-20's focus on measures to promote economic growth and resilience, a development agenda and multi-year action plans to be adopted at the Seoul Summit.
48. We will meet next in Seoul, Korea, on November 11-12, 2010. We will convene in November 2011 under the Chairmanship of France and in 2012 under the Chairmanship of Mexico.
49. We thank Canada for hosting the successful Toronto Summit. 10

ANNEX - I

The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

1. As a result of the extraordinary and highly coordinated policy actions agreed to at the Washington, London and Pittsburgh G-20 Summits, the global economy is recovering faster than was expected. Our decisive and unprecedented actions over the past two years have limited the downturn and spurred recovery.
2. Yet risks remain. Unemployment remains unacceptably high in many G-20 economies. The recovery is uneven across G-20 members both across advanced economies and between advanced and emerging economies. This poses risks to the continued economic expansion. There is a risk that global current account imbalances will widen again, absent further policy action. While considerable progress has been made in moving ahead on our financial sector repair and reform agenda, financial markets remain fragile and credit flows restrained. Concerns over large fiscal deficits and rising debt levels in some countries have also become a source of uncertainty and financial market volatility.
3. The G-20's highest priority is to safeguard and strengthen the recovery and lay the foundation for strong, sustainable and balanced

growth, including strengthening our financial systems against risks. We therefore welcome the actions taken and commitments made by a number of G-20 countries. Among more recent measures, we particularly welcome the full implementation of the European Financial Stability Mechanism and Facility; the EU decision to publicly release the results of ongoing tests on European banks; and the recent announcements of fiscal consolidation plans and targets by a number of G-20 countries. These represent substantial contributions to our collective well-being and build on our previous actions. We will continue to cooperate and undertake appropriate actions to bolster economic growth and foster a strong and lasting recovery.

4. The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth we launched in Pittsburgh is the means to achieving our shared objectives. G-20 members have a responsibility to the community of nations to assure the overall health of the global economy. We committed to assess the collective consistency of our policy actions and to strengthen our policy frameworks in order to meet our common objectives. Through our collective policy action, we will ensure growth is sustained, more balanced, shared across all countries and regions of the world, and consistent with our development goals.

5. We have completed the first stage of our Mutual Assessment Process. As we requested in Pittsburgh, G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, with the support of the IMF, World Bank, OECD, ILO and other international organisations, have assessed the collective consistency of our individual policy frameworks and global prospects under alternative policy scenarios.

6. The assessment is that in the absence of a coordinated policy response: global output is likely to remain below its pre-crisis trend; unemployment remains above pre-crisis levels in most countries; fiscal deficits and debt in some advanced economies reach unacceptably high levels; and, global current account imbalances, which narrowed during the crisis, widen again. Moreover, this outlook is subject to considerable downside risks.

7. We concluded that we can do much better. The IMF and World Bank estimate that if we choose a more ambitious path of reforms, over the medium term, we could:

- raise global output by up to \$4 trillion;
- create an estimated 52 million jobs;
- lift up to 90 million people out of poverty; and
- significantly reduce global current account balances.

If we act in a coordinated manner, all regions are better off, now and in the future. Moreover, increasing global growth on a sustainable basis is the most important step we can take in improving the lives of all, including those in the poorest countries. 8. We are committed to taking concerted actions to sustain the recovery, create jobs and to achieve stronger, more sustainable and more balanced growth. These will be differentiated and tailored to national circumstances. We agreed today on:

- Following through on fiscal stimulus and communicating "growth-friendly" fiscal consolidation plans in advanced countries and that will be implemented going forward;
- strengthening social safety nets, enhancing corporate governance reform, financial market development, infrastructure spending, and increasing exchange rate flexibility in some emerging markets;
- pursuing structural reforms across the entire G-20 membership to increase and sustain our growth prospects; and
- Making further progress on rebalancing global demand. Monetary policy will continue to be appropriate to achieve price stability and thereby contribute to the recovery.

9. We agreed to follow through on fiscal stimulus and communicating "growth friendly" fiscal consolidation plans in advanced countries that will be implemented going forward. Sound fiscal finances are essential to sustain recovery, provide flexibility to respond to new shocks, ensure the capacity to meet the challenges of aging populations, and avoid leaving future generations with a legacy of deficits and debt. The path of adjustment must be carefully calibrated to sustain the recovery in private demand. There is a risk that synchronized fiscal adjustment across several major economies could adversely impact the recovery. There is also a risk that

the failure to implement consolidation where necessary would undermine confidence and hamper growth. Reflecting this balance, advanced economies have committed to fiscal plans that will at least halve deficits by 2013 and stabilize or reduce government debt-to-GDP ratios by 2016. Recognizing the circumstances of Japan, we welcome the Japanese government's fiscal consolidation plan announced recently with their growth strategy. Those with serious fiscal challenges need to accelerate the pace of consolidation. Fiscal consolidation plans will be credible, clearly communicated, differentiated to national circumstances, and focused on measures to foster economic growth.

10. We have agreed on a set of principles to guide these fiscal consolidation plans by advanced economies:

- Fiscal consolidation plans will be credible. They will be based on prudent assumptions with respect to economic growth and our respective fiscal positions, and they will identify specific measures to achieve a target path that ensures fiscal sustainability. Strengthened budgetary frameworks and institutions can help underpin the credibility of consolidation strategies.
- The time to communicate our medium-term fiscal plans is now. We will elaborate clear and credible plans that put our fiscal finances on a sustainable footing. The speed and timing of withdrawing fiscal stimulus and reducing deficits and debt will be differentiated for and tailored to national circumstances, and the needs of the global economy. However, it is clear that consolidation will need to begin in advanced economies in 2011, and earlier for countries experiencing significant fiscal challenges at present.
- Fiscal consolidation will focus on measures that will foster economic growth. We will look at ways to use our fiscal resources more efficiently, to help reduce the overall cost of our interventions while targeting resources to where they are most needed. In addition, we will focus on structural reforms that will promote long-term growth.

11. Advanced deficit countries should take actions to boost national savings while maintaining open markets and enhancing export competitiveness.

12. Surplus economies will undertake reforms to reduce their reliance on the external demand and focus more on domestic sources of growth. This will help strengthen their resilience to external shocks and promote more stable growth. To do this, advanced surplus economies will focus on structural reforms that support increased domestic demand. Emerging surplus economies will undertake reforms tailored to country circumstances to:

- Strengthen social safety nets (such as public health care and pension plans), corporate governance and financial market development to help reduce precautionary savings and stimulate private spending;
- Increase infrastructure spending to help boost productive capacity and reduce supply bottlenecks; and
- Enhance exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying economic fundamentals. Excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates can have adverse implications for economic and financial stability. Market-oriented exchange rates that reflect underlying economic fundamentals contribute to global economic stability.

13. Across all G-20 members, we recognise that structural reforms can have a substantial impact on economic growth and global welfare. We will implement measures that will enhance the growth potential of our economies in a manner that pays particular attention to the most vulnerable. Reforms could support the broadly-shared expansion of demand if wages grow in line with productivity. It will be important to strike the right balance between policies that support greater market competition and economic growth and policies that preserve social safety nets consistent with national circumstances. Together these measures will also help unlock demand. These include:

- Product, service and labour market reforms in advanced economies, particularly those economies that may have lost some productive capacity during the crisis. Labour market reforms might include: better targeted unemployment benefits and more effective active labour market policies (such as job retraining, job search and skills development programs, and raising labour mobility). It might also include putting in place the right conditions for wage bargaining

systems to support employment. Product and service market reforms might include strengthening competition in the service sector; reducing barriers to competition in network industries, professional services and retail sectors, encouraging innovation and further reducing the barriers to foreign competition.

- Reducing restrictions on labour mobility, enhancing foreign investment opportunities and simplifying product market regulation in emerging market economies.
- Avoiding new protectionist measures.
- Completing the Doha Round to accelerate global growth through trade flows. Open trade will yield significant benefits for all and can facilitate global rebalancing.
- Actions to accelerate financial repair and reform. Weaknesses in financial sector regulation and supervision in advanced economies led to the recent crisis. We will implement the G-20 financial reform agenda and ensure a stronger financial system serves the needs of the real economy. While not at the centre of the crisis, financial sectors in some emerging economies need to be developed further so that they can provide the depth and breadth of services required to promote and sustain high rates of economic growth and development. It is important that financial reforms in advanced economies take into account any adverse effects on financial flows to emerging and developing economies. Vigilance is also needed to ensure open capital markets and avoid financial protectionism.

14. We welcome the recommendations of our Labour and Employment Ministers, who met in April 2010, on the employment impacts of the global economic crisis. We reaffirm our commitment to achieving strong job growth and providing social protection to our most vulnerable citizens. An effective employment policy should place quality jobs at the heart of the recovery. We appreciate the work done by the International Labour Organization in collaboration with the OECD on a training strategy that will help equip the workforce with the skills required for the jobs of today and those of tomorrow.

15. We are committed to narrowing the development gap and that we must consider the impact of our policy actions on low-income countries. We will continue support development financing, including through new approaches that encourage development financing from both public and private sources. The crisis will have long lasting impact on the development trajectories of poor countries in every region of the world. Among these effects, developing countries are likely to face increased challenges in securing financing from both public and private sources. Many of us have already taken steps to help address this shortfall by implementing innovative approaches to financing, such as advance market commitments, the SME challenge and recent progress with respect to financial inclusion. Low-income countries have the potential to contribute to stronger and more balanced global growth, and should be viewed as markets for investment.

16. These measures need to be implemented at the national level and tailored to individual country circumstances. We welcome additional measures announced by some G-20 members aimed at meeting our shared objectives.

17. To facilitate this process, the second stage of our country-led, consultative mutual assessment will be conducted at the country and European level. Each G-20 member will identify the measures it is taking to implement the policies we have agreed upon today to ensure stronger, more sustainable and balanced growth. We ask our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to elaborate on these measures and report on them when we next meet. We will continue to draw on the expertise of the IMF, World Bank, OECD, ILO and other international organisations, as necessary. These measures will form the basis of our comprehensive action plan that will be announced in the Seoul Summit. As we pursue strong, sustainable and more balanced growth, we continue to encourage work on measurement methods to take into account social and environmental dimensions of economic development.

18. The policy commitments we are making today, along with the significant policy measures we have already taken, will allow us to reach our objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth, the benefits of which will be felt both within the G-20 and across the globe.

ANNEX - II**Financial Sector Reform**

1. The financial crisis has imposed huge costs. This must not be allowed to happen again. The recent financial volatility has strengthened our resolve to work together to complete financial repair and reform. We need to build a more resilient financial system that serves the needs of our economies, reduces moral hazard, limits the build-up of systemic risk and supports strong and stable economic growth.
2. Collectively we have made considerable progress toward strengthening the global financial system by fortifying prudential oversight, improving risk management, promoting transparency and continuously reinforcing international cooperation. We welcome the strong financial regulatory reform bill in the United States.
3. But there is more to be done. Further repair to the financial sector is critical to achieving sustainable global economic recovery. More work is required to restore the soundness and enhance the transparency of banks' balance sheets and markets; and improve the corporate governance and risk management of financial firms in order to strengthen the global financial system and restore the credit needed to fuel sustainable economic growth. We welcome the decision of EU leaders to publish the results of ongoing tests on European banks to reassure markets of the resilience and transparency of the European banking system.
4. We pledge to act together to achieve the commitments to reform the financial sector made at the Washington, London and Pittsburgh Summits by the agreed or accelerated timeframes. Transition horizons will take into account the cumulative macroeconomic impact of the reforms in advanced and emerging economies

Capital and Liquidity

5. We agreed that the core of the financial sector reform agenda rests on improving the strength of capital and liquidity and discouraging excessive leverage. We agreed to increase the quality, quantity, and international consistency of capital, to strengthen liquidity standards, to discourage excessive leverage and risk taking, and reduce procyclicality.

6. We took stock of the progress of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) towards a new global regime for bank capital and liquidity and we welcome and support its work. Substantial progress has been made on reforms that will materially raise levels of resilience of our banking systems.

- The amount of capital will be significantly higher when the new reforms are fully implemented.
- The quality of capital will be significantly improved to reinforce banks' ability to absorb losses.

7. We support reaching agreement, at the time of the Seoul Summit, on a new capital framework that would raise capital requirements by:

- establishing a new requirement that each bank hold in Tier 1 capital, at a minimum, an increasing share of common equity, after deductions, measured as a percentage of risk-weighted assets, that enables them to withstand with going concern fully-lossabsorbing capital - without extraordinary government support - stresses of a magnitude associated with the recent financial crisis.
- moving to a globally consistent and transparent set of conservative deductions generally applied at the level of common equity, or its equivalent in the case of nonjoint stock companies, over a suitable globally-consistent transition period.

8. Based on our agreement at the Pittsburgh Summit that Basel II will be adopted in all major centers by 2011, we agreed that all members will adopt the new standards and these will be phased in over a timeframe that is consistent with sustained recovery and limits market disruption, with the aim of implementation by end-2012, and a transition horizon informed by the macroeconomic impact assessment of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and BCBS.

9. Phase-in arrangements will reflect different national starting points and circumstances, with initial variance around the new standards narrowing over time as countries converge to the new global standard. Existing public sector capital injections will be grandfathered for the extent of the transition.

10. We reiterated support for the introduction of a leverage ratio as a supplementary measure to the Basel II risk-based framework with a view to migrating to Pillar I treatment after an appropriate transition period based on appropriate review and calibration. To ensure comparability, the details of the leverage ratio will be harmonized internationally, fully adjusting for differences in accounting.

11. We acknowledged the importance of the quantitative impact study currently being conducted by the BCBS that measures the potential impact of the new Basel standards and will ensure that the new capital and liquidity standards are of high quality and adequately calibrated. The BCBS- FSB macroeconomic impact study will inform the development of the phase-in period of the new standards.

12. We welcomed the BCBS agreement on a coordinated start date not later than 31 December 2011 for all elements of the revised trading book rules.

13. We support the BCBS' work to consider the role of contingent capital in strengthening market discipline and helping to bring about a financial system where the private sector fully bears the losses on their investments. Consideration of contingent capital should be included as part of the 2010 reform package.

14. We called upon the FSB and the BCBS to report on progress of the full package of reform measures by the Seoul Summit. We recognize the critical role of the financial sector in driving a robust economy. We are committed to design a financial system which is resilient, stable and ensures the continued availability of credit.

More Intensive Supervision

15. We agreed that new, stronger rules must be complemented with more effective oversight and supervision. We are committed to the Basel Committee's Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision and tasked the FSB, in consultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to report to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in October 2010 on recommendations to strengthen oversight and supervision, specifically relating to the mandate, capacity and resourcing

of supervisors and specific powers which should be adopted to proactively identify and address risks, including early intervention.

Resolution of Financial Institutions

16. We are following through on our commitment to reduce moral hazard in the financial system. We are committed to design and implement a system where we have the powers and tools to restructure or resolve all types of financial institutions in crisis, without taxpayers ultimately bearing the burden. These powers should facilitate "going concern" capital and liquidity restructuring as well as "gone concern" restructuring and wind-down measures. We endorsed and have committed to implement our domestic resolution powers and tools in a manner that preserves financial stability and are committed to implement the ten key recommendations on cross-border bank resolution issued by the BCBS in March 2010. In this regard, we support changes to national resolution and insolvency processes and laws where needed to provide the relevant national authorities with the capacity to cooperate and coordinate resolution actions across borders.

17. We agree that resolution regimes should provide for:

- Proper allocation of losses to reduce moral hazard and protect taxpayers;
- Continuity of critical financial services, including uninterrupted service for insured depositors;
- Credibility of the resolution regime in the market;
- Minimization of contagion;
- Advanced planning for orderly resolution and transfer of contractual relationships; and,
- Effective cooperation and information exchange domestically and among jurisdictions in the event of a failure of a cross-border institution.

Addressing Systemically Important Financial Institutions

18. We welcomed the FSB's interim report on reducing the moral hazard risks posed by systemically important financial institutions. We recognized

that more must be done to address these risks. Prudential requirements for such firms should be commensurate with the cost of their failure. We called upon the FSB to consider and develop concrete policy recommendations to effectively address problems associated with and resolve systemically important financial institutions by the Seoul Summit. This should include more intensive supervision along with consideration of financial instruments and mechanisms to encourage market discipline, including contingent capital, bail-in options, surcharges, levies, structural constraints, and methods to haircut unsecured creditors.

19. We welcomed the substantial progress that has been made regarding the development of supervisory colleges and crisis management groups for the major complex financial institutions identified by the FSB.

20. We continue to work together to develop robust agreed-upon institution-specific recovery and rapid resolution plans for major cross-border institutions by the end of 2010. We further committed to continue working on ensuring cooperation among jurisdictions in financial institution resolution proceedings.

Financial Sector Responsibility

21. We agreed the financial sector should make a fair and substantial contribution towards paying for any burdens associated with government interventions, where they occur, to repair the financial system or fund resolution.

22. To that end, we recognized that there is a range of policy approaches. Some countries are pursuing a financial levy. Other countries are pursuing different approaches. We agreed the range of approaches would follow these principles:

- Protect taxpayers;
- Reduce risks from the financial system;
- Protect the flow of credit in good times and bad times;
- Take into account individual countries' circumstances and options; and,
- Help promote a level playing field.

23. We thanked the IMF for its work in this area.

Financial Market Infrastructure and Scope of Regulation

24. We agreed on the need to strengthen financial market infrastructure in order to reduce systemic risk, improve market efficiency, transparency and integrity. Global action is important to minimize regulatory arbitrage, promote a level playing field, and foster the widespread application of the principles of propriety, integrity, and transparency.

25. We pledged to work in a coordinated manner to accelerate the implementation of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives regulation and supervision and to increase transparency and standardization. We reaffirm our commitment to trade all standardized OTC derivatives contracts on exchanges or electronic trading platforms, where appropriate, and clear through central counterparties (CCPs) by end-2012 at the latest. OTC derivative contracts should be reported to trade repositories (TRs). We will work towards the establishment of CCPs and TRs in line with global standards and ensure that national regulators and supervisors have access to all relevant information. In addition we agreed to pursue policy measures with respect to haircut-setting and margining practices for securities financing and OTC derivatives transactions that will reduce procyclicality and enhance financial market resilience. We recognized that much work has been done in this area. We will continue to support further progress in implementing these measures.

26. We committed to accelerate the implementation of strong measures to improve transparency and regulatory oversight of hedge funds, credit rating agencies and over-the-counter derivatives in an internationally consistent and non-discriminatory way. We also committed to improve the functioning and transparency of commodities markets. We call on credit rating agencies to increase transparency and improve quality and avoid conflicts of interest, and on national supervisors to continue to focus on these issues in conducting their oversight.

27. We committed to reduce reliance on external ratings in rules and regulations. We acknowledged the work underway at the BCBS to address adverse incentives arising from the use of external ratings in the regulatory capital framework, and at the FSB to develop general principles to reduce authorities' and financial institutions' reliance on external ratings. We called

on them to report to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in October 2010.

28. We acknowledged the significant work of the International Organization of Securities Commission (IOSCO) to facilitate the exchange of information amongst regulators and supervisors, as well as IOSCO's principles regarding the oversight of hedge funds aimed at addressing related regulatory and systemic risks.

29. We called on the FSB to review national and regional implementation of prior G-20 commitments in these areas and promote global policy cohesion and to assess and report to 20 our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in October 2010 if further work is required.

Accounting Standards

30. We re-emphasized the importance we place on achieving a single set of high quality improved global accounting standards. We urged the International Accounting Standards Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board to increase their efforts to complete their convergence project by the end of 2011.

31. We encouraged the International Accounting Standards Board to further improve the involvement of stakeholders, including outreach to emerging market economies, within the framework of the independent accounting standard setting process.

Assessment and Peer Review

32. We pledged to support robust and transparent independent international assessment and peer review of our financial systems through the IMF and World Bank's Financial Sector Assessment Program and the FSB peer review process. The mutual dependence and integrated nature of our financial system requires that we all live up to our commitments. Weak financial systems in some countries pose a threat to the stability of the international financial system. International assessment and peer review are fundamental in making the financial sector safer for all.

33. We reaffirmed the FSB's principal role in the elaboration of international financial sector supervisory and regulatory policies and standards, co-ordination across various standardsetting bodies, and

ensuring accountability for the reform agenda by conducting thematic and country peer reviews and fostering a level playing field through coherent implementation across sectors and jurisdictions. To that end, we encourage the FSB to look at ways to strengthen its capacity to keep pace with growing demands.

34. We called upon the FSB to expand upon and formalize its outreach activities beyond the membership of the G-20 to reflect the global nature of our financial system. We recognized the prominent role of the FSB, along with other important organizations including, the IMF and World Bank. These organizations, along with other international standard setters and supervisory authorities, play a central role to the health and well-being of our financial system.

35. We fully support the FSB's thematic peer reviews as a means of fostering consistent cross country implementation of financial and regulatory policies and to assess their effectiveness in achieving their intended results. We welcomed the FSB's first thematic peer review report on compensation, which showed progress in the implementation of the FSB's 21 standards for sound compensation, but full implementation is far from complete. We encouraged all countries and financial institutions to fully implement the FSB principles and standards by year-end. We call on the FSB to undertake ongoing monitoring in this area and conduct a second thorough peer review in the second quarter of 2011. We also look forward to the results of the FSB's thematic review of risk disclosures.

36. We acknowledged the significant progress in the FSB's country review program. These reviews are an important complement to the IMF/World Bank Financial Sector Assessment Program and provide a forum for peer learning and dialogue to address challenges. Three reviews will be completed this year.

Other International Standards and Non-cooperative Jurisdictions

37. We agreed to consider measures and mechanisms to address non-cooperative jurisdictions based on comprehensive, consistent and transparent assessment, and encourage adherence, including by providing technical support, with the support of the international financial institutions (IFIs).

38. We fully support the work of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, and welcomed progress on their peer review process, and the development of a multilateral mechanism for information exchange which will be open to all interested countries. Since our meeting in London in April 2009, the number of signed tax information agreements has increased by almost 500. We encourage the Global Forum to report to Leaders by November 2011 on progress countries have made in addressing the legal framework required to achieve an effective exchange of information. We also welcome progress on the Stolen Asset Recovery Program, and support its efforts to monitor progress to recover the proceeds of corruption. We stand ready to use countermeasures against tax havens.

39. We fully support the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-Style Regional Bodies in their fight against money laundering and terrorist financing and regular updates of a public list on jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies. We also encourage the FATF to continue monitoring and enhancing global compliance with the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing international standards.

40. We welcomed the implementation of the FSB's evaluation process on the adherence to prudential information exchange and international cooperation standards in all jurisdictions.

ANNEX - III

Enhancing the Legitimacy, Credibility and Effectiveness of the IFIs and Further Supporting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable

1. The global economic and financial crisis has demonstrated the value of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) as instruments for coordinating multilateral action. These institutions were on the front-line in responding to the crisis, mobilizing \$985 billion in critical financing. In addition, the international community and the IFIs mobilized over \$250 billion in trade finance.

2. The crisis also demonstrated the importance of delivering further reforms. As key platforms for our cooperation, we are committed to strengthening the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the IFIs, to ensure that they are capable of helping us maintain global financial and economic stability and supporting the growth and development of all their members.

3. To enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the IFIs, we committed in London and Pittsburgh to support new open, transparent and merit-based selection processes for the heads and senior leadership of all International Financial Institutions. We will strengthen these processes in the lead up to the Seoul Summit in the context of broader reform.

MDB Financing

4. Since the start of the global financial crisis, the MDBs have been playing an important role in the global response by exceeding our London commitment, in providing \$235 billion in lending, more than half of which has come from the World Bank Group. At a time when private sector sources of finance were diminished, this lending was critical to global stabilization. Now more than ever, the MDBs are key development partners for many countries.

5. We have fulfilled our commitment to ensure that the MDBs have appropriate resources through capital increases for the major MDBs, including the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank Group, notably the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). As major shareholders at these institutions, we have worked together with other members to increase their capital base by 85%, or approximately \$350 billion. Overall, their total lending to developing countries will grow from \$37 billion per year to \$71 billion per year. This will improve their ability to address the increasing demand in the short and medium terms and to have enough resources to support their

members. We support efforts to implement these agreements as quickly as possible.

MDB	Capital Increase	Pre-Crisis Annual Lending^a	New Annual Lending^b
AfDB	200% increase	\$1.8 B	\$6 B
AsDB	200% increase	\$5.8 B	\$10 B
EBRD ^c	50% increase	\$5.3 B	\$11 B
IADB ^d	70% increase	\$6.7 B	\$12 B
IBRD	30% increase	\$12.1 B	\$15 B
IFC	\$200M selective capital increase	\$5.4 B	\$17 B
Total	85% increase in MDB capital	\$37 B	\$71 B

* All dollar figures USD

a 2000-2008. b 2012-2020. c mostly callable, of a temporary nature, for CRR4; d Includes agreement to relieve Haiti's debt to the IADB

6. We recognize the acute development needs in Africa, the region the furthest behind on the Millennium Development Goals. For this reason, the African Development Bank will be capitalized for substantial growth, with a 200% increase in its capital and corresponding tripling of its annual lending levels, to strengthen capacity to support the region's long-term growth and development.

7. To ensure that the IFC has the resources necessary for its continued growth, we will consider a long-term hybrid instrument to shareholders and earnings retention, to complement the recent selective capital increase linked to voice reforms.

8. In order to support low income countries, given their need to borrow at more concessional terms, we will fulfill our commitment to ensure an ambitious replenishment for the concessional lending facilities of the

MDBs, especially the International Development Association (IDA) and the African Development Fund, which are undergoing financial replenishments this year. We welcome the fact that many G-20 members have taken important steps to join as donors to these institutions. We reiterated our support for fairer and wider burden sharing.

MDB Reforms

9. We have also fulfilled our commitment to ensure that these capital increases are joined to ongoing and important institutional reforms to make the MDBs more effective, efficient and accountable. These include:

- Commitments to further support the poorest countries in a financially prudent way, including by transferring resources, where feasible, from MDB net income to their respective lending facilities for low income countries and increasing their investment activities in low income countries and frontier regions. This will ensure that the new capital resources benefit both low income and middle income countries.
- Specific actions for greater transparency, stronger accountability, improved institutional governance deeper country ownership, more decentralization and use of country systems where appropriate, and enhanced procurement guidelines, new ways of managing and tracking results and financial contributions, strengthen knowledge management, ensuring the right human resources with appropriate diversity, better implementing environmental and social safeguards, sound risk management, and ensuring financial sustainability with pricing linked to expenses, and a commitment to continue to reduce administrative expenses and make them more transparent.
- Deeper support for private sector development, including through more private sector operations and investment, as a vital component of sustainable and inclusive development.
- Recommitting to their core development mandates and taking up a greater role in the provision of global solutions to transnational problems, such as climate change and food security.

10. With these reform commitments, we are building not just bigger MDBs, but better MDBs, with more strategic focus on lifting the lives of the poor,

underwriting growth, promoting security, and addressing the global challenges of climate change and food security. Implementation of these reforms has already begun, and we will continue to ensure that this work is completed and that further reforms are undertaken where necessary.

World Bank Group Voice Reforms

11. We welcomed the agreement on the World Bank's voice reform to increase the voting power of developing and transition countries by 3.13% consistent with the agreement at the Pittsburgh Summit. When combined with the 1.46% increase agreed in the previous phase of the reforms, this will provide a total shift of 4.59% to DTCs, bringing their overall voting power to 47.19%. We committed to continue moving over time towards equitable voting power, while protecting the smallest nations, by arriving at a dynamic formula which primarily reflects countries' evolving economic weight and the World Bank's development mission. We also endorsed voice reforms at the IFC which will provide a total shift of 6.07%, to bring DTC voting power to 39.48%.

Debt Relief for Haiti

12. We stand united with the people of Haiti as they struggle to recover from the devastation wrought by the earthquake in January, and we join other donors in providing assistance in 25 this difficult time, including through the Haiti Reconstruction Fund set up by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations. To ensure that Haiti's recovery efforts can focus on its reconstruction action plan, rather than the debt obligations of its past, our Finance Ministers agreed last April to support full cancellation of Haiti's debts to all IFIs, including through burden sharing of the associated costs, where necessary. We are pleased that an agreement on a framework for cancelling such debt has been reached at the IMF; the World Bank, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, and soon at the Inter-American Development Bank. We will contribute our fair shares of the associated costs as soon as possible. We will report on progress at the Seoul Summit.

IMF Reforms

13. We are committed to strengthening the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the IMF to ensure it succeeds in carrying out its mandate.

Important actions have been taken by the G-20 and the international community since the onset of the crisis, including the mobilization of \$750 billion to support IMF members' needs for crisis financing. The IMF raised \$250 billion in new resources through immediate bilateral loans and note purchase agreements, to be subsequently incorporated into a \$500 billion expansion of the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB). The IMF also implemented a \$250 billion new general allocation of SDRs to bolster the foreign exchange reserves of all members. Along with important surveillance and lending reforms, including a new early-warning exercise and the creation of new precautionary instruments such as the Flexible Credit Line, these actions have significantly increased the IMF's crisis response capacity. However, important work remains to be completed to fully reform the IMF.

14. We called for an acceleration of the substantial work still needed for the IMF to complete the quota reform by the Seoul Summit and in parallel deliver on other governance reforms, in line with commitments made in Pittsburgh. Modernizing the IMF's governance is a core element of our effort to improve the IMF's credibility, legitimacy, and effectiveness. We recognize that the IMF should remain a quota-based organization and that the distribution of quotas should reflect the relative weights of its members in the world economy, which have changed substantially in view of the strong growth in dynamic emerging market and developing countries. To this end, we are committed to a shift in quota share to dynamic emerging market and developing countries of at least five percent from over-represented to under-represented countries using the current IMF quota formula as the basis to work from. We are also committed to protecting the voting share of the poorest in the IMF. As part of this process, we agree that a number of other critical issues will need to be addressed, including: the size of any increase in IMF quotas, which will have a bearing on the ability to facilitate change in quota shares; the size and composition of the Executive Board; ways of enhancing the Board's effectiveness; and the Fund Governors' involvement in the strategic oversight of the IMF. Staff diversity should be enhanced.

15. We underscored our resolve to ensure the IMF has the resources it needs so that it can play its important role in the world economy. The majority of G-20 members have ratified the 2008 IMF Quota and Voice

Reforms, fulfilling an important commitment made in London. Those members who have yet to ratify commit to doing so by the Seoul Summit. This action will not just enhance the legitimacy of the IMF by increasing the voice and participation of developing countries, it will also provide the IMF with \$30 billion in new quota resources. We call on all IMF members to ratify the agreement this year.

16. A number of G-20 members have already formally accepted the recently agreed reforms to the expanded NAB, which will provide a significant back-stop to IMF quota resources, consolidating over \$500 billion for IMF lending to countries in crisis. Other participating G-20 members will complete the acceptance process by the next meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. We call on all existing and new NAB participants to do the same.

17. G-20 members committed to ensure that the IMF's concessional financing for the poorest countries be expanded by \$6 billion through the proceeds from the agreed sale of IMF gold, consistent with the IMF's new income model, and the employment of internal and other resources. We are delivering. Some G-20 members have supported this commitment with additional loan and subsidy resources for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and some others plan to contribute in the coming months.

18. We acknowledged a need for national, regional and international efforts to deal with capital flow volatility, financial fragility, and prevent crisis contagion. We task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to prepare policy options, based on sound incentives, to strengthen global financial safety nets for our consideration at the Seoul Summit. In line with these efforts, we also call on the IMF to make rapid progress in reviewing its lending instruments, with a view to further reforming them as appropriate. In parallel, IMF surveillance should be enhanced to focus on systemic risks and vulnerabilities wherever they may lie. Our goal is to build a more stable and resilient international monetary system.

Further Supporting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable

19. We have made significant progress in supporting the poorest countries during the crisis and must continue to take measures to assist the most vulnerable and must ensure that the poorest countries benefit from our efforts to restore global growth. We recognize the urgency of this,

and are committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and will reinforce our efforts to this end, including through the use of Official Development Assistance.

20. We have made concrete progress on our commitment to improving access to financial services for the poor and to increasing financing available to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries.

21. Adequately financed small and medium-sized businesses are vital to job creation and a growing economy, particularly in emerging economies. We have launched the SME Finance Challenge aimed at finding the most promising models for public-private partnerships that catalyze finance for SMEs. We are committed to mobilizing the funding needed to implement winning proposals, including through the strong support of the MDBs. We welcome the strong support of the MDBs for scalable and sustainable SME financing proposals, including those from the Challenge in partnership with the private sector. We look forward to announcing the winning proposals of the SME Finance Challenge and to receiving recommendations to scale-up successful SME finance models at the Seoul Summit.

22. We have developed a set of principles for innovative financial inclusion, which will form the basis of a concrete and pragmatic action plan for improving access to financial services amongst the poor. This action plan will be released at the Seoul Summit.

23. At the Pittsburgh Summit, we recognised the importance of sustained funding and targeted investments to improve long-term food security in low income countries. We welcome the launch of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which will provide predictable financing for low income countries to improve agricultural productivity, raise rural incomes, and build sustainable agricultural systems. We are particularly pleased that the fund has approved inaugural grants totalling \$224 million for Bangladesh, Rwanda, Haiti, Togo, and Sierra Leone. We also support the development of the private sector window of the GAFSP, which will increase private sector investments to support small and medium sized agri-businesses and farmers in poor countries. We welcome the support already received, and encourage additional donor contributions to both the public and private sector windows of the GAFSP.

24. There is still an urgency to accelerate research and development to close agricultural productivity gaps, including through regional and South-South cooperation, amidst growing demands and mounting environmental stresses, particularly in Africa. The private sector will be critical in the development and deployment of innovative solutions that provide concrete results on the ground. We commit to exploring the potential of innovative, results based mechanisms such as advance market commitments to harness the creativity and resources of the private sector in achieving breakthrough innovations in food security and agriculture development in poor countries. We will report on progress at the Seoul Summit.



113. Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media onboard his special flight from Toronto to New Delhi while returning from the G20 Summit.

June 28, 2010.

Question: What were your expectations from G-20 Summit, especially when it is seen as a rich countries' forum against the less richer ones ? Are you satisfied with the bilateral talks?

Answer: Well this meeting of the Group of was in some way the preparation for the summit meeting in Seoul this November. I think the Summit has helped in charting out the agenda and action points for the summit which will be firmed up in Seoul. As far as our immediate concern with regard to the situation in the Eurozone, the situation of the banking system in Europe and there was agreement that the recovery that has taken place in the last year is rather fragile. What is needed is a calibrated attempt at fiscal consolidation rather than a one size fits all sort of action. In that way there is progress, even those countries which want to go ahead with fiscal consolidation, I think the caveat is that this must be done in a growth-friendly manner and my impression is that even those European countries who came out with targets at fiscal consolidation they have been going about their business with due caution. In that way the Summit has played a useful role in clarifying what is the scope for fiscal consolidation and

what manner the process of consolidation should be found. As far as India is concerned, our banking system remains well managed, our economy is growing at a rate of 8.5% per annum, our fiscal situation is a cause for concern but when we compare the fiscal deficit or the GDP debt ratio of the major developed countries, I think we come out much better.

Question: In your meeting with Sikh members of parliament of Canada, did they raise the terming of 1984 riots as genocide?

Answer: Well I met parliamentarians belonging to the Indian Diaspora. I complimented them, I praised them with regard to the achievements of the members of the Indian origin communities and the niche which they have carved out for themselves in Canadian public life, in Canadian economy, in services. So it was an attempt on my part to tell them that we in India take great pride in their achievements and that the community should remain united. It should not allow the divisive politics of our subcontinent to derail the cohesiveness that is necessary to ensure that the Indian communities continue to get their due share in the Canadian set up.

Question: Does the fuel price decontrol indicate you are ready for tougher reforms? Are we going to see further deregulations?

Answer: Well I can't tell you what we are going to do next. I think that when things get crystallized in the Government system you will know them. With regard to petroleum prices, the fact that petrol prices have been set free, the same is going to be done to the diesel prices, was much needed reforms. And the adjustment that has been made in the prices of Kerosene and LPG were also necessary, considering the very high amount of subsidy that is implicit in the pricing structure of Kerosene and LPG. We have taken due care to ensure that the poorer sections are affected to the least possible extent and that is why the attempt to keep under regulation the prices of kerosene and LPG.

Question: Has the decision to hike fuel prices been taken under some pressure?

Answer: There is no pressure on Government of India from any quarter. What we need is to do the right things by our country. The subsidies for the petroleum products have reached a level which is not connected to sound financial management of our economy. So it is taking that into

account that this decision has been taken to put some burden on the common people, but I think it is manageable.

Question: In the G20 Communique issued this time around, has there been a situation wherein any country has been forced to go against its own national economic policy?

Answer: We are dealing with the affairs of sovereign nations. There is, I think a growing concern that the increasingly inter-dependent world in which we live in, there is need for macro policy coordination to a much greater degree than that has been feasible in the past. People have talked about macro economic co-ordination that the consolidation of the financial system, the fiscal consolidation must be undertaken in a manner that is growth friendly. The IMF has put forth some categories of the countries where approaches may be similar in tackling the problems macroeconomic co-ordination. But it is too early to assess the process. The IMF will come with its financial assessment of the financial imperatives of each of the 20 countries- and that would really be the time, I think people would be able to judge how far countries are willing to subordinate their sovereignty to the needs of managing an increasingly inter dependant world.

Question: You have been working hard on making peace with Pakistan. You discussed with President Obama as well. In case of another 26/11 attack happening from Pakistan against India, how do you propose to go?

Answer: The Home Minister has been in Pakistan earlier last week. You must have read what he has stated. I think there is some hope. As I have said in dealing with Pakistan our attitude has to be - trust - trust but verify. So only time will tell which way the animal will turn.

Question: What is your view on the Tobin tax?

Answer: There is now a lot of discussion on corporate governance .I think good corporate houses are looking at what they can do in the non traditional key in providing social services, education, health facilities for their employees. I think that it's a corporate responsibility which has to be shouldered by the corporate sector on its own, we are not contemplating any legislation in that area.

Well the Tobin tax has merit in particular situations but as far as India is concerned we have not reached a stage where capital flows have become a problem. I think if capital inflows into our country both by way of direct

investment and by way of portfolio investment have been at reasonable levels, we don't face situations of the kind which would require an imposition of Tobin Tax.

Question: What are your views on the proposed expansion of BRIC. My second question pertains to what is the relevance of G8 when G20 is the leading forum?

Answer: As far as BRIC is concerned we are members of the group. We would like the BRIC countries to consult with each other on all the issues which have bearing on the global economic management and as far as expansion of its membership is concerned that's a matter that is to be discussed by the members themselves. It is not proper for me to make any public comment.

As far as G8 is concerned, I think it is for G8 countries to decide. But as far as G20 is concerned it has been agreed that this will be the premier forum for discussion of the international economic issues and I talked to Canadian Prime Minister who said that here after the G8 will probably deal with security issues much more vigorously than it has been doing thus far in the past.

Question: What are the plans for President Obama's visit to India?

Answer: Our relations with the US are very good- as discussed with President Obama yesterday the preparations for his visit. We have a really ambitious agenda. He will be sending his National Security Adviser in the second week of July. He will meet our National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon and they will chalk out the agenda for President Obama's visit. We look forward to a very successful visit of President Obama and so does the President.

Question: Opposition to fuel price hike is mounting in India and even your alliance partners are concerned. Your take on this issue?

Answer: Well I read about the intentions of the opposition in the Press. I have not talked to anyone myself, nor I have been briefed by our political establishment. What I am considering is that what we have done by way of adjusting the petroleum prices is that people of India would appreciate the compulsions, which have compelled us to undertake this measure. And our people are wise enough to understand that excessive populism should not be allowed to derail the progress our country is making, and for which it is winning kudos internationally as well.

Question: In your talks with President Obama, did you take up the issue of supply of Chinese reactors to Pakistan? Would there be a cabinet expansion during the monsoon session?

Answer: About your first question on my discussions with President Obama, it was essentially a discussion to explore the agenda of President Obama's visit to India later this year in the month of November. So I did not have the time to dwell on the issues that you have raised.

And as far as the monsoon session and cabinet reshuffle is concerned, I think that Press Conferences are not the appropriate places to announce Cabinet changes. When they are made, you will hear about it.

Question: Industrial disasters impacting on climate have also plagued US. Given the aftermath of the Bhopal tragedy, did you take up the issue of extradition of Warren Anderson with the US side?

Answer: Well, we are where we stand. We will try to ensure that US Government takes a more favourable attitude towards extradition. But we have not approached them yet. I did not raise this issue in my discussions with President Obama. We will cross the bridge when we come to it.

Question: On the Bhopal Gas tragedy issue, isn't there a collective failure on all parts, the government, political establishment and the judiciary?

Answer: What we propose to do has been made clear by the GOM, whose report has been endorsed by the Cabinet. It is a fact, it is true that our judicial processes are time consuming, that it should have taken 25 years before the case could be decided is something that we have to reflect about and the inadequacies of our judicial system.

Question: Don't you think that the Congress establishment should come clean on who was responsible for letting Anderson go? What is the reality of the issue?

Answer: What is the reality, we are not hiding anything. I think the GOM has looked at records. There is nothing that they have come across by way of the definite findings as to who took the decision. Those records are not available now.



114. Keynote Address by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the international conference on "International Cooperation in Times of Global Crisis: Views from G-20 Countries".

New Delhi, September 17, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour to join all of you at this International Conference on "International Cooperation in Times of Global Crisis: Views from G20 Countries". I would like to congratulate the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) for organising this Conference. It is a wonderful gathering of eminent academics and policymakers from G20 countries and international organisations.

2. From time to time in human history, some events occur that mark a turning point for the entire world. The global financial and economic crisis of 2007-09 is possibly one such event. This crisis has become one of the greatest assaults on global economic stability to have occurred in three quarters of a century. But it is also an assault on mankind's over-confidence about managing global systems. As we know from history, an assault on our over-confidence is, at times, a blessing in disguise. I like to believe that we will come out of this global financial crisis with stronger economies. The crisis has exposed the fragility of existing global financial and economic institutions, and the limitations of existing macroeconomic policy tools. Hence, it is an opportunity for new thinking in the world of finance and globalization.

3. In the wake of the global crisis, G20 countries were called upon to further strengthen international cooperation and bring together systemically important advanced and emerging economies to discuss key issues in the global economy. Since then, the concerted and decisive actions of the G20 helped the world deal effectively with the current financial and economic crisis. The G20 has already delivered a number of significant and concrete outcomes. Reflecting on these achievements and recognizing that more needs to be done to ensure a strong, sustained and balanced

global recovery, the G20 Leaders at Pittsburgh Summit designated the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

4. In an era of globalization, with almost all countries integrated into the global economy, complete decoupling is only a myth. As clearly indicated by the current crisis, no country is insulated and it is turning out to be much deeper and broader than expected. It is a crisis that spans several fronts: it began as financial crises, which then become a general economic crisis; it is also becoming an employment crisis; and has in many countries produced a social crisis. It is a crisis which is simultaneously individual, national and global. It is a crisis of both the developed and the developing world. Everything is so intricately intertwined that events in one country have a ripple effect across the world. Yet, an alternative to global integration is neither feasible nor desirable. Globalization is a bit like gravity. You may or may not like it, but you have no choice in the matter. It is also a bit like the wind and the waves. As John Stuart Mill had observed, a sea-going person may not like the wind and the waves, but he has no option. Instead of pretending that the wind and the waves do not exist, he should try to make the best of possible use of these forces. Similarly, with globalization.

5. Globalisation has brought several benefits and synergies in growth and development across the globe. Moreover, the world is now so far down the path of integration that turning back is no longer a viable option. However, credible international economic cooperation is necessary in today's world. An integrated world economy requires strong cooperation among major economic powers. Without determined cooperation among the principal powers, globalization is unlikely to survive the inevitable periodical shocks to which it is subjected. The G20 has laid a solid foundation for such cooperation.

6. Historical precedent is instructive. Since World War II, major countries have created and used formal international institutions and more informal forums to discuss and coordinate economic policies. As economic integration has increased over the past few decades, however, international economic policy coordination has become even more active and significant. Globalization may bring economic benefits, but it also means that a country's economy is increasingly affected by the economic policy decisions of other governments. Major crises have always been followed by the emergence of new international institutions. The Brettonwood system emerged after

the Great Depression. The current crisis has heralded the rise of G20 as the premier forum for international cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

7. Given its crisis track record, expectations from the G20 forum are also growing, especially since its intervention is widely perceived to have prevented the current global crisis escalating into another Great Depression. However much of its success has been achieved in crisis situations, where consensus is much easier, and it remains to be seen whether it would be equally effective in resolving contentious issues in normal times.

8. As we recover from the crisis and prepare ourselves for a post crisis scenario, G20 Governments will have to work together to support well functioning international economy. They will need to coordinate policy actions in a manner that can ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth. While doing so, Governments will have to build domestic political support for international policy coordination, wherein some national policies might have to be calibrated to ensure a more optimised global outcome. The immediate spheres of such coordination are (a) macroeconomic policies and exit strategies (b) pace of regulatory reforms to ensure financial stability, without affecting prospects of growth (c) reform in the governance of International Financial Institutions to reflect current economic realities (d) keeping international trade open and avoiding protectionism and (e) coordination on climate change and energy issues.

9. As part of this process of multi-country thinking, we in India are trying to produce studies to understand economic processes in the context of G-20 nations and also the BRIC countries. I am happy to inform you that India, and in particular the Ministry of Finance, is anchoring the writing and publication of an economic report on the four BRIC countries. This is being done to foster cooperation and one of the aims of this is to learn from best practices in different nations. All these developments point towards the inevitability and necessity for stronger and credible international cooperation in issues that you have taken up for discussion over these two days. The need for this is more than ever before. I am sure this conference will offer an opportunity to share ideas; ideas that can indeed lead to a better world.

10. I thank you for your kind attention and I wish you a most fruitful conference. Thank You



115. Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Seoul for G20 Summit.

New Delhi, November 9, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh is leaving tomorrow for Seoul for the 5th G20 Summit meeting. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao would like to brief you about the visit of the Prime Minister. I would also like to introduce my colleague Mr. Jawed Ashraf, Joint Secretary (Americas), who is to the right of Foreign Secretary. Foreign Secretary would be making an opening statement and thereafter will be taking a few questions on the visit of the Prime Minister to Seoul. Ma'am, the floor is yours.

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu.

The fifth G-20 Summit is being held on November 11-12, 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This is an unprecedented fifth Summit for a multilateral grouping within a span of two years, starting with the Washington Summit (Nov. 2008) through London (April 2009), Pittsburgh (Sept. 2009) and Toronto (June 2010) to the Seoul Summit later this week. This is indicative of the importance, dynamism and credibility of the G-20 as a grouping, which since the Pittsburgh Summit has been designated as the 'premier forum' for international economic cooperation. We also value the G-20 as the principal platform for North-South dialogue with our developed country interlocutors.

As you are aware, the G-20 came into being in 1999 following the East Asian financial crisis. It is an informal forum comprising major developed countries and leading emerging market economies representing around 90% of global GDP, 85% of the world trade and two-thirds of humanity. It has achieved credibility for having been able to address the international financial and economic crisis or 'the Great Recession' of 2008 in a concerted, coordinated and effective manner. As the host, the President of the Republic of Korea will preside over the Summit. Leaders of G-20 member countries are expected to attend. RoK as host has also invited Leaders from Spain, Malawi (Chair of African Union), Ethiopia (Chair of NEPAD), Vietnam (Chair of ASEAN) and Singapore.

In addition, top officials from the United Nations, the World Bank, IMF, WTO, Financial Stability Board, etc. are likely to be present.

Prime Minister will be participating in the G-20 Seoul Summit. PM's delegation will include Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, who is India's 'Sherpa' for the G-20, the National Security Adviser and senior officials. PM will be arriving in Seoul late on November 10 and has a busy schedule over the next couple of days. The G-20 Summit starts on November 11 with a Welcome Reception followed by a Working Dinner by the President of the Republic of Korea. On November 12, the programme includes the Summit Opening Plenary Session, followed by Plenary Working Sessions in the morning and afternoon, a G-20 'Family Photograph', a Leaders' Working lunch and concludes in the afternoon with the Final Plenary Session. After the conclusion of the Summit, PM will return to India on the same day.

PM will interact with the Leaders of participating countries on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. Some bilateral meetings are also envisaged on the sidelines of the Summit, most probably on Nov. 11, and we will keep you informed.

The forthcoming Seoul Summit's theme is 'Shared Growth Beyond Crisis'. The Leaders are expected to review the global economic situation, the status of the world recovery as well as the progress of implementation regarding the past G-20 Summit decisions. In the light of the above, the Leaders will decide on the future mandate and direction of G-20. Without trying to speculate about the deliberations at the Summit, broadly speaking some of the areas the Leaders can be expected to address are:

- Global Economy and Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth
- International Financial Institution (IFI) Reforms
- Financial Regulatory Reforms
- Trade and Protectionism
- Climate Change

- Development, which is a new issue on the G-20 agenda mandated at the last Toronto Summit.

As per past practice, a Declaration or Communiqué of the Seoul Summit is envisaged. I would, however, refrain from trying to prejudge the outcome of the Summit or the contents of the Communiqué. But as I have mentioned, the Seoul Summit has a rich and diverse agenda for discussion by Leaders.

Host RoK is also organising a major Business Summit as a side-event in conjunction with the G-20 Summit. The Seoul G-20 Business Summit (SGBS) will be held on November 10-11, 2010 at which around a 100 CEOs from G-20 member countries and beyond are expected to attend. The SGBS theme is 'Role of Business in Sustainable and Balanced Growth'. The Business Summit will have Round Tables on (i) Revitalising trade and foreign direct investment, (ii) Enhancing financial stability and supporting economic activity, (iii) Harmonising green growth, and (iv) Delivering on the corporate social responsibility promise. The outcome of the Business Summit will also be presented to the G-20 Leaders.

Question: Madam, yesterday the Prime Minister actually spoke about a new kind of agenda being set with regard to the global economy with developed nations perhaps being asked to fund infrastructure development in the developing world. Is the Prime Minister's statement just sort of an offhand comment or is it indicative of something that India is likely to pursue at the Summit?

Foreign Secretary: The agenda for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, which is a theme which has been picked up by the G20 is definitely very high on the agenda. When India talks of this issue, need for strong, sustained and balanced growth, it is essentially representing the emerging economies, it is speaking as the voice of one of the leading emerging economies in the G20. Of course there will be consultations with the other G20 emerging economies. In fact one of the pull-asides, bilaterals that is envisaged is a meeting between PM and the Brazilian Head of delegation. What we were talking about when we speak of balanced growth is that there are multiple rates of growth today in the world economy. On the one hand there is need for fiscal consolidation in some countries, on the other hand we need to maintain that rate of growth that will enable the lifting of millions of our population out of

poverty, enabling the flow of capital, of innovation and of technology into the country, the need to resist protectionism, to have a free multilateral global trading regime. So, all these are issues on which India would like to speak as a representative voice for the developing countries.

Question: A quick follow-up, Madam. Is there a possibility of India opting to host a G20 Summit in the future?

Foreign Secretary: I would not be able to answer that at the moment. I would not rule it out at some stage, but if you are asking me if there is a definite point on the agenda which would see India hosting a meeting in the near future, I would not be able to answer that in the affirmative for the moment.

Question: There has been a report in one of the papers saying that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has a formula to save the global economy from its present crisis. Are you in a position to say anything about that? Does he plan to submit some proposals as to how to save the global economy?

Foreign Secretary: I think you should await the outcome of the deliberations at Seoul and the points that will be reflected in the Communiqué which will represent the consensus that is arrived at the meeting. I think the G20 as a grouping would continue to function as a very important forum to address global financial and economic issues for the future also. When the Pittsburgh Summit designated the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, that is just the emphasis that we are seeking to give to the meetings and the development dimension in the G20 agenda. So, the development dimension is going to increase and also acquire much more salience than in the past.

Question: Madam, can you tell us which bilaterals the PM will have on the sidelines of the Summit?

Foreign Secretary: I think it is with UK, with Canada, with Mexico and Ethiopia. These are some of the confirmed meetings. There will be a

pull-aside as I said, with Brazil. There could be more meetings but we will be able to tell you that as the situation develops.

Question: Foreign Secretary, Tim Geithner, the US Treasury Secretary, was speaking yesterday here about the early warning system that the G20 would be discussing to essentially police deficits and surpluses. He said there was an agreement around having hard and fast numbers for targets of deficits and surpluses. But ...(Inaudible)... India's position on this ...(Inaudible)... these early warning system administered by the IMF?

Foreign Secretary: I think this is a theme that is still being developed in the discussions within the G20. Secretary Geithner did mention it. Obviously the focus as we see it is to consolidate growth and recovery within the world economy, the reform of the international financial institutions is very much a part of this agenda, and, as I said earlier, mandating work on development within the G20 and the commitment to fight protectionism. These are all issues in India's point of view which should require equal attention.

Question: Madam, what is India's position on this currency wars as they are calling it now? Where does India stand on this? Would India like Chinese to appreciate their currency or not?

Foreign Secretary: At the recent meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers also in the RoK a little over maybe two weeks ago, broad agreement was reached to move towards a more market determined exchange rate system or systems, and to refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. That is the direction of the trend in which the discussion went. In line with the above, I think what the Seoul Summit can be expected to do is to help further suggest prescriptions to stabilize global financial and currency markets and to reduce volatility in the world financial markets.

Question: Is there an item on the agenda about a permanent Secretariat for the G20? If so, do you have any suggestions who might head it? ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: As far as I am aware that item is not on the agenda. I know it is being discussed among various countries informally but

there has not emerged as yet any consensus view on this. Whichever country hosts the Summit has a Secretariat functioning at that point of time but not a permanent Secretariat. It does not seem to be on the agenda as yet.

Question: Outside of a broad statement supporting the development ...(Inaudible)... so the focus is on emerging economy like India, what would be a specific outcome India would be looking at?

Foreign Secretary: That is exactly what I said. You have to await the outcome of the discussions. India is one of the participating countries. I mentioned the issues - the development related issues, the protectionism related issues.

Question: In the past there have been discussions on capitalizing the World Bank, India being the largest borrower ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: The reform of the IFIs as I mentioned is an ongoing part of the activity that the G20 has been looking at. And we had some progress in that regard both with the World Bank and now with the IMF. But it is a work in progress.

Question: Will India like the G20 to look at issues that go beyond terrorism, security and ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: I think the G20 is functioning as it should function as a premier forum for international economic cooperation. That is the focus that every member country wants to give to it at the moment.

Question: Madam, what is the difference in the nuances between our thinking on this currency war and American thinking on the currency war? Yesterday also that was asked in the press conference. Can you tell us where there is a major difference?

Foreign Secretary: It is not a question so much of difference. I think the China-US trade as you see it, and the volume, the magnitude of it, is far greater than what we have with either the US or with China. The trade imbalance that the United States has with China has been an issue for discussion between the two countries and the subject of a lot of public focus especially in America. So, it is in that context that the issue of devaluation of the Chinese Yuan or the need to devalue it and

the issue of how China is going to handle the issue of currency valuation has come up. So, the US has a specific point of view about it and the issue of the trade surplus that China has with the US as they see it emanates in large part as from what is seen as this rate of the Chinese Yuan. So, that is the way the US is looking at it. In our case, as I said, we have talked about market forces and how currency rate valuation should come out of that. Of course we have a very large trade deficit with China. But we import a great deal of equipment at rather competitive prices from the Chinese market for our power sector, for our steel sector, for our infrastructure development. So, the picture is little different where the US and where India is concerned. But certainly in the context of the G20 I am sure that the whole issue of how to deal with currency valuation would be brought up certainly by some of the developed economies.

Question: Madam, sounds like both America and India believe that China is keeping its currency artificially low.

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to get into that. As I said, the situations are a little different for each of the countries concerned, whether it is the US or whether it is India.

Question: Yesterday there have been indications from China that their counter to the whole cap on current account imbalances is going to be quantitative eases in the US, which is something India is impacted by. What would our position be on that? Would we tend to take sides with China on that?

Foreign Secretary: On these issues which involve currency flows or currency rates it is not a question so much of taking sides with one country or the other as I mentioned to the earlier questioner. I think we have to study this further. I am not a specialist, I am not an economist. I think this is a question that is best answered by the economic Ministries concerned. So, I do not really want to get into a fruitless debate about this. And there will be ample opportunities during the Summit, of course. Our Finance Secretary is there; our Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission is there. So, many of these questions can be answered then.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you.



116. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Seoul for the G-20 Summit.

New Delhi, November 10, 2010

I leave today to attend the G-20 Summit in Seoul at the invitation of President Lee Myung-bak of Korea.

This is the second G-20 Summit this year. This reflects the high expectations the world has from the G-20 in moving beyond the immediate crisis that we faced in 2008 to ensuring a sustained and balanced economic recovery in the long term. The Seoul Summit is the first G-20 Summit outside a G-8 country, and the first in Asia.

The theme of the Seoul summit is "Shared Growth beyond the Crisis". Given the vast development challenges we face it is in India's interest to have an open, stable and rule-based international economic environment, whether in the field of trade, investment flows, technology transfers or open markets. We have to be particularly wary of protectionist sentiments. There are also developmental imbalances within and between countries, and rebalancing of the world economy is a major challenge. The success of the Mutual Assessment Process is important in this regard. India will actively participate in this process to strike the right balance between ensuring its credibility as well as the national interests of countries.

The Seoul Summit will focus on the G-20 framework for strong sustainable and balanced growth, including an ambitious outcome in the form of the Seoul Action Plan. We will work with the others towards this end, and also encourage the G-20 to focus on the development agenda which is being introduced for the first time in Seoul. We must also give thought to how we can leverage global imbalances to bridge the infrastructure gap between rich and poor nations.

In the financial sector, we should build upon the process of IMF reform on which good progress was made last month at the G-20 Finance Ministers meeting with an agreement on shifts in quota shares, including in favour of India, while protecting the voting share of the poorest. The Summit will also look at issues of regulatory reforms of the financial sector, and consider the new Basel-III norms. This is a key area of work, and we must guard

against complacency in the pursuit of a strong financial regulatory framework and effective supervision.

The world economy is on the path of recovery but we should keep our focus on how to optimize global outcomes in an increasingly interdependent world. As the Indian economy moves to a higher growth path, and opens to the world, our stake in a stable, inclusive and representative global economic and financial system will only grow.

During my visit I look forward to separately meeting President Felipe Calderon, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister David Cameron and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



117. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on PM's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

Seoul, November 11, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening. As you are aware, the Prime Minister of India, who arrived at Seoul yesterday to participate in the G20 Summit, had a number of important engagements and bilateral meetings today. His bilateral meetings include those with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the President of Mexico, and the Prime Minister of UK. I would endeavour to share with you some details of these three important bilateral meetings.

In the morning, he had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi. They had a very warm meeting, a very friendly meeting which is reflective of our excellent ties with Ethiopia. Prime Minister Zenawi was very appreciative of India's support to Ethiopia in its economic development, capacity-building. They are, as you know, beneficiaries of the ITEC programme. We are setting up a large vocational training centre in Ethiopia, and also offering a number of scholarships amongst other things.

He also spoke in glowing terms about India's developmental partnership with Africa and hailed it as a model of cooperation among developing

countries. Ethiopia is the Chairman of NEPAD and also hosts the Headquarters of the African Union.

PM Meles first assumed office in 1995 and was recently re-elected. He is an old friend of India. He has been to India on several occasions including his last state visit to India in November 2007. He traveled in April 2008 to India to attend the First India-Africa Forum Summit. He visited Delhi in February in 2009 once more for the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. He warmly invited our Prime Minister to visit Ethiopia. The invitation was gladly accepted.

We have historical ties with Ethiopia which go back two thousand years. In fact our trading links are as old as the sixth century AD when India supplied silk, spices, etc., to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has always been very supportive of India's positions on various global issues. I would like to note here that they supported, voted for the non-permanent UNSC seat of India recently. And the Prime Minister of India thanked him very warmly for the support of Ethiopia. The two leaders also discussed the African position on UN reforms.

We have good bilateral trade with Ethiopia which is close to 500 million dollars. Even more significantly, sizeable Indian investments have been flowing in. We have in all more than four billion dollars in investments, of which 1.5 billion was invested in Ethiopia in just 2009. Close to 500 Indian companies are operating in Ethiopia in diverse sectors including agriculture, textiles, engineering, plastics, water management, information and communication technology, human resource development, pharmaceuticals, floriculture which has become an important sector by the way, and so on.

The Prime Minister conveyed to his counterpart that the Exim Bank of India would soon set up a Rep Office in Addis. The Ethiopian Prime Minister sought India's help to establish a railway line between Ethiopia and Djibouti. We have agreed to study that proposal.

During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Ethiopia in July 2007, India had extended a line of credit worth 640 million dollars over a five year period to strengthen and expand the sugar industry

in Ethiopia. A sizeable chunk of the line of credit has already been released. The funds have been transferred and they are being utilized very effectively.

The Pan-African e-Network Project was launched from Addis Ababa a year and a half ago. Seeing the efficacy, the efficiency of the e-network project, Ethiopia recently signed MOUs of Cooperation on commercial terms with IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur to provide tele-education to twenty regional universities in Ethiopia.

I mentioned that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia had come to India in April 2008 for the first India-Africa Forum Summit. The Second India-Africa Forum Summit is likely to be held in Africa next year. The two leaders also exchanged views on holding the Summit. I mentioned that the Ethiopian Prime Minister warmly welcomed India's partnership with Africa and has also hailed it as a model of cooperation. So, the two sides discussed ways and means to take the India-AU partnership further.

He mentioned that the African Union was currently considering the proposal, and preparations will be initiated once a decision is taken about the date and venue of the Summit in Africa. They also briefly discussed Africa's priorities in G20.

Let me next turn to the meeting of our Prime Minister with the President of Mexico His Excellency Felipe Calderon. The two leaders have been meeting regularly on the sidelines of international fora. The leaders warmly recalled the very successful visit of President Calderon to India in September 2007 when, recognizing each other's strengths and complementarities the two countries had decided to elevate our relationship to the level of a privileged partnership.

We have historically enjoyed warm and friendly relations with Mexico. It is a trillion dollar economy and the second largest after Brazil in Latin America. Our diplomatic relations go back to 1950, and we are currently celebrating the 60th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations.

The President of India had paid a significant visit to Mexico in April 2008. And recently in August, amongst other high-level and important visits, we had welcomed the Foreign Minister of Mexico Ms. Patricia Espinosa on her first official visit to India.

We have bilateral trade which ranges between two to three billion dollars, which is certainly below the potential, and a trade target of five billion dollars has been established which we hope to achieve soon. India is also an important investor in Mexico with our investments exceeding 1.5 billion dollars.

India and Mexico have a strong cultural affinity. Mexicans have traditionally shown a lot of interest in Indian art, dances, films, yoga, music and so on. Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore, Mother Theresa are widely admired in the country. We have decided to have several cultural activities to commemorate and celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations.

You are aware that Mexico is also hosting the COP 16 Summit on climate change in Cancun between 29th November and 10th of December. Prime Minister and President exchanged notes on the discussions on climate change and the preparations for the forthcoming summit. Prime Minister was of the opinion that initiatives which have a fair chance of garnering consensus should be identified so that the outcome from the Summit is pragmatic, forward-looking and result oriented. They felt that efforts and preparations were moving in the right direction, and that particularly the concerns of the developing countries should be kept in mind, and that the outcome, the decisions, the discussion should conform to UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Both with President Calderon and with Prime Minister Cameron - I will come to the other aspects of discussion with Prime Minister Cameron momentarily - Prime Minister had discussions on the G20 process. Both leaders sought our Prime Minister's views as an eminent economist, his assessment on G20. It was felt by all concerned that greater attention should be paid to global imbalances and to achieving economic stability.

They expressed happiness at initial steps to reform the IMF and the quota sharing arrangements. They also, exchanged views on the G20 post the economic crisis phase noting that the response immediately post crisis was magnificent and now the real challenge was take steps to consolidate the efforts that had been initiated. They also agreed that there was no universally agreed diagnosis as to what ails the world economy.

President Calderon invited the Prime Minister of India to visit Mexico and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Touching on some other aspects of Prime Minister's meeting with Rt Hon. David Cameron of UK, both sides recalled the very successful state visit paid by Prime Minister Cameron to India on 27-29 July when he had led one of the most important delegations ever from UK to India, which included a number of Cabinet Ministers, a very large business delegation, a number of officials and so on.

The two Prime Ministers have been meeting regularly. Before his state visit to India they had met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Toronto on the 26th of June. I may recall that soon after his becoming the Leader of Opposition, David Cameron visited India in October 2006 when he had also met with Prime Minister and other leaders.

We had established a strategic partnership with the UK in 2004 which was elevated to the level of enhanced partnership for the future during the visit of Prime Minister David Cameron in July. Our President had paid a state visit to UK in October 2009. Recently, last month, the HRH the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles had visited India for the Commonwealth Games.

You are aware that UK is among our major trading partners. Our bilateral trade, excluding services, was about 11 billion dollars in 2009-10. With cumulative investments of over six billion, UK is the fourth largest investor in India. On the other hand, Indian companies have been investing very actively in UK having become the third largest investor in UK and the second largest investor in London. Currently close to 600 companies are based in UK of which half are in London.

One of the decisions taken during the visit of Prime Minister David Cameron to set up India-UK CEOs Forum has been activated and this forum has been set up. It is co-chaired by Mr. Ratan Tata from the Indian side and Mr. Peter Sands, Chairman of Standard Bank, from the British side.

UK has also been steadfast in its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and had extended valuable support for our nonpermanent seat for which elections were held last month. The two Prime Ministers, other than on G20 which I mentioned, also exchanged views on the Doha Round and other regional issues of mutual interest.

These are I thought some of the highlights of the three important bilateral meetings that our Prime Minister has had today with his counterparts.

Question: Do you have the composition of the India-UK CEOs Forum?

Official Spokesperson: That I can give you.

Question: And did you imply that the activation decision was a consequence of today's meeting?

Official Spokesperson: No, not at all. I was giving you a little background because the visit of David Cameron was in July and amongst various decisions taken was this important decision, given the fact that the economic relationship and partnership is one of the bedrocks of our bilateral relationship. So, to give it a qualitative impulse one of these decisions was taken and which has been activated. That is what I was saying.

Question: Coming back to the G20 you referred to in terms of the discussions with Prime Minister Cameron...

Official Spokesperson: Both the Prime Minister and the President.

Question: Yes. You said that it was felt during the discussions that there is no universal diagnosis of what ails the world economy. Could you expand on that?

Official Spokesperson: That is the reading I have. I do not have further details on that.

Question: Would I be right in inferring that Prime Minister disagreed with the British and the Mexican position on the currency issue and the global ...

Official Spokesperson: I am afraid since I was personally not there in the meeting - these were short meetings, each meeting was about thirty minutes or roundabouts - I am going by the readout that I have. So, this is what I have to share on the matter.

Question: Would I be correct in inferring that?

Official Spokesperson: Inferences are yours.

Question: When is the PM going to Ethiopia and Mexico?

Official Spokesperson: These are the invitations which have been extended today and have been gladly accepted. Mutually convenient dates are always worked out through diplomatic channels.

Question: Today our Prime Minister has told the PM of Ethiopia that we Indians would be contributing a Vocational Training Centre which is going to open in Ethiopia and offer scholarships. Can you highlight on the areas in which scholarships will be given like in education or medical or engineering, and the vocational training centre which we have offered?

Official Spokesperson: Happily. Capacity-building and human resource development is one of the very important areas of cooperation between India and Africa. We have what we call the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme which is as old as about 50 years now. If I remember offhand, it was initiated in 1962. Under that ITEC programme we have been offering about six thousand training slots every year, and the entire cost is borne by the Government of India, to about 155 of our partner countries worldwide. Out of six thousand, one-third have traditionally been going to Africa. But during the India-Africa Forum Summit it was decided to enhance the efforts of capacity-building significantly. We had offered 20,000 scholarships over a five-year period for Africa. These are in different areas including medical, high-technology, engineering, and there is Raman Fellowship which is at postgraduate level, and so on. We have also launched the Pan-African e-Network Project of which already the second phase has been initiated and over 35 countries have already become part of. Under that we are offering tele-medicine and tele-education programmes which also has been found very useful by our African partners.

Question: Sir, just a few minutes before I heard the Chinese Minister airing his view that if America catches cold, they should not ask for the Chinese medicines. As we enter the G20 Summit right now, it seems that it is more and more becoming like a G2 with America and China or to some extent G3 including Germany. So, by not taking positions on hard issues of trade imbalances and the currency war, do not you think India is going to get marginalized by doing rhetoric on infrastructure development and voicing concerns against protectionism?

Official Spokesperson: We see G20 as the premier forum to address economic issues. India as one of the largest economies in the world, as

one of the fastest growing emerging economies, under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who is an eminent economist, has been participating in the G20 process right since the first Summit meeting was held in Washington. India and the Indian Prime Minister have been participating in that actively, constructively and positively and that is where it is. I have already shared with you some of the thoughts of the Prime Minister. We will continue to engage with the G20 process which I said is a premier economic forum representing almost 85 per cent of the global GDP, and it is important to India as it is to other countries in the world.

Question: Just a follow-up to this question. Yesterday, Sherpa had told us that the communiqué is a work in progress. Any progress today on the communiqué?

Official Spokesperson: Well, it is work in progress and soon, as the communiqué is finalized, we will share it with you.

Question: Can you tell us something about what has happened in G20 today?

Official Spokesperson: The meetings are taking place. I am not a part of the preparatory meetings. That is for the Sherpas and Sou-Sherpas who have been at it. At a suitable time, like we did yesterday, we will invite one of the participants to come and brief you.

Question: Sir, any idea when our Prime Minister is going to speak at the Summit?

Official Spokesperson: I believe it is going to be in the first half of the day tomorrow. As soon as we have a firm time and other details, we are more keen than you are to share it with you.

Thank you very much.



118. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the G-20 Summit.**Seoul, November 12, 2010**

Mr. President

I join other colleagues in thanking you for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit and for the warmth of your hospitality.

The G-20 has only been in existence for two years yet it can claim several important successes in this short period which has led to its emergence as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

We acted swiftly to respond to the crisis of 2008 with a massive and coordinated stimulus which almost certainly avoided what could have been a precipitous collapse of the world economy. We successfully initiated a process of reforms of the World Bank and the IMF which has already yielded good results. We have launched a much needed reform of financial regulation through a broad based Financial Stability Board (FSB) And we are currently engaged in an ambitious process of coordinating policies in our countries to achieve a strong and sustainable recovery.

Efforts to achieve a strong recovery in the global economy are particularly important at present. Our discussion yesterday on the state of the world economy reveals a mixed picture. There is some good news. Industrialized countries have resumed growth in 2010, although output gaps remain large and unemployment is still at crisis levels.

Emerging market countries have done well on the whole, and especially so in Asia. I am happy to say that the Indian economy has rebounded fairly well from the crisis. We grew at 9% in the four years prior to the crisis, but slowed down to 6.7% in the 2008-09. The economy recovered to 7.4% growth in 2009-10 and is likely to grow at 8.5% in 2010-11. We hope to achieve 9% in 2011-12.

However, high unemployment in industrialized countries threatens a revival of protectionist sentiment, especially since the use of

conventional monetary and fiscal tools to revive the economy has been exhausted. Uncertainty about the prospects of industrialized countries affects the investment climate and dampens the medium term growth prospects of emerging market countries. All this suggests that much remains to be done to bring our economies back to the path of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

The problem facing us in rebalancing the global economy is well known. Major industrialized countries were running unsustainable current account deficits which have to be reduced to manageable levels. If this is not to have a contractionary impact on the world economy, it must be offset by reducing current account surpluses elsewhere. This rebalancing requires pursuit of appropriately coordinated policies in our countries.

The Mutual Assessment Process we adopted in Pittsburgh was a unique G20 initiative to achieve such coordination. We saw the outcome of the first stage in Toronto, at the level of country groupings. We had expected to move to the second stage of considering country specific recommendations by the time of the Seoul Summit.

We are not there yet, and for good reasons. It is not easy to reach agreement on what are sustainable current account balances for individual countries given the structural differences across countries, the many uncertainties that prevail, and the multiple goals that each country has to balance. It is even more difficult to agree on a particular combination of policies to achieve these targets.

Despite these difficulties, we must persevere to develop a workable G20 mechanism for international coordination. I believe there is considerable agreement on some broad principles.

First, we must at all costs avoid competitive devaluation and resist any resurgence of protectionism.

Second, advanced deficit countries must follow policies of fiscal consolidation, consistent with their individual circumstances so as to ensure debt sustainability over the medium term. This means that fiscal correction need not be frontloaded everywhere.

Third, while structural reforms are necessary everywhere, these should increase efficiency and competitiveness in deficit countries, while expanding internal demand in surplus countries. This rebalancing will take time, but it must begin.

Fourth, exchange rates flexibility is an important instrument for achieving a sustainable current account position and our policies must reflect this consideration. At the same time, reserve currency countries have a special responsibility to ensure that their monetary policies do not lead to destabilizing capital flows, which can put pressure on emerging markets.

To these well known ingredients, I would add another that has not been sufficiently discussed. Even as we try to avoid a destabilizing surge of volatile capital flows to developing countries, there is a strong case for supporting long term flows to these countries to stimulate investment, especially in infrastructure. The economic performance of emerging markets, including many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, has improved greatly in recent years. These countries are now in a position to absorb capital flows aimed at an expansion in investment, which would inject much needed demand into the global economy. Multilateral Development Banks have an important role to play in this process through recycling of global savings. Many emerging market countries are also in a position to attract private investment, including into infrastructure.

Recycling surplus savings into investment in developing countries will not only address the immediate demand imbalance, it will also help to address developmental imbalances. In other words, we should leverage imbalances of one kind to redress imbalances of the other kind.

The G20 would convey a powerful signal to markets if we commit ourselves to a second stage MAP process aimed at coordinating policies in these areas. Our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors could be asked to develop these ideas further, with the assistance of the IMF and produce as quickly as possible, a credible approach to identifying sustainable trajectories for external balances for our countries and to assess the policies proposed by each country to achieve these.

I recognize this is not going to be easy and we must allow considerable flexibility to accommodate learning by doing. However, if we can actually do this, we will have made a lasting contribution to a new style of global governance.

I would like to compliment the Korean presidency for the initiative it took to include development as an accepted item in the agenda of the G20. The G20 was borne at the time of a crisis and as such it has been preoccupied with the short term agenda of crisis management and global rebalancing. However, one of the biggest imbalances facing us the development imbalance and putting development on the G20 agenda fills an important gap.

I have already mentioned that developing countries performed well in the years before the crisis and have also done well in subsequent years. However, we need to ensure that the global economic environment, including especially the environment for trade, and investment flows remains strongly supportive of development.

The Seoul Development Consensus and the associated Multi Year Action Plans which are before us provide a comprehensive agenda with timelines which we should pursue in all relevant fora in the months ahead.

I am particularly happy to endorse the focus on facilitating investment in national and regional infrastructure projects and the call for establishing a High Level Panel to recommend measures to mobilize private, semi-public and public resources for infrastructure investment and to review MDB policy in this area. Infrastructure is a critical constraint to rapid and inclusive growth in most emerging markets and we need to find innovative ways of meeting the enormous costs of infrastructure development. This should be made a major focus of the MDB agenda.

The emphasis on development of employable skills is also extremely important. We in India are giving high priority to skill development in our effort to provide access to quality jobs to the large numbers of new entrants labour force.

The Seoul Summit is also delivering on the promise of reform of the IMF. We have agreed to a shift in quota shares of 6% to emerging market

countries and the composition of Board is being changed to reduce the European representation. With the additional resources already provided to the IMF, we have not only provided the IMF with the firepower that it needs to perform its stabilization role, but also moves it in the direction of greater democratization. Further moves are necessary in this direction and we welcome the decision to comprehensively review the quota formula by 2013 to reflect the growing economic weight of the emerging market countries.

This should be fully reflected in the next quotas review due to be completed by 2014.

Finally, Mr. President, we must ensure that the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations is brought to a satisfactory conclusion. We have seen a resurgence of protectionist sentiment in the world in the wake of recessionary trends. It is commendable that actual protectionist action has been more limited. The only way to ensure that protectionism does not gain the upper hand is to restore momentum to the trade talks. I hope the G20 will lend its weight to this objective.

In the end, I would like to say that the G20 was an apt response to an adverse situation that the world faced. A few years down the line, the world will ask as to what else did G20 achieve other than averting a total breakdown due to the global financial crisis. Fortunately, through the dynamic leadership shown by the Korean Presidency the G20 has moved forward and arrived at a rich agenda of things to do. I would once again like to thank Korea for their tireless efforts. I am also confident that the G20 will be able to translate this agenda into tangible outcomes under the forthcoming presidency of France and I wish them success in our common endeavour.



119 The G - 20 Seoul Summit Leaders' Declaration.

Seoul, November 11-12, 2010.

1. We, the Leaders of the G20, are united in our conviction that by working together we can secure a more prosperous future for the citizens of all countries.
2. When we first gathered in November 2008 to address the most severe world recession our generation has ever confronted, we pledged to support and stabilize the global economy, and at the same time, to lay the foundation for reform, to ensure the world would never face such upheaval again.
3. Over the past four Summits, we have worked with unprecedented cooperation to break the dramatic fall in the global economy to establish the basis for recovery and renewed growth.
4. The concrete steps we have taken will help ensure we are better prepared to prevent and, if necessary, to withstand future crises. We pledge to continue our coordinated efforts and act together to generate strong, sustainable and balanced growth.
5. We recognize the importance of addressing the concerns of the most vulnerable. To this end, we are determined to put jobs at the heart of the recovery, to provide social protection, decent work and also to ensure accelerated growth in low income countries (LICs).
6. Our relentless and cooperative efforts over the last two years have delivered strong results. However, we must stay vigilant.
7. Risks remain. Some of us are experiencing strong growth, while others face high levels of unemployment and sluggish recovery. Uneven growth and widening imbalances are fueling the temptation to diverge from global solutions into uncoordinated actions. However, uncoordinated policy actions will only lead to worse outcomes for all.
8. Since 2008, a common view of the challenges of the world economy, the necessary responses and our determination to resist protectionism has enabled us to both address the root causes of the crisis and safeguard the recovery. We are agreed today to develop our common view to meet these new challenges and a path to strong, sustainable and balanced growth beyond the crisis.

9. Today, the Seoul Summit delivers:
- the Seoul Action Plan composed of comprehensive, cooperative and country-specific policy actions to move closer to our shared objective. The Plan includes our commitment to:
 - undertake macroeconomic policies, including fiscal consolidation where necessary, to ensure ongoing recovery and sustainable growth and enhance the stability of financial markets, in particular moving toward more market determined exchange rate systems, enhancing exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying economic fundamentals, and refraining from competitive devaluation of currencies. Advanced economies, including those with reserve currencies, will be vigilant against excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates. These actions will help mitigate the risk of excessive volatility in capital flows facing some emerging countries;
 - implement a range of structural reforms that boost and sustain global demand, foster job creation, and increase the potential for growth; and
 - enhance the Mutual Assessment Process (MAP) to promote external sustainability. We will strengthen multilateral cooperation to promote external sustainability and pursue the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances and maintaining current account imbalances at sustainable levels. Persistently large imbalances, assessed against indicative guidelines to be agreed by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, warrant an assessment of their nature and the root causes of impediments to adjustment as part of the MAP, recognizing the need to take into account national or regional circumstances, including large commodity producers. These indicative guidelines composed of a range of indicators would serve as a mechanism to facilitate timely identification of large imbalances that require preventive and corrective actions to be taken. To support our efforts toward meeting these commitments, we call on our Framework Working Group, with technical support from the IMF and other international organizations, to develop these indicative guidelines, with progress to be discussed by our Finance Ministers

and Central Bank Governors in the first half of 2011; and, in Gyeongju, our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors called on the IMF to provide an assessment as part of the MAP on the progress toward external sustainability and the consistency of fiscal, monetary, financial sector, structural, exchange rate and other policies. In light of this, the first such assessment, to be based on the above mentioned indicative guidelines, will be initiated and undertaken in due course under the French Presidency.

- a modernized IMF that better reflects the changes in the world economy through greater representation of dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. These comprehensive quota and governance reforms, as outlined in the Seoul Summit Document, will enhance the IMF's legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness, making it an even stronger institution for promoting global financial stability and growth.
- instruments to strengthen global financial safety nets, which help countries cope with financial volatility by providing them with practical tools to overcome sudden reversals of international capital flows.
- core elements of a new financial regulatory framework, including bank capital and liquidity standards, as well as measures to better regulate and effectively resolve systemically important financial institutions, complemented by more effective oversight and supervision. This new framework, complemented by other achievements as outlined in the Seoul Summit Document, will ensure a more resilient financial system by reining in the past excesses of the financial sector and better serving the needs of our economies.
- the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth that sets out our commitment to work in partnership with other developing countries, and LICs in particular, to help them build the capacity to achieve and maximize their growth potential, thereby contributing to global rebalancing. The Seoul Consensus complements our commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and focuses on concrete measures as summarized in our Multi-Year Action Plan on Development to make a tangible and significant difference in people's lives, including in particular through the

development of infrastructure in developing countries.

- the Financial Inclusion Action Plan, the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion and a flexible SME Finance Framework, all of which will significantly contribute to improving access to financial services and expanding opportunities for poor households and small and medium enterprises.
 - our strong commitment to direct our negotiators to engage in across-the-board negotiations to promptly bring the Doha Development Round to a successful, ambitious, comprehensive, and balanced conclusion consistent with the mandate of the Doha Development Round and built on the progress already achieved. We recognize that 2011 is a critical window of opportunity, albeit narrow, and that engagement among our representatives must intensify and expand. We now need to complete the end game. Once such an outcome is reached, we commit to seek ratification, where necessary, in our respective systems. We are also committed to resisting all forms of protectionist measures.
10. We will continue to monitor and assess ongoing implementation of the commitments made today and in the past in a transparent and objective way. We hold ourselves accountable. What we promise, we will deliver.
11. Building on our achievements to date, we have agreed to work further on macro prudential policy frameworks; better reflect the perspective of emerging market economies in financial regulatory reforms; strengthen regulation and oversight of shadow banking; further work on regulation and supervision of commodity derivatives markets; improve market integrity and efficiency; enhance consumer protection; pursue all outstanding governance reform issues at the IMF and World Bank; and build a more stable and resilient international monetary system, including by further strengthening global financial safety nets. We will also expand our MAP based on the indicative guidelines to be agreed.
12. To promote resilience, job creation and mitigate risks for development, we will prioritize action under the Seoul Consensus on addressing critical bottlenecks, including infrastructure deficits, food market volatility, and exclusion from financial services.

13. To provide broader, forward-looking leadership in the post-crisis economy, we will also continue our work to prevent and tackle corruption through our Anti-Corruption Action Plan; rationalize and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies; mitigate excessive fossil fuel price volatility; safeguard the global marine environment; and combat the challenges of global climate change.

14. We reaffirm our resolute commitment to fight climate change, as reflected in the Leaders' Seoul Summit Document. We appreciate President Felipe Calderón's briefing on the status of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, as well as Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's briefing on the report of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing submitted to the UN Secretary-General. We will spare no effort to reach a balanced and successful outcome in Cancun.

15. We welcome the Fourth UN LDC Summit in Turkey and the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea, both to be held in 2011.

16. Recognizing the importance of private sector-led growth and job creation, we welcome the Seoul G20 Business Summit and look forward to continuing the G20 Business Summit in upcoming Summits.

17. The actions agreed today will help to further strengthen the global economy, accelerate job creation, ensure more stable financial markets, narrow the development gap and promote broadly shared growth beyond crisis.

18. We look forward to our next meeting in 2011 in France, and subsequent meeting in 2012 in Mexico.

19. We thank Korea for its G20 Presidency and for hosting the successful Seoul Summit.

20. The Seoul Summit Document, which we have agreed, follows.

THE SEOUL SUMMIT DOCUMENT

Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

1. Our unprecedented and highly coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus worked to bring back the global economy from the edge of a depression. This has highlighted that the world would benefit from more

effective international cooperation. In Pittsburgh, we launched the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth and committed to work together to assess the collective implications of our national policies on global growth and development, identify potential risks to the global economy, and take additional actions to achieve our shared objectives.

2. Since then, we have made important progress through our country-led, consultative Mutual Assessment Process (MAP) of the Framework: Ÿ Supportive economic policies have been put in place to promote ongoing recovery and job creation;

- Explicit commitments have been made to put public finances on a sustainable track;
- Strong measures have been adopted and are being implemented to safeguard the stability of our financial system;
- Important structural reforms have been launched and/or planned to boost global demand and potential growth; and
- Significant steps have been taken to strengthen the capacity of international financial institutions (IFIs) in support of development.

3. Since we last met, the global recovery continues to advance, but downside risks remain. We are resolved to do more. Our strengthened collaborative and collective policy actions can further safeguard the recovery and lay a solid foundation for our shared objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

The Seoul Action Plan

4. Today we are launching the Seoul Action Plan. We shaped the Plan with unity of purpose to:

- ensure an unwavering commitment to cooperation;
- outline an action-oriented plan with each member's concrete policy commitments; and
- deliver on all three objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

5. Specifically, we commit to actions in five policy areas with details of specific commitments by G20 members set out in the Supporting Document.

6. **Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies:** We reaffirm the importance of central banks' commitment to price stability, thereby contributing to the recovery and sustainable growth. We will move toward more market-determined exchange rate systems and enhance exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying economic fundamentals and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. Advanced economies, including those with reserve currencies, will be vigilant against excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates. Together these actions will help mitigate the risk of excessive volatility in capital flows facing some emerging market economies.

Nonetheless, in circumstances where countries are facing undue burden of adjustment, policy responses in emerging market economies with adequate reserves and increasingly overvalued flexible exchange rates may also include carefully designed macro-prudential measures. We will reinvigorate our efforts to promote a stable and well functioning international monetary system and call on the IMF to deepen its work in these areas.

7. **Trade and Development Policies:** 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. We reaffirm our commitment to avoid financial protectionism and are mindful of the risks of proliferation of measures that would damage investment and harm prospects for the global recovery. With developing countries' rising share in world output and trade, the goals of global growth, rebalancing and development are increasingly interlinked. We will focus efforts to resolve the most significant bottlenecks to inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in developing countries, low-income countries (LICs) in particular: infrastructure, human resources development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, financial inclusion, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing. In addition, we will take concrete actions to increase our financial and technical support, including fulfilling the Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments by advanced countries.

8. **Fiscal Policies:** Advanced economies will formulate and implement clear, credible, ambitious and growth-friendly medium-term fiscal consolidation plans in line with the Toronto commitment, differentiated according to national circumstances. We are mindful of the risk of synchronized adjustment on the global recovery and of the risk that failure to implement consolidation, where immediately necessary, would undermine confidence and growth.

9. **Financial Reforms:** We are committed to take action at the national and international level to raise standards, and ensure that our national authorities implement global standards developed to date, consistently, in a way that ensures a level playing field, a race to the top and avoids fragmentation of markets, protectionism and regulatory arbitrage. In particular, we will implement fully the new bank capital and liquidity standards and address too-big-to-fail problems. We agreed to further work on financial regulatory reforms.

10. **Structural Reforms:** We will implement a range of structural reforms to boost and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing, and increase our growth potential, and where needed undertake:

- Product market reforms to simplify regulation and reduce regulatory barriers in order to promote competition and enhance productivity in key sectors.
- Labor market and human resource development reforms, including better targeted benefits schemes to increase participation; education and training to increase employment in quality jobs, boost productivity and thereby enhance potential growth. Tax reform to enhance productivity by removing distortions and improving the incentives to work, invest and innovate.
- Green growth and innovation oriented policy measures to find new sources of growth and promote sustainable development.
- Reforms to reduce the reliance on external demand and focus more on domestic sources of growth in surplus countries while promoting higher national savings and enhancing export competitiveness in deficit countries.

- Reforms to strengthen social safety nets such as public health care and pension plans, corporate governance and financial market development to help reduce precautionary savings in emerging surplus countries.
- Investment in infrastructure to address bottlenecks and enhance growth potential. In pursuing these reforms, we will draw on the expertise of the OECD, IMF, World Bank, ILO and other international organizations.

11. MAP beyond the Seoul Summit: In addition, we will enhance the MAP to promote external sustainability. We will strengthen multilateral cooperation to promote external sustainability and pursue the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances and maintaining current account imbalances at sustainable levels. Persistently large imbalances, assessed against indicative guidelines to be agreed by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, warrant an assessment of their nature and the root causes of impediments to adjustment as part of the MAP, recognizing the need to take into account national or regional circumstances, including large commodity producers. These indicative guidelines composed of a range of indicators would serve as a mechanism to facilitate timely identification of large imbalances that require preventive and corrective actions to be taken. To support our efforts toward meeting these commitments, we call on our Framework Working Group, with technical support from the IMF and other international organizations, to develop these indicative guidelines, with progress to be discussed by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the first half of 2011; and, in Gyeongju, our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors called on the IMF to provide an assessment as part of the MAP on the progress toward external sustainability and the consistency of fiscal, monetary, financial sector, structural, exchange rate and other policies. In light of this, the first such assessment, to be based on the above mentioned indicative guidelines, will be initiated and undertaken in due course under the French Presidency.

12. We have a shared responsibility. Members with sustained, significant external deficits pledge to undertake policies to support private savings and where appropriate undertake fiscal consolidation while maintaining open markets and strengthening export sectors. Members

with sustained, significant external surpluses pledge to strengthen domestic sources of growth.

13. Recognizing the benefits of the Framework, we agreed to expend and refine the country-led, consultative MAP by including monitoring of the implementation of our commitments and assessment of our progress toward achieving our shared objectives. This process will be adopted in 2011 under the French Presidency.

International Financial Institution Reforms

14. When the world was in the middle of the global financial crisis, we met and agreed to provide the IFIs with the resources they needed to support the global economy. With our agreements to increase their resources substantially and endorse new lending instruments, the IFIs mobilized critical financing, including more than \$750 billion by the IMF and \$235 billion by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). Financial markets stabilized and the global economy started to recover. Even in the midst of the crisis, we knew that further reforms of the IFIs were required.

15. We committed to modernize the institutions fundamentally so that they better reflect changes in the world economy and can more effectively play their roles in promoting global financial stability, fostering development and improving the lives of the poorest. In June 2010, we welcomed the reforms to increase the voting power of developing and transition countries at the World Bank. We also remained committed to strengthening the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of the IMF through quota and governance reforms.

Modernized IMF governance

16. Today, we welcomed the ambitious achievements by the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at the Gyeongju meeting, and subsequent decision by the IMF, on a comprehensive package of IMF quota and governance reforms. The reforms are an important step toward a more legitimate, credible and effective IMF, by ensuring that quotas and Executive Board composition are more reflective of new global economic realities, and securing the IMF's status as a quota-based institution, with sufficient resources to support members' needs.

Consistent with our commitments at the Pittsburgh and Toronto Summits, and going even further in a number of areas, the reforms include:

- Shifts in quota shares to dynamic emerging market and developing countries and to under-represented countries of over 6%, while protecting the voting share of the poorest, which we commit to work to complete by the Annual Meetings in 2012.
- A doubling of quotas, with a corresponding rollback of the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) preserving relative shares, when the quota increase becomes effective.
- Continuing the dynamic process aimed at enhancing the voice and representation of emerging market and developing countries, including the poorest, through a comprehensive review of the quota formula by January 2013 to better reflect the economic weights; and through completion of the next general review of quotas by January 2014.
- Greater representation for emerging market and developing countries at the Executive Board through two fewer advanced European chairs, and the possibility of a second alternate for all multi-country constituencies.
- Moving to an all-elected Board, along with a commitment by the IMF's membership to maintain the Board size at 24 chairs, and following the completion of the 14th General Review, a review of the Board's composition every eight years.

17. We reiterate the urgency of promptly concluding the 2008 IMF Quota and Voice Reforms. We urge all G20 members participating in the expanded NAB to accelerate their procedures in completing the acceptance process. We ask the IMF to report on the progress, in accordance with agreed timelines, toward effective implementation of the 2010 quota and governance reforms to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at their periodic G20 meetings.

18. When combined with the already agreed voice reform of the World Bank, these represent significant achievements in modernizing our key IFIs. They will be even stronger players in promoting global financial stability and growth. We asked our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

to continue to pursue all outstanding governance reform issues at the World Bank and the IMF.

Surveillance

19. We recognize the importance of continuing the work on reforming the IMF's mission and mandate, including strengthening surveillance.

20. IMF surveillance should be enhanced to focus on systemic risks and vulnerabilities wherever they may lie. To this extent, we welcome the decision made by the IMF to make financial stability assessments under the Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) a regular and mandatory part of Article IV consultation for members with systemically important financial sectors. We call on the IMF to make further progress in modernizing the IMF's surveillance mandate and modalities. These should involve, in particular: strengthening bilateral and multilateral work on surveillance covering financial stability, macroeconomic, structural and exchange rate policies, with increased focus on systemic issues; enhancing synergies between surveillance tools; helping members to strengthen their surveillance capacity; and ensuring even-handedness, candor, and independence of surveillance. We welcome the IMF's work to conduct spillover assessments of the wider impact of systemic economies' policies.

Multilateral Development Banks

21. We reiterate our commitment to completing an ambitious replenishment for the concessional lending facilities of the MDBs, especially the International Development Association, to help ensure that LICs have access to sufficient concessional resources.

Strengthened global financial safety nets

22. As the global economy became more interconnected and integrated, the size and volatility of capital flows increased significantly. The increased volatility was a source of instability during the financial crisis. It even adversely affected countries with solid fundamentals and the effects were greater on those with more open economies. These problems persist. Current volatility of capital flows is reflecting the differing speed of recovery between advanced and emerging market

economies. National, regional and multilateral responses are required. Strengthened global financial safety nets can help

- Moving to an all-elected Board, along with a commitment by the IMF's membership to maintain the Board size at 24 chairs, and following the completion of the 14th General Review, a review of the Board's composition every eight years.

23. Therefore, we asked our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to prepare policy options to strengthen global financial safety nets for our consideration at this Summit.

24. We welcome the following achievements from our mandate:

- The enhancement of the Flexible Credit Line (FCL) including the extension of its duration and removal of the access cap. Countries with strong fundamentals and policies will have access to a refined FCL with enhanced predictability and effectiveness.
- The creation of the Precautionary Credit Line (PCL) as a new preventative tool. The PCL allows countries with sound fundamentals and policies, but moderate vulnerabilities, to benefit from the IMF's precautionary liquidity provision.
- The recent decision by the IMF to continue its work to further improve the global capacity to cope with shocks of a systemic nature, as well as the recent clarification of the procedures for synchronized approval of the FCLs for multiple countries, by which a number of countries affected by a common shock could concurrently seek access to FCL.
- The dialogue to enhance collaboration between Regional Financing Arrangements (RFAs) and the IMF, acknowledging the potential synergies from such collaboration.

25. Building on the achievements made to date on strengthening global financial safety nets, we need to do further work to improve our capacity to cope with future crises. Therefore, we asked our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to explore, with input from the IMF:

- A structured approach to cope with shocks of a systemic nature.
- Ways to improve collaboration between RFAs and the IMF across all possible areas and enhance the capability of RFAs for crisis prevention, while recognizing region specific circumstances and characteristics of each RFA.

26. Our goal is to build a more stable and resilient international monetary system. While the international monetary system has proved resilient, tensions and vulnerabilities are clearly apparent. We agreed to explore ways to further improve the international monetary system to ensure systemic stability in the global economy. We asked the IMF to deepen its work on all aspects of the international monetary system, including capital flow volatility. We look forward to reviewing further analysis and proposals over the next year.

Financial Sector Reforms

27. The global financial system came to a sudden halt in 2008 as a result of reckless and irresponsible risk taking by banks and other financial institutions, combined with major failures of regulation and supervision. While our initial priority was to move quickly to stabilize financial markets and restore the global flow of capital, we never lost sight of the need to address the root causes of the crisis. We took our first step at the Washington Summit, where we developed the Action Plan to Implement Principles for Reform. Since then, we built on the progress made in London, Pittsburgh, and Toronto, and together, took major strides toward fixing the financial system with the support from the international organizations, particularly the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

Transformed financial system to address the root causes of the crisis

28. Today, we have delivered core elements of the new financial regulatory framework to transform the global financial system.

29. We endorsed the landmark agreement reached by the BCBS on the new bank capital and liquidity framework, which increases the

resilience of the global banking system by raising the quality, quantity and international consistency of bank capital and liquidity, constrains the build-up of leverage and maturity mismatches, and introduces capital buffers above the minimum requirements that can be drawn upon in bad times. The framework includes an internationally harmonized leverage ratio to serve as a backstop to the risk-based capital measures. With this, we have achieved far-reaching reform of the global banking system. The new standards will markedly reduce banks' incentive to take excessive risks, lower the likelihood and severity of future crises, and enable banks to withstand - without extraordinary government support - stresses of a magnitude associated with the recent financial crisis. This will result in a banking system that can better support stable economic growth. We are committed to adopt and implement fully these standards within the agreed timeframe that is consistent with economic recovery and financial stability. The new framework will be translated into our national laws and regulations, and will be implemented starting on January 1, 2013 and fully phased in by January 1, 2019.

30. We reaffirmed our view that no firm should be too big or too complicated to fail and that taxpayers should not bear the costs of resolution. We endorsed the policy framework, work processes, and timelines proposed by the FSB to reduce the moral hazard risks posed by systemically important financial institutions (SIFIs) and address the too-big-to-fail problem. This requires a multi-pronged framework combining: a resolution framework and other measures to ensure that all financial institutions can be resolved safely, quickly and without destabilizing the financial system and exposing the taxpayers to the risk of loss; a requirement that SIFIs and initially in particular financial institutions that are globally systemic (G-SIFIs) should have higher loss absorbency capacity to reflect the greater risk that the failure of these firms poses to the global financial system; more intensive supervisory oversight; robust core financial market infrastructure to reduce contagion risk from individual failures; and other supplementary prudential and other requirements as determined by the national authorities which may include, in some circumstances, liquidity surcharges, tighter large exposure restrictions, levies and structural measures. In the context of

loss absorbency, we encourage further progress on the feasibility of contingent capital and other instruments. We encouraged the FSB, BCBS and other relevant bodies to complete their remaining work in accordance with the endorsed work processes and timelines in 2011 and 2012.

31. In addition, we agreed that G-SIFIs should be subject to a sustained process of mandatory international recovery and resolution planning. We agreed to conduct rigorous risk assessment on these firms through international supervisory colleges and negotiate institution-specific crisis cooperation agreements within crisis management groups. Regular peer reviews will be conducted by the FSB on the effectiveness and consistency of national policy measures for these firms.

32. We reaffirmed our Toronto commitment to national-level implementation of the BCBS's cross-border resolution recommendations. To support implementation at the national level, we welcomed the BCBS's planned stock taking exercise of these recommendations. We called on the FSB to build on this work and develop attributes of effective resolution regimes by 2011.

33. Delivering on our commitment in Toronto, we endorsed the policy recommendations prepared by the FSB in consultation with the IMF, on increasing supervisory intensity and effectiveness. We reaffirmed that the new financial regulatory framework must be complemented with more effective oversight and supervision. We agreed that supervisors should have strong and unambiguous mandates, sufficient independence to act, appropriate resources, and a full suite of tools and powers to proactively identify and address risks, including regular stress testing and early intervention.

Implementation and international assessment, including peer review

34. But our reform efforts are an ongoing process. It is essential that we fully implement the new standards and principles, in a way that ensures a level playing field, a race to the top and avoids fragmentation of markets, protectionism and regulatory arbitrage. We recognized different national starting points.

35. We reaffirmed today our full commitment to action and implementation.

36. At the national level, we will incorporate the new standards and principles into relevant legislation and policies. At the global level, international assessment and peer review processes should be substantially enhanced in order to ensure consistency in implementation across countries and identify areas for further improvement in standards and principles. In this regard, we recognized the value of the FSAP jointly undertaken by the IMF and the World Bank, and the FSB's peer review as means of fostering consistent cross-country implementation of international standards.

37. We also firmly recommitted to work in an internationally consistent and nondiscriminatory manner to strengthen regulation and supervision on hedge funds, OTC derivatives and credit rating agencies. We reaffirmed the importance of fully implementing the FSB's standards for sound compensation. We endorsed the FSB's recommendations for implementing OTC derivatives market reforms, designed to fully implement our previous commitments in an internationally consistent manner, recognizing the importance of a level playing field. We asked the FSB to monitor the progress regularly. We welcomed ongoing work by the Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) on central counterparty standards. We also endorsed the FSB's principles on reducing reliance on external credit ratings. Standard setters, market participants, supervisors and central banks should not rely mechanistically on external credit ratings. International recovery and resolution planning. We agreed to conduct rigorous risk assessment on these firms through international supervisory colleges and negotiate institution-specific crisis cooperation agreements within crisis management groups. Regular peer reviews will be conducted by the FSB on the effectiveness and consistency of national policy measures for these firms.

38. We re-emphasized the importance we place on achieving a single set of improved high quality global accounting standards and called on

the International Accounting Standards Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board to complete their convergence project by the end of 2011. We also encouraged the International Accounting Standards Board to further improve the involvement of stakeholders, including outreach to, and membership of, emerging market economies, in the process of setting the global standards, within the framework of independent accounting standard setting process.

39. In addition, we reiterated our commitment to preventing non-cooperative jurisdictions from posing risks to the global financial system and welcomed the ongoing efforts by the FSB, Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information (Global Forum), and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), based on comprehensive, consistent and transparent assessment. We reached agreement on:

- The FSB to determine by spring 2011 those jurisdictions that are not cooperating fully with the evaluation process or that show insufficient progress to address weak compliance with internationally agreed information exchange and cooperation standards, based on the recommended actions by the agreed timetable.
- The Global Forum to swiftly progress its Phase 1 and 2 reviews to achieve the objective agreed by Leaders in Toronto and report progress by November 2011. Reviewed jurisdictions identified as not having the elements in place to achieve an effective exchange of information should promptly address the weaknesses. We urge all jurisdictions to stand ready to conclude Tax Information Exchange Agreements where requested by a relevant partner.
- The FATF to pursue its successful work in identifying non-cooperative jurisdictions as well as regularly updating a public list on jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies, with next update being in February 2011.

40. We reaffirmed the FSB's role in coordinating at the international level the work of national financial authorities and international standard setting bodies in developing and promoting the implementation of

effective regulatory, supervisory and other financial sector policies in the interest of global financial stability. We asked the FSB to bring forward for review by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors well before our next meeting in 2011 proposals to strengthen its capacity, resources and governance to keep pace with growing demands. We welcomed the FSB's outreach. We endorsed the establishment of regional consultative groups. We welcomed the FSB report on progress in the implementation of G20 recommendations for strengthening financial stability and look forward to another progress report at our next meeting.

Future work: Issues that warrant more attention

41. While we have made significant progress in a number of areas, there still remain some issues that warrant more attention:

- *Further work on macro-prudential policy frameworks:* In order to deal with systemic risks in the financial sector in a comprehensive manner and on an ongoing basis, we called on the FSB, IMF and BIS to do further work on macro-prudential policy frameworks, including tools to mitigate the impact of excessive capital flows, and update our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at their next meeting. These frameworks should take into account national and regional arrangements. We look forward to a joint report which should elaborate on the progress achieved in identification of best practices, which will be the basis for establishing in the future international principles or guidelines on the design and implementation of the frameworks.
- *Addressing regulatory reform issues pertaining specifically to emerging market and developing economies:* We agreed to work on financial stability issues that are of particular interest to emerging market and developing economies, and called on the FSB, IMF and World Bank to develop and report before the next Summit. These issues could include: the management of foreign exchange risks by financial institutions, corporations and households; emerging market and developing economies' regulatory and supervisory capacity where necessary, including with regard to local branches of foreign financial institutions which

are systemic in their host country and development of deposit insurance schemes; financial inclusion; information sharing between home and host supervisory authorities on cross border financial institutions; and trade finance.

- *Strengthening regulation and supervision of shadow banking:* With the completion of the new standards for banks, there is a potential that regulatory gaps may emerge in the shadow banking system. Therefore, we called on the FSB to work in collaboration with other international standard setting bodies to develop recommendations to strengthen the regulation and oversight of the shadow banking system by mid-2011.
- *Further work on regulation and supervision of commodity derivative markets:* We called especially on IOSCO's taskforce on commodity futures markets to report to the FSB for consideration of next steps in April 2011 on its important work.
- *Improving market integrity and efficiency:* We called on IOSCO to develop by June 2011 and report to the FSB recommendations to promote markets' integrity and efficiency to mitigate the risks posed to the financial system by the latest technological developments.
- *Enhancing consumer protection:* We asked the FSB to work in collaboration with the OECD and other international organizations to explore, and report back by the next summit, on options to advance consumer finance protection through informed choice that includes disclosure, transparency and education; protection from fraud, abuse and errors; and recourse and advocacy.

Fighting Protectionism and Promoting Trade and Investment

42. Recognizing the importance of free trade and investment for global recovery, we are committed to keeping markets open and liberalizing trade and investment as a means to promote economic progress for all and narrow the development gap. The importance of free trade and open markets is illustrated by the joint report of the OECD, ILO, World Bank and WTO on the benefits of trade liberalization for employment

and growth. These trade and investment liberalization measures will help achieve the G20 Framework objectives for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and must be complemented by our unwavering commitment to resist protectionism in all its forms. We therefore reaffirm the extension of our standstill commitments until the end of 2013 as agreed in Toronto, commit to rollback any new protectionist measures that may have risen, including 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.

43. With respect to the WTO Doha Development Round, we welcome the broader and more substantive engagement of the past four months among our representatives in Geneva. Bearing in mind that 2011 is a critical window of opportunity, albeit narrow, this engagement must intensify and expand. We now need to complete the end game. We direct our negotiators to engage in across-the-board negotiations to promptly bring the Doha Development Round to a successful, ambitious, comprehensive, and balanced conclusion consistent with the mandate of the Doha Development Round and built on the progress achieved. Once such an outcome is reached, we commit to seek ratification, where necessary, in our respective systems.

44. We strongly believe that trade can be an effective tool for reducing poverty and enhancing economic growth in developing countries, LICs in particular. To support LIC capacity to trade, we welcome the adoption of the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development. We note our commitment to at least maintain, beyond 2011, Aid for Trade levels that reflect the average of the last three years (2006 to 2008); to make progress toward duty-free quota-free market access for least developed country (LDC) products in line with our Hong Kong commitments, without prejudice to other negotiations, including as regards preferential rules of origin; to call on relevant international agencies to coordinate a collective multilateral response to support trade facilitation; and to support measures to increase the availability of trade finance in developing countries, particularly LICs. In this respect, we also agree to monitor and assess trade finance programs in support of developing countries,

in particular their coverage and impact on LICs, and to evaluate the impact of regulatory regimes on trade finance.

45. We recognize the potential for faster growth in Africa, which could be unlocked by African plans for deeper regional economic integration. We therefore commit to support the regional integration efforts of African leaders, including by helping to realize their vision of a free trade area through the promotion of trade facilitation and regional infrastructure. We call on the MDBs and WTO to collaborate with us in supporting this endeavor.

Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth

46. The crisis disproportionately affected the most vulnerable in the poorest countries and slowed progress toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As the premier economic forum, we recognize the need to strengthen and leverage our development efforts to address such challenges.

47. At the same time, narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to achieving our broader Framework objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth by generating new poles of growth and contributing to global rebalancing. We are therefore using our best efforts for a rapid increase in the share of global growth and prosperity for developing countries, LICs in particular. our unwavering commitment to resist protectionism in all its forms. We therefore reaffirm the extension of our standstill commitments until the end of 2013 as agreed in Toronto, commit to rollback any new protectionist measures that may have risen, including 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.

48. We commit to work in partnership with other developing countries, LICs in particular, to help them build the capacity to achieve and maintain their maximum economic growth potential. We have thus developed a consensus for the G20's contribution to global development efforts in line with our Toronto mandate.

49. We endorse today the **Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth** (Annex I) and its **Multi-Year Action Plan on Development** (Annex II).

50. The Seoul Consensus and the Multi-Year Action Plan are based on six core principles:

- First, an enduring and meaningful reduction in poverty cannot be achieved without inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth, while the provision of ODA, as well as the mobilization of all other sources of financing, remain essential to the development of most LICs.
- Second, we recognize that while there are common factors, there is no single formula for development success. We must therefore engage other developing countries as partners, respecting national ownership of a country's policies as the most important determinant of its successful development, thereby helping to ensure strong, responsible, accountable and transparent development partnerships between the G20 and LICs.
- Third, our actions must prioritize global or regional systemic issues that call for collective action and have the potential for transformative impact.
- Fourth, we recognize the critical role of the private sector to create jobs and wealth, and the need for a policy environment that supports sustainable private sector-led investment and growth.
- Fifth, we will maximize our value-added and complement the development efforts of other key players by focusing on areas where the G20 has a comparative advantage or could add momentum.
- And finally, we will focus on tangible outcomes of significant impact that remove blockages to improving growth prospects in developing countries, especially LICs.

51. The Seoul Consensus also identifies nine key pillars where we believe actions are necessary to resolve the most significant bottlenecks

to inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in developing countries, LICs in particular: infrastructure, human resource development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, financial inclusion, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing. The Multi-Year Action Plan then outlines the specific, detailed actions to which we commit in order to address these bottlenecks, including to:

- a) Facilitate increased investment from public, semi-public and private sources and improve the implementation and maintenance of national and regional infrastructure projects in sectors where there are bottlenecks. We agree to establish a High-Level Panel (HLP) to recommend measures to mobilize infrastructure financing and review MDBs' policy frameworks. We will announce the Chair of the HLP by December 2010;
- b) Improve the development of employable skills matched to employer and labor market needs in order to enhance the ability to attract investment, create decent jobs and increase productivity. We will support the development of internationally comparable skills indicators and the enhancement of national strategies for skills development, building on the G20 Training Strategy;
- c) Improve the access and availability to trade with advanced economies and between developing and LICs. Our action plans on trade are discussed in paragraphs 42 to 45 above;
- d) Identify, enhance and promote responsible private investment in value chains and develop key indicators for measuring and maximizing the economic and employment impact of private sector investment;
- e) Enhance food security policy coherence and coordination and increase agricultural productivity and food availability, including by advancing innovative results-based mechanisms, promoting responsible agriculture investment, fostering smallholder agriculture, and inviting relevant international organizations to develop, for our 2011 Summit in France, proposals to better manage and mitigate risks of food price volatility without distorting

market behavior. We also welcome the progress of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, as well as that of other bilateral and multilateral channels, including the UN Committee on World Food Security, and invite further contributions;

- f) Improve income security and resilience to adverse shocks by assisting developing countries enhance social protection programs, including through further implementation of the UN Global Pulse Initiative, and by facilitating implementation of initiatives aimed at a quantified reduction of the average cost of transferring remittances;
- g) Increase access to finance for the poor and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Our action plans for financial inclusion and associated implementation mechanisms are discussed in paragraphs 55 to 57 below;
- h) Build sustainable revenue bases for inclusive growth and social equity by improving developing country tax administration systems and policies and highlighting the relationship between non-cooperative jurisdictions and development; and
- i) Scale up and mainstream sharing of knowledge and experience, especially between developing countries, in order to improve their capacity and ensure that the broadest range of experiences are used to help tailor national policies.

52. We commit to and prioritize full, timely and effective implementation of the Multi-Year Action Plan, understanding its high potential to have a positive transformative impact on people's lives, both through our individual and collective actions and in partnership with other global development stakeholders. We will continue to work closely with relevant international organizations to push these actions forward.

53. We reaffirm our commitment to achievement of the MDGs and will align our work in accordance with globally agreed development principles for sustainable economic, social and environmental development, to complement the outcomes of the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs held in September 2010 in New York, as well as with

processes such as the Fourth UN LDC Summit in Turkey and the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea, both to be held in 2011. We also reaffirm our respective ODA pledges and commitments to assist the poorest countries and mobilize domestic resources made following on from the Monterrey Consensus and other fora.

54. We further mandate the Development Working Group to monitor implementation of the Multi-Year Action Plan, so that we may review progress and consider the need for any further steps at the 2011 Summit in France. Development based on the Seoul Consensus will therefore be an enduring part of future G20 Summits. What we promise, we will deliver.

Financial Inclusion

55. We reiterate our strong commitment to financial inclusion and recognize the benefits of improved access to finance to lift the lives of the poor and to support the contribution of SMEs to economic development. We welcome the stock taking report on successful and scalable models of SME financing in developing economies. We have developed the Financial Inclusion Action Plan based on our Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion as the work program for the coming year.

56. Working with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the International Finance Corporation, we commit to launch the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPMI) as an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries and relevant stakeholders to carry forward our work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan. The GPMI's efforts over the next year will include helping countries put into practice the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, strengthening data for measuring financial inclusion, and developing methodologies for countries wishing to set targets. We agree that the GPMI should report to us on its progress at our 2011 Summit in France.

57. Recognizing the vital role of SMEs in employment and income generation, we welcome the strong response to the G20 SME Finance

Challenge and the innovative models for scaling up private SME finance that have emerged from the competition and congratulate the winners. We have constructed a flexible SME Finance Framework to mobilize grant, risk capital and private financing by using existing funding mechanisms and the new SME Finance Innovation Fund to finance the winning proposals and other successful SME financing models. We welcome the commitment of Canada, Korea, the United States and the Inter-American Development Bank of \$528 million to the Framework through grants and co-financing.

Energy

Fossil Fuel Subsidies

58. We reaffirm our commitment to rationalize and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, with timing based on national circumstances, while providing targeted support for the poorest. We direct our Finance and Energy Ministers to report back on the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies and in achieving the goals to which we agreed in Pittsburgh and Toronto at the 2011 Summit in France.

59. We note the preliminary report of the IEA, World Bank and OECD and ask these organizations, together with OPEC, to further assess and review the progress made in implementing the Pittsburgh and Toronto commitments and report back to the 2011 Summit in France.

60. We recognize the value of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and capacity with respect to programs and policies that phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Fossil Fuel Price Volatility

61. We recognize the importance of a well-functioning and transparent market in oil for world economic growth. We strongly support the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) and ask the IEF, IEA and OPEC for a report suggesting specific steps in order to improve the quality, timeliness and reliability of the JODI Database. The report should include a proposed timeframe and implementation strategy, which will explore the ways to

improve data availability on oil production, consumption, refining and stock levels, as appropriate. An intermediate report should be submitted to the February 2011 Finance Ministers' meeting, with the final report submitted to the April 2011 Finance Ministers' meeting. We also request the IEF, IEA, OPEC and IOSCO to produce a joint report, by the April 2011 Finance Ministers' meeting, on how the oil spot market prices are assessed by oil price reporting agencies and how this affects the transparency and functioning of oil markets.

62. We support the establishment of the IEF charter to strengthen the producer-consumer dialogue, and welcome the IEF plan, developed in cooperation with the IEA and OPEC, to hold an annual symposium with major relevant institutions on energy market outlooks. We call on the IEF, IEA and OPEC to produce a joint report and common communiqué, highlighting their respective outlooks and their short, medium and long-term forecasts for oil market supply and demand. We welcome their ongoing work on the linkages between oil physical and financial markets.

63. Welcoming the June and November 2010 IOSCO reports, we ask IOSCO to further monitor developments in the oil OTC markets and report to the FSB for consideration of next steps, for improved regulation and enhanced transparency of the oil financial market in April 2011 by Finance Ministers and other relevant Ministers, informed by the work of the Energy Experts Group. We ask the Energy Experts Group to extend its work on volatility to other fossil fuels as a second step.

Global Marine Environment Protection

64. We welcome the progress achieved by the Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) initiative toward the goal of sharing best practices to protect the marine environment, to prevent accidents related to offshore exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We recognize the work done by the GMEP Experts Sub-Group and take note of the progress made on reviewing international regulation of offshore oil and gas exploration, production and transport with respect to marine environmental protection as a first step to implement the Toronto mandate.

65. Future work on the GMEP initiative should benefit from relevant findings, as they become available, from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the United States and the Montara Commission of Inquiry in Australia. We ask the GMEP Experts Sub-Group to provide a further report, with the support of the IMO, OECD, IEA, OPEC, International Regulators Forum, and International Association of Drilling Contractors and, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to continue work on the effective sharing of best practices at the 2011 Summit in France.

Climate Change and Green Growth

66. Addressing the threat of global climate change is an urgent priority for all nations. We reiterate our commitment to take strong and action-oriented measures and remain fully dedicated to UN climate change negotiations. We reaffirm the objective, provisions, and the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We thank Mexico for hosting the UNFCCC negotiations to be held in Cancun beginning at the end of November 2010. Those of us who have associated with the Copenhagen Accord reaffirm our support for it and its implementation. We all are committed to achieving a successful, balanced result that includes the core issues of mitigation, transparency, finance, technology, adaptation, and forest preservation. In this regard, we welcome the work of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing established by the UN Secretary-General and ask our Finance Ministers to consider its report. We also support and encourage the delivery of fast-start finance commitments.

67. The ongoing loss of biodiversity is a global environmental and economic challenge. Both climate change and loss of biodiversity are inextricably linked. We acknowledge the outcomes of the global study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity. We welcome the successful conclusion of COP10 in Nagoya.

68. We are committed to support country-led green growth policies that promote environmentally sustainable global growth along with employment creation while ensuring energy access for the poor. We

recognize that sustainable green growth, as it is inherently a part of sustainable development, is a strategy of quality development, enabling countries to leapfrog old technologies in many sectors, including through the use of energy efficiency and clean technology. To that end, we will take steps to create, as appropriate, the enabling environments that are conducive to the development and deployment of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, including policies and practices in our countries and beyond, including technical transfer and capacity building. We support the ongoing initiatives under the Clean Energy Ministerial and encourage further discussion on cooperation in R&D and regulatory measures, together with business leaders, and ask our Energy Experts Group to monitor and report back to us on progress at the 2011 Summit in France. We also commit to stimulate investment in clean energy technology, energy and resource efficiency, green transportation, and green cities by mobilizing finance, establishing clear and consistent standards, developing long-term energy policies, supporting education, enterprise and R&D, and continuing to promote cross-border collaboration and coordination of national legislative approaches.

Anti-Corruption

69. Recognizing that corruption is a severe impediment to economic growth and development, we endorse the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan (Annex III). Building on previous declarations, and cognizant of our role as leaders of major trading nations, we recognize a special responsibility to prevent and tackle corruption and commit to supporting a common approach to building an effective global anti-corruption regime.

70. In this regard, we will lead by example in key areas as detailed in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, including: to accede or ratify and effectively implement the UN Convention against Corruption and promote a transparent and inclusive review process; adopt and enforce laws against the bribery of foreign public officials; prevent access of corrupt officials to the global financial system; consider a cooperative framework for the denial of entry to corrupt officials, extradition, and asset recovery; protect whistleblowers; safeguard anticorruption bodies. We are also committed to undertake a

dedicated effort to encourage public-private partnerships to tackle corruption and to engage the private sector in the fight against corruption, with a view to promoting propriety, integrity and transparency in the conduct of business affairs, as well as in the public sector.

71. The G20 will hold itself accountable for its commitments. Beyond our participation in existing mechanisms of peer review for international anti-corruption standards, we mandate the Anti-Corruption Working Group to submit annual reports on the implementation of our commitments to future Summits for the duration of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

Business Summit

72. Recognizing the importance of private sector-led growth and job creation, we welcome the Seoul G20 Business Summit held on November 10 and 11 that convened global business leaders under the theme "The Role of Business for Sustainable and Balanced Growth". We look forward to continuing the G20 Business Summit in upcoming Summits.

Consultation

73. We recognize, given the broad impact of our decisions, the necessity to consult with the wider international community. We will increase our efforts to conduct G20 consultation activities in a more systematic way, building on constructive partnerships with international organizations, in particular the UN, regional bodies, civil society, trade unions and academia.

74. Bearing in mind the importance of the G20 being both representative and effective as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation, we reached a broad consensus on a set of principles for non-member invitations to Summits, including that we will invite no more than five non-member invitees, of which at least two will be countries in Africa.

Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth

"Narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to our broader objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all."

—Toronto Declaration, June 26-27, 2010

In the wake of the most severe economic shock in recent history, the G20 has the opportunity to contribute to the reconstruction of the world economy in a form conducive to strong, sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth. Through the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, we seek to add value to and complement existing development commitments, particularly those made at the recent High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, and in other fora.

Why Growth Must be Shared

At Pittsburgh we agreed to work together in an unprecedented process of mutual assessment to ensure our individual economic policies collectively achieved an outcome of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. This Framework was borne of a recognition that for the world to enjoy continuing levels of prosperity it must find new drivers of aggregate demand and more enduring sources of global growth. We recognize as a crucial part of this exercise that we need to enhance the role of developing countries and low income countries (LICs) in particular, for the following reasons:

- First, because for prosperity to be sustained it must be shared.
- Second, because we acknowledge that the impact of the recent crisis demonstrated a global interconnectedness that is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable in the poorest countries. It has been estimated that, as a result of the recent crisis, an additional 64 million people will be living in extreme poverty (i.e., living on less than USD 1.25 a day) by the end of 2010. We therefore have a responsibility to fulfill.

- Third, as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation, because the G20 has a role to play, complementing the efforts of aid donors, the UN system, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other agencies, in assisting developing countries, particularly LICs, achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Our role must relate to our mandate on global economic cooperation and recognize that consistently high levels of inclusive growth in developing countries, and LICs in particular, are critically necessary, if not sufficient, for the eradication of extreme poverty.
- Fourth, because the rest of the global economy, in its quest for diversifying the sources of global demand and destinations for investing surpluses, needs developing countries and LICs to become new poles of global growth - just as fast growing emerging markets have become in the recent past. Our overarching objective of helping LICs improve and maintain the levels and quality of growth, thereby reducing poverty, improving human rights and creating decent jobs, requires strengthening the relationships among high, middle and low income countries. This entails promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development; honoring equity in the partnerships that exist; building stronger and more effective partnerships among advanced countries, emerging countries and LICs; engaging the private sector and civil society; and refocusing our priorities and efforts to remove the bottlenecks for LIC growth. We further believe there is no "one-size-fits-all" formula for development success and that developing countries must take the lead in designing and implementing development strategies tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

G20 Development Principles

We therefore commit ourselves to a Multi-Year Action Plan to achieve these objectives. This Plan will be based on the following principles, intended to capture the key characteristics of our actions and policies:

1. **Focus on economic growth.** Be economic-growth oriented and

consistent with the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, which requires narrowing of the development gap. More robust and sustainable economic growth in LICs will also go hand-in-hand with their capacity to achieve the MDGs. Actions and policies should have the capacity to significantly improve the prospects for inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth above business as usual.

2. **Global development partnership.** Engage developing countries, particularly LICs, as equal partners, respecting their national ownership and recognizing that the most important determinant of successful development is a country's own development policy. Ensure that actions foster strong, responsible, accountable and transparent development partnerships between the G20 and LICs.
3. **Global or regional systemic issues.** Prioritize actions that tackle global or regional systemic issues such as regional integration where the G20 can help to catalyze action by drawing attention to key challenges and calling on international institutions, such as MDBs, to respond. Focus on systemic issues where there is a need for collective and coordinated action, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, to create synergies for maximum development impact.
4. **Private sector participation.** Promote private sector involvement and innovation, recognizing the unique role of the private sector as a rich source of development knowledge, technology and job creation. Encourage specific ways to stimulate and leverage the flows of private capital for development, including by reducing risks and improving the investment climate and market size.
5. **Complementarity.** Differentiate, yet complement existing development efforts, avoiding duplication, and strategically focus on areas where the G20 has a comparative advantage and can add value focusing on its core mandate as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.
6. **Outcome orientation.** Focus on feasible, practical and accountable measures to address clearly articulated problems

that are serious blockages to significantly improving growth prospects for developing countries. Such measures should have the potential to provide tangible outcomes and be significant in impact. Implementation of G20 action on development should be monitored through an adequate accountability framework.

In close consultation with our developing country and LIC partners, as well as relevant international and regional organizations with development expertise, we have also identified nine areas, or "key pillars," where we believe action and reform are most critical to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth and resilience in developing countries and LICs. These areas are: **infrastructure, private investment and job creation, human resource development, trade, financial inclusion, growth with resilience, food security, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing.** Creating optimal conditions for strong, sustainable and resilient economic growth in developing countries will require reform and transformation across each of these interlinked and mutually reinforcing key pillars. Guided by our development principles and oriented around the key pillars, we have developed the following Multi-Year Action Plan on Development. We believe these action plans address some of the most critical bottlenecks to strong and sustainable economic growth and resilience in developing countries, in particular LICs, and have high potential for transformative, game-changing impact on people's lives, helping to narrow the development gap, improve human rights and promote gender equality. We commit to full, timely and effective implementation of these action plans and, to this end, will continue to closely monitor their progress, in synergy with other processes, including preparations for the Fourth High- Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Korea in late 2011.



120. Media Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh onboard his special flight returning from Seoul to New Delhi.

November 12, 2010.

Prime Minister: We have had a very fruitful G20 meeting. Much of the G20 is work in progress. But as I have said in my opening remarks, we have achieved quite a lot in two years since its inception. The Seoul meeting has delivered the following concrete things:

First, completion of the second stage of IMF quota reforms and restructuring of the executive board of the fund, with new and more flexible credit lines.

Two, BASEL III, a key pillar of the global financial reforms. Much more remains to be done by the financial stability board which has now been democratised to include all G20 members.

Three, agreement on the macroeconomic mutual assessment process to be reviewed in the next G20 meeting. This is a complex process but it is the first step towards country led policy coordination.

Fourth, putting development on the agenda of the G20. A high level panel has been mandated to look at ways of financing infrastructure development in developing countries using private, public and semi public means. In addition, there was a discussion on the prospects for the Doha round of trade negotiations, and also the prospects for the Cancun Summit on environment related issues. So on the whole, the meeting did yield positive results, and as far as what I said in my speech at the meeting is already made available to you. So I believe you have seen it.

Question: Financial sector development council, do you approve of such a measure and do you see India playing an interlocutory role in G20 between surplus and deficit countries?

Prime Minister: No there is no such possibility. Our reforms are well thought of. They were in response to the needs of the time. And our requirements will be the sole determinant of what type of reforms we wish to do. But we do want, I think, a reformed system, which is internationally accepted

because that is the way in which an interdependent world can manage flows of capital from one country to the other.

We have a trade deficit of about 7-8% of our GDP. We have a current account deficit of about 2.5 to 3% of our GDP. We are not piling up reserves. So we are not creating any problems for the functioning of the global system. We are not a surplus country in that sense, we have a deficit, but our deficit will and has been managed within the limits of prudence.

Question: What do you envisage as the counters of the new financial order in the world? Will it supplement IMF?

Prime Minister: It is too early to speculate on the final shape of the new financial order. As I said, much of it is work in progress. I think, several ideas are under discussion. A dialogue is taking place at different forums. It is very difficult for me to predict where they will all go.

Question: On capital flows, China and Germany have taken on US. Can we afford to be sanguine about it, given the inflationary risks.

Prime Minister: Well, capital flows can create problems but we are not in that stage where capital flows can become a major problem. We will manage our affairs in such a manner that capital flows do not give rise to the type of inflationary problems that you have referred.

Question: Most of what you said in your speech at the plenary seems to have been included in the G20 final communiqué. Is it the victory of Dr. Manmohan Singh, that you influenced the final communiqué?

Prime Minister: Well I do not claim victory. These are ideas which are under discussion in various fora. The Sherpas have been discussing these ideas and it is a process of give and take. But I do claim some credit that in my speech, I brought the development issue into the very forefront of sustainable, manageable growth process, that you should not only look at mainly surpluses and deficits but you should also see that these imbalances become an opportunity to deal with a more fundamental imbalance which is the development gap between the rich and poor countries. And that point, after I made that in my opening speech, was caught up by several other speakers and they complimented that I focussed and brought development to the forefront of the international dialogue.

*

*

*

*

Question: BASEL III issue.... there were some concerns whether India even needs to adopt it, do we need to rush into it?

Prime Minister: Well there is no question of rushing into it. If I remember it correctly, even the BASEL draft has to be adopted by the year 2018-19. So I think there is a fair amount of time available for us to decide what to do on our own.

Question: Proposal to recycle surpluses for infrastructure development...is there a need to limiting inflows into infrastructure in developed countries?

Prime Minister: Infrastructure is one critical bottleneck which is hampering the development of large number of developing countries, both in Asia, Africa and Latin America. And you have a queer situation, in a more rational world, capital should flow from rich countries to poor countries. Here capital is flowing from developing countries to rich countries and there is I think some oddity in this whole process. What I was saying was that these imbalances should be invitations to bring about a new order, where surplus capital would become available to poor countries to accelerate the process of their development. If it comes about, I think then it would greatly accelerate the process of growth of poorer countries.

Question: In your speech you said there would be fiscal consolidation, does India plan to further stay on the fiscal stimulus path?

Prime Minister: I think, we have now moved to a stage that we cautiously are working toward financial consolidation. Monetary policy measures have been taken by the Reserve Bank and gradually, our fiscal system will also move in the direction of consolidation.

Question: Sir, The G-20 journey which starting from Toronto.... How would you describe the journey of the G20 so far....from Toronto to Seoul?

Prime Minister: As I told you just now, three or four issues which I mentioned, there has been progress. IMF quota reforms...new facilities in the IMF and the development issue brought explicitly on the agenda of the Group of 20, then the mutual adjustment process of determining what the surplus countries should do, what deficit countries should do. That is the process which has got the approval of the Group but it is a complicated

process. It will require lot of effort to work out operational rules of the game for working of the mutual assessment process.

Question: How have the developed countries responded to your speech today?

Prime Minister: The very fact that development has been explicitly put on the agenda of the Group of 20, there is progress.

Question: Investment in infrastructure.... there are so many delays in projects...

Prime Minister: Well, these are our internal concerns. We have to ensure that projects, good projects come on the agenda for consideration, that project management is satisfactory, that people find these investments in these projects worthwhile,. All that the money from abroad can do is, if a country is well managed, if it has projects which are well designed, if it has a domestic policy framework which is attractive enough for investors, then money will become available. It does not mean that money will flow freely regardless of what we do with the money.

Question: You shared a close relationship with President Bush and you seem to have struck personal chemistry with President Obama as well...how would you describe...

Prime Minister: Well I have answered that question several times before. I think President Bush, when the first time I met him, he introduced me to his wife and said, " Laura, do you know of any other country of 1.2 billion people committed to democracy, committed to respect for fundamental human freedom, committed to the rule of law and yet doing well in terms of the development agenda." So it was India's attractiveness, India is a unique country, that with all our diversity, with all the complexities of caste, of religion, that we remain a functioning democracy, that we can manage to grow at 8-9% growth rate. So it is really a tribute to India that attracted George Bush and same thing I find in President Obama. His speech to our Parliament, his idea of India that he talked about in his speeches, is a reflection of the uniqueness of India as a functioning democracy, committed to the rule of law, committed to respect for fundamental human freedoms and yet managing to grow at a respectable rate. So this is a tribute to India and not a tribute to me. What I am is because what India has made me.

Question: Many congratulations for the speech you delivered at the G-20, and it was endorsed by every one. Is there going to be any improvement in the life of the common man of India? What would be the benefits to the common man in India out of this G20 exercise?

Prime Minister: That development in India, the pace at which we should have progressed, we have to still to do a lot for that internally; along side international environment has to be such in which trade flows should be encouraged, where capital can flow in, where technology transfer is easy and therefore India has a stake in the functioning of the international economic system. G20 is charged with the responsibility to deal with the imbalances that have now crippled the international financial system. India has a vested interest that the international financial system should be restructured, it should be well managed because that would mean accelerated growth in our country, that would mean our ability to create jobs for our people will improve.

Question: What is your view of the valuation of the Chinese currency?

Prime Minister: Well, Chinese have the surplus which is I think, no body can deny, but the relation between surplus countries and deficit countries is not a technical issue. If you go back to the Bretton Woods debate, there was at that very time, there was a Keynes plan, there was a White Plan, and Keynes was of the view that surplus countries have as much responsibility to take adjustment measures as the deficit countries, but the international financial mechanism is essentially a power mechanism, and the way the international financial system functions, so far creditors countries have always been able to have their way. Now, G20 wants to have a more balanced system, where both surplus and deficit countries would have to take corrective action. But what that corrective action should be, I think, that will be something which will emerge out of this MAP process that has got the approval of G20.

Question: You had meetings with UK and Mexico leadership in which, we learnt you felt that it is difficult to have consensus of what ails the global economy...

Prime Minister: Quite frankly, it will take a long time before I think, people agree upon the diagnosis for this malaise. I think some point to the Chinese, the Chinese say the real problems are in the United States because of

easy money, loose money and if you ask the Americans, they will say that it is because some surplus countries are keeping their exchange rates deliberately undervalued. Now this is a situation which required corrective action, but who should take these corrective actions, surplus countries or deficit countries. This will emerge only if the MAP process is allowed to take shape.

Question: Do you feel that after the G20 Summit, the tension between China and US on their exchange rate issue has reduced?

Prime Minister: I think US & China have very intimate economic relations. I don't see, for example, the exchange rates controversy will affect very substantially, I think, the development of relations. Certainly the economic relations between China and the United States cannot, I think...be...(inaudible).. I do not think that their relationship will suffer.

*

*

*

*



121. Extract relevant to G-20 Summit from the Suo Motu Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on Prime Ministers visits abroad.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

*

*

*

*

G-20 Summit

25 The G-20 Seoul Summit organised under the theme 'Shared Growth Beyond Crisis' was attended by G-20 members alongwith Ethiopia (chair of NEPAD or the New Partnership of Africa's Development), Malawi (chair of African Union), Vietnam (chair of ASEAN), Spain and Singapore. The United Nations, World Bank, IMF, ILO, WTO, FSB and OECD were also represented.

26 . The Summit meeting was fruitful and it delivered the Seoul Action Plan based on a review of the global economic situation and the progress

of the 'Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth' pertaining to country specific mutual assessment process (MAP) or peer review. The Summit mandated further country-led work under the Framework Working Group (co-chaired by Canada and India) regarding 'indicative guidelines' in the context of global imbalances with technical support from IMF and other international organisations for consideration by the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

27. The Summit endorsed international financial institutions (IFI) reforms, in particular the shift in IMF quota share of over 6% in favour of the emerging market and developing countries (EMDCs) by 2012. The Summit also endorsed the financial regulatory reforms by way of Basel-III agreements for implementation upto 2019.

28. Firmly putting development on the agenda of the G-20, the Summit approved the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth which marked the launch of an ambitious G-20 development agenda. This G-20 development dimension is based on six principles, i.e. focus on economic growth, global development partnership, global or regional systemic issues, private sector participation, complementarity and outcome orientation. The G-20 Multi-Year Action Plan comprises nine development pillars, viz. Infrastructure (including a High-Level Panel on infrastructure financing), human resources development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, domestic resource mobilisation, knowledge sharing and financial inclusion.

29. The Summit adopted the G-20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

30. The Summit reiterated the commitment against protectionism in all its forms. It sent a strong political impetus for completing WTO's Doha Development Round of trade negotiations during 2011.

31. The Summit provided a political message for the success of climate change negotiations at the forthcoming UNFCCC COP-16 meeting in December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

32. The Summit addressed the issue of global imbalances. In this context, Prime Minister stated at the Summit that "Recycling surplus

savings into investment in developing countries will not only address the immediate demand imbalance, it will also help to address developmental imbalances. In other words, we should leverage imbalances of one kind to redress imbalances of the other kind." Prime Minister's statement was endorsed most positively by a number of Heads of State and Government attending the Summit including the leaders from Africa.

33. We view the outcome of the G-20 Seoul Summit as positive. Our efforts were successful in bringing the development issue into the very forefront of the sustainable, manageable growth process and we stressed the need to address the fundamental imbalance which is the development imbalance between rich and poor countries. We are committed to engaging proactively and constructively with our G-20 partners for implementing the decisions of the past G-20 Summits including the recent Seoul Summit, as we move forward to the next i.e. sixth G-20 Summit in Cannes, France in November 2011.

34. On the sidelines of the Seoul Summit, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Leaders of Canada, Ethiopia, Mexico and UK as well as the Secretary-General of UN during which they discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(For full text of the Statement please see Document No.024.)



SAARC**122. Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Thimphu for SAARC Summit.****New Delhi, April 22, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening to you and thanks for waiting. As you know Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh is leaving for Thimphu soon to attend the sixteenth SAARC Summit. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, is here to brief you about PM's visit. She would be making an opening statement and thereafter would be happy to take a few questions. Let me also introduce my colleague Joint Secretary (SAARC) Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who is sitting to the right of Foreign Secretary. Ma'am the floor is yours.

Foreign Secretary (Smt. Nirupama Rao): Thank you and a very good afternoon to all of you.

The 16th SAARC Summit, to be held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 28 & 29 April 2010, marks 25 years of the establishment of SAARC. The Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh will attend the Summit. Over the years, SAARC has emerged as a model of regional cooperation in dealing with the wide range of issues that impact directly on the lives and livelihoods of the people of the region. It has addressed issues of regional concern such as poverty, food security, trafficking in women and children, terrorism and drugs, etc. At the same time, the 25th anniversary milestone provides the Member States of SAARC with an opportunity to introspect not only on the experiences of the first 25 years and also on the course we need to chart in the future to maintain, and perhaps accelerate, the momentum that SAARC has achieved in recent years.

It is also important to note that this will be the first time that Bhutan will host a SAARC Summit. We have no doubt that SAARC will make impressive gains under Bhutan's able stewardship. Bhutan has chosen 'Climate Change' as the theme of the Summit. As one of the world's ecologically most diverse, and yet one of the most ecologically fragile regions, South Asia is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with an urgent need of adaptive action. The Summit is expected to draw regional attention

to this pressing issue. Bhutan has also proposed a Summit Declaration entitled "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia" and a separate Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change.

In the last few years, particularly since the 14th Summit in New Delhi in April 2007, SAARC has also begun to lay the institutional framework for regional cooperation. Regional institutions, in the form of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) in Dhaka, the SAARC Arbitration Council in Islamabad, the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in Thimphu, the South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi, among others, are the building blocks of regional development.

We are happy to note that two important SAARC Agreements, on Environment and Trade in Services, are to be signed during the Summit. The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services will enable the realization of the region's immense potential in service areas such as Health, Hospitality, Communications, Computer and information Services and Air Transport and is expected to augment intra-regional trade in services in a mutually beneficial manner.

The SAARC Convention on Environment is expected to promote cooperation among the SAARC countries in the field of environment and sustainable development. The scope of cooperation under the Convention would extend to "exchange of best practices and knowledge, capacity building and transfer of eco-friendly technology" in a number of areas, including climate change, coastal zone management, wildlife conservation and environmental impact assessment studies.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat is being inaugurated in Thimphu during the forthcoming Summit. You will recall that the SDF had been proposed by India at the 15th SAARC Summit in Colombo in August 2008. Two projects on Women's Empowerment, being undertaken by SEWA, and Maternal and Health Care are already under implementation. We also expect the Summit to endorse the rules, regulations, academic and business plans of the South Asian University in New Delhi.

One of the successes of SAARC has been the recent steps taken to implement the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). Intra-SAARC trade touched US \$ 529 million in 2009, a considerable jump from the

previous two years since SAFTA was implemented. Under SAFTA, we agreed in principle to prune our sensitive lists by twenty per cent. SAARC Member States have also agreed to reduce tariffs on 30% of tariff lines outside the Sensitive Lists to Zero.

I am happy to convey that regional projects initiated by India in Telemedicine, Tele-education, Rain Water Harvesting, Seed Testing Laboratories and Solar Rural Electrification, are under implementation in most SAARC Member States. The thrust of most of these projects and activities is at grassroots levels where the results are less visible perhaps but far more significant and rewarding. We believe that in this Silver Jubilee year of SAARC, its members can take satisfaction from the fact that SAARC is taking on the role of service provider for the economic and development needs of the people of the region, who number almost 1.5 billion.

Our focus in SAARC would be on improving regional connectivity through the development of new trade, transport and telecommunication links; the setting of common standards and harmonization of customs procedures; increasing understanding by greater people-to-people contacts, particularly among the youth, civil society, cultural personalities, academics and parliamentarians.

We are confident that the forthcoming SAARC Summit will provide ample opportunity for the SAARC Member States to work together to chart a blueprint for regional development over the next few years.

Question: Madam, you would have noticed that America, Australia and the United Kingdom have come up with advisories which suggest that at least six markets in Delhi itself could be targeted in the future. Is the Government aware of this? Has the Government taken any precautions about it?

Foreign Secretary: We are aware of those advisories and I have seen that the media has been flooded with those reports. What I would like to say is that the Government of India takes all precautions necessary to safeguard the security of our citizens in cities like New Delhi. You referred to Delhi but I refer of course to the whole country. Obviously we are seized of these matters and all necessary precautions are put in place to ensure that such events or such risks are taken care of.

Question: Is there any proposal of a fresh entry of any country into SAARC? If so, are you going to discuss it in this Summit?

Foreign Secretary: A fresh entry into SAARC? No, I am afraid not. We have eight member countries in SAARC and that is the way it is.

Question: Is there no new proposal?

Foreign Secretary: We have Observer countries in SAARC and that number will reach nine as of this Summit, because Australia and Myanmar will be the two new Observer countries at this Summit.

Question: Has a meeting been set up between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani Prime Minister? If so, what is the agenda?

Foreign Secretary: The answer is no. As of now, there is no such meeting.

Question: Will there be any other bilaterals?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, there have been requests from our other South Asian partners for bilateral meetings. Yes, there will be bilateral meetings. These will be with Sri Lanka, with Bangladesh, with Nepal and with Maldives. I believe you have been informed about the transit visit of President Karzai through New Delhi on his way to the SAARC Summit. Of course, Bhutan being the Chair of the Summit, there will be in-depth bilateral meetings with Bhutan.

Question: Madam has there been any request from the Pakistani side for a bilateral with Dr. Manmohan Singh in Bhutan? Also, could you tell us a little bit more about Mr. Karzai's visit? Is it something that was planned at the last minute or was this on the cards for some time?

Foreign Secretary: President Karzai is transiting through New Delhi. We thought it would be an excellent opportunity to request him to stay in New Delhi for the 26th and to have discussions on issues of mutual interest concerning the region as also our very strong and friendly development partnership, our time-tested relationship with Afghanistan. As far as the other question you asked, there has been no request from Pakistan for such a meeting, as I said, as of now.

Question: I wanted to ask you about the Pakistan meeting. Should we rule it out or is there a possibility?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe in making forecasts about whether a meeting will take place or not. I would say that you should wait and let us see how the situation develops.

Question: Madam, the US Ambassador said a couple of days ago that the US is looking for new ways to partner with India in Afghanistan. Has there been any concrete proposal in that respect? You are not saying that a meeting has been set up between Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers. But what is the message as of now on the talks front? How are you looking at this likely visit?

Foreign Secretary: You are asking me if I have a message?

Question: What is the message to Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: If there is a message I would not be talking about it in this forum. In any case since you have asked me that, I have always said, and you are aware of the Government's position, that dialogue represents a concrete method to move forward in our relationship. That has always been our position. That was the approach we took during the recent Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan. There has been no change in that position. As for the subject of Afghanistan and our discussions with the United States on the issue, let me say that the situation in our region, the relations that the United States has with Afghanistan, the relations that India has with Afghanistan, of course do figure in these discussions. I think you are aware, when I addressed the media in Washington the other day, we spoke about how President Obama had expressed his deep appreciation for our role in Afghanistan and the development activities that we have carried forward there, and how we have helped stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. So, we constantly exchange ideas on this issue. This is a subject that remains under discussion with the Government of the United States and indeed with all our other friends and partners.

Question: Has China admitted that they are going ahead with the dam on the Brahmaputra? Earlier they had said, no, run of the river, this and

that.

Foreign Secretary: Let me clarify that. Again, when I briefed some of you after EAM's discussions in Beijing, I had mentioned that the Chinese side spoke about the fact that there is a run of the river project that they are doing for generation of hydroelectricity in the upper reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo, on the Brahmaputra river, in the Tibet Autonomous Region. What they said to us was that this is not a project that would divert water in any way, in other words affect downstream flow of water. This was said to us in the context of the discussions that the External Affairs Minister had with his counterpart the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. As you know, we have an expert level mechanism with China to discuss hydrological data and flood control data in the Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers. The fourth meeting of the expert level mechanism will take place in a few days from now in New Delhi.

Question: So, they are not building dams. It is just run of the river.

Foreign Secretary: A run of the river project involves certain work on the river but it is not a storage dam for irrigation purposes. That is what they said.

Question: Madam, one question regarding Afghanistan. There are intelligence reports that Indians could be fresh targets of attacks that could be taking place. The Haqqani group is very active and they are enquiring about employees of the Punjab National Bank and also residential complexes of Indians in Afghanistan. Does the Ministry have knowledge about this and would this be taken up with President Karzai when he would be visiting India?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to discuss what measures we take to safeguard the lives and the security of our nationals in Afghanistan. This is a sensitive issue. So, obviously I will not discuss it in an open forum. But I want to tell you that we are constantly vigilant and seized of these matters, and take all steps necessary to deal with the situation.

Question: Madam, as you said, the XVI SAARC Summit marks 25 years of SAARC cooperation. But it is only 529 million dollars of intra-SAARC trade which seems very low and especially ...(Unclear)..... in the

subcontinent. Then why is it that India is not doing enough to push this economic integration?

Foreign Secretary: I think you have to look at this in two parts. One is the trade among South Asian nations. This is apart from SAFTA. We have bilateral trade. We have preferential or free trade agreements with many of our South Asian neighbours, with some we do not. But intra-South Asian trade that we have is far more than the figure that you have quoted. I think it is almost 11 billion US dollars. So, this is quite apart from the trade figures that we cite under SAFTA. SAFTA started being implemented from 2006 onwards. If you look at the figures for 2006, I think it is about 16 million US dollars. From that to now, it is half a billion US dollars as of last year. So, that is the progress under SAFTA. But there is a larger picture here involved which is bilateral trade between all the South Asian countries of which the total volume is almost 11 billion US dollars. India is obviously promoting open connectivity, better trade relations with all our neighbours. There has been a great synergy that we are trying to develop and have developed in this field over the last few years.

Question: China is a fulltime Observer at SAARC already?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, since 2007.

Question: Apart from Pakistan, where you do not have the MFN arrangement between our country and Pakistan, with all the other countries there are these preferential trading arrangements that you talked about. We have these with every other country.

Foreign Secretary: You look at Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, and with Nepal of course we have a very open trading regime. Bangladesh has been able to take a lot of advantage of the opening up of trade controls under SAFTA. So, a large proportion of the increase in the volume of trade under SAFTA is accounted for by Bangladesh-India trade.

Question: But two years ago there was this Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Sri Lanka.

Foreign Secretary: That is still being discussed with Sri Lanka.

Question: What happened? Why has that not taken off?

Foreign Secretary: The Sri Lankan Government wanted a little more time to consider what the implications of CEPA would be. We are prepared to move at the pace that they want in this particular context. But we have a Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka that has worked very well from 2000 onwards, and it has completely changed the situation in terms of bilateral trade.

Question: Madam, last time when the Indian Prime Minister and Pakistan Prime Minister came face to face in Washington, a newspaper carried a headline, "Hands met but hearts did not." Do you think that when they come face to face again there will be any change of hearts this time?

Foreign Secretary: I do not really want to forecast what is going to happen. But let me say that dialogue is always useful. It helps clear the atmosphere and especially between neighbours, such as India and Pakistan. Dialogue is really the way forward.

Question: At the February 25 Foreign Secretary level talks you said that situation was not ripe yet for resuming Composite Dialogue. The talks ended with the two sides agreeing to remain in touch. My question is, is the situation ripe now? Secondly, have you been in touch with your counterpart following February 25 in the last one month or so? And has Pakistan got back to India on those dossiers?

Foreign Secretary: Pakistan has not got back to us on those dossiers that we handed over during the February 25 meeting. No, I have not heard from the Pakistan Foreign Secretary after we met on February 25. Is the situation ripe for the resumption of composite dialogue? The situation has not really changed in that regard because we need action in terms of movement on the Mumbai terror trials that are taking place in Pakistan. The levels of infiltration have been a cause for concern in the last few months. The infrastructure, the activities of terrorist groups on territory controlled by Pakistan is still a cause for serious concern.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



123. Opening Remarks by Foreign Secretary at SAARC Standing Committee Meeting on the SAARC Secretary General's Report.

Thimphu, April 25, 2010.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of the 37th Session of the Standing Committee. I have no doubt that SAARC will be greatly benefited by your able leadership. I also wish to express, on behalf of my delegation and my own behalf, grateful thanks to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the warm hospitality accorded to us and the excellent arrangements for the Meeting. It is indeed a pleasure to be here in this beautiful city of Thimphu.

I also wish to place on record our appreciation of the stewardship of the former Chair, Sri Lanka, of our Association. We have seen significant forward movement during their tenure.

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 valuable preparatory work that has gone into making a success out of the Summit and its preceding meetings.

In considering the Periodic 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 report would be revisited under specific agenda items, I would like to restrict our 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 and rural development, food security, health, trade and transportation. SAARC has also facilitated slow but sure

steps towards greater cooperation in the security sector and in the prevention of trafficking of women and child development. Increased people-to-people interaction has been facilitated by greater cultural and social exchanges under the auspices of SAARC.

The thrust of most of these regional projects and activities is at grassroots levels where the results are less visible but far more significant and rewarding. Each of the areas of cooperation under SAARC has a direct bearing on the lives and livelihoods of the people of our region. Our leaders have correctly identified the focus of SAARC as being development oriented.

In the last few years, SAARC has also been laying the institutional framework for greater regional cooperation. For the first time, regional institutions are being created in the form of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) in Dhaka, the SAARC Arbitration Council in Islamabad, the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in Thimphu and the South Asian University in New Delhi.

In this 25th year of SAARC, we can take satisfaction from the fact that SAARC has evolved into a service provider for the economic and development needs of the people of the region.

At the same time, this milestone also provides us with an opportunity to introspect on the experience of the last 25 years and the course we need to chart in the future not only to maintain, but to accelerate, the momentum SAARC has achieved in the recent past.

Let me say that we deeply appreciate the very substantive contributions made by the Chair, Bhutan, in the conceptualization of the main theme of our current Summit: i.e. towards a green and happy South Asia. Bhutan has led the way among all of us in enshrining respect and sensitivity for environmental concerns and the preservation of our precious environmental space. The inspiration and the initiative of Bhutan in this area, and indeed, in all the preparations undertaken to make this Summit possible, are genuinely appreciated. Let us derive impetus from this to work towards a Summit Declaration that is focused, incisive, visionary, and future-oriented as a lasting outcome of our Summit.

In concluding my opening remarks I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Secretary General and the Secretariat in steering SAARC through the extensive range of its programmes and activities with the professional skill and expertise we have come to expect. To have achieved this with a "zero growth budget", that has rendered our regional enterprise cost effective and productive, is indeed creditable.

Thank You.



124. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to media after the meeting of 37th Session of the Standing Committee of the SAARC.

Thimphu, April 25, 2010.

This is a very special year for SAARC. It represents the silver jubilee of the organization. SAARC has come a very long way indeed since its establishment in 1985 and I think all of us are in agreement that the organization has made visible strides over the past few years and achieved many milestones.

The Standing Committee headed by Foreign Secretaries of eight SAARC member states began its deliberations here in Thimpu today and our initial engagements has been very constructive and we are indeed hopeful that the Summit will come up with the robust programme of cooperation for the association over the next 12 months of Bhutan's stewardship.

In my opening remarks today, I expressed our deep appreciation for the very substantive contributions made by the Chair Bhutan in conceptualization of the main theme of our current Summit which is towards green and happy South Asia. Bhutan has indeed led the way among all of us South Asian countries in enshrining respect and

sensitivity for the environment and preservation of our precious environmental space. Inspiration and initiative of Bhutan in this area and indeed in all the preparations undertaken to make the Summit possible were genuinely appreciated during our deliberations today and we felt that we could derive impetus from this to work towards the Summit outcome and a declaration that will be focused, incisive, visionary and future oriented so as to become a lasting outcome for our Summit.



125. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Thimphu for the SAARC Summit.

Thimphu, April 26, 2010.

My visit to Thimphu, Bhutan to attend the Sixteenth SAARC Summit comes at a very special juncture. This year marks the 25th anniversary of SAARC. This is also the first time that Bhutan will be hosting a SAARC summit.

The Sixteenth Summit will give Member States an opportunity to introspect on the past and chart a course for the future. Bhutan has chosen 'Climate Change' as the theme of the Summit. The 'Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration' has been entitled 'Towards a Green and Happy South Asia'. The theme is expected to be reinforced by the signing of a SAARC Convention on Cooperation in Environment by the Foreign Ministers in the presence of the Heads of State and Governments of SAARC Member States. An Agreement on Trade in Services will also be signed during the Summit, thereby opening up new vistas of economic cooperation among SAARC countries.

Over the years, SAARC has made visible strides and achieved many milestones. It has created the institutional and legal framework for regional cooperation through agreements and programmes covering almost every area of importance to the region, ranging from Poverty Alleviation and Food Security to Terrorism and Women's Empowerment. Its focus on grassroots development is designed to cater to "the welfare of the people of South Asia" and to bring about an improvement "in their quality of life."

With the depth of challenges facing the region, the transformation of SAARC within a quarter of a century to a dynamic vehicle of regional economic cooperation is indeed remarkable. The asymmetric and non-reciprocal participation by India has been an important factor in this process. This has inspired other SAARC Member States to take similar initiative on regional projects.

SAARC Member States have committed themselves to strengthening regional economic cooperation through SAARC, particularly over the three years since the New Delhi Summit in April 2007. It is to the credit of SAARC, that despite the global financial recession, trade under SAFTA since its implementation in 2006 amounted to USD 689 million. Moreover, the basket of tradeable items is also quite diverse from manufacturing to agriculture products. All Member States have also reiterated their resolve to facilitate greater trade liberalization measures and greater tariff reductions.

As we head for the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, we are imbued with a sense of confidence and optimism in SAARC as a vehicle for regional development.



126. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 32nd Session of SAARC Council of Ministers meeting.

Thimphu, April 27, 2010.

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SAARC Member States,

Distinguished delegates

It gives me a great pleasure to be in Thimphu for the 32nd Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers. My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warm hospitality accorded to us, and take this opportunity to thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for the excellent arrangements made for the visiting delegations. I wish to congratulate Your Excellency on your election

as Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, and to assure you of my delegation's fullest support to you in the fulfillment of your responsibilities and objectives. We have no doubt that SAARC will record visible gains under your able stewardship.

I wish to also record our appreciation to Sri Lanka, the outgoing Chair, for their very able leadership. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, for most ably guiding and steering SAARC over the last two years. I thank him and his able staff for the excellent preparatory work undertaken for the 16th SAARC Summit and its preceding meetings.

The 16th SAARC Summit is a very special event as Summits go for two important reasons. This year marks 25 years of the establishment of SAARC. This is also the first SAARC Summit hosted by Bhutan. We have no doubt that these unique circumstances will contribute to taking SAARC to new heights.

It is a matter of satisfaction that starting from a modest level in 1985, our Association has emerged as a model of regional cooperation in dealing with the wide range of issues that impact directly on the lives and livelihoods of the people of our region. As the reports under consideration indicate, SAARC has made impressive gains in addressing issues of regional concern such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, trafficking in women and children, terrorism and drugs, etc.

We, as Member States of SAARC, have an abiding obligation to address the pressing problems that beset our region, which we should set about achieving through well-defined goals based on mutual cooperation and understanding. Our effort will be to infuse a fresh dynamism into the regional processes and to strive to channelise the fruits of our collective efforts to the most vulnerable sections of our societies.

As we emerge out of a period of unprecedented global recession into expectations of relative economic growth and stability, we should seize the opportunity to advance our collective efforts to enhance trade, open borders and facilitate economic integration in our region. Our focus should be on improving regional connectivity through upgrading trade, transport and telecommunication links; addressing issues relating to trade facilitation

such as harmonization of customs procedures and standards; increasing understanding through greater people-to-people contacts, particularly among the youth, civil society, cultural personalities, academics and parliamentarians.

In the last few years, SAARC has also begun to lay the institutional framework for regional cooperation. Regional institutions, in the form of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) in Dhaka, the SAARC Arbitration Council in Islamabad, the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in Thimphu, the South Asian University in New Delhi, among others, are the building blocks of regional development.

These and other SAARC initiatives were formalized through instruments that were signed by our Heads of State and Government during the Fourteenth and Fifteenth SAARC Summits to advance intra-SAARC cooperation in these crucial areas. The relevant Agreements pertain to the Establishment of SARSO, the South Asian University, Afghanistan's Accession to SAFTA and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. While we would urge Member States to expedite the process of ratification, we may also direct the Secretariat and relevant SAARC mechanisms to simultaneously operationalise the provisions of these agreements while awaiting conclusion of the legal processes. Distinguished delegates will recall that we had undertaken similar measures in the case of the SAARC Food Bank Board and the SDF.

I am pleased to note that progress has been achieved in the last few months in facilitating trade in South Asia. Intra-SAARC trade under SAFTA touched US \$ 529 million in 2009, a considerable jump from the previous two years. Under SAFTA, we agreed in principle to prune our sensitive lists by twenty per cent. SAARC Member States have also agreed to reduce tariffs on 30% of tariff lines outside the Sensitive Lists to Zero.

We are happy to note that two SAARC Agreements, on Environment and Trade in Services, are to be signed during the Summit. We are also hopeful that the SAARC Agreements on Motor Vehicles, Railways, Rapid Response to Natural Disasters, Multilateral Arrangement of Conformity Assessment Activities of Goods and Services and Regional MRA on Product Certification will also be finalized at the earliest.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Secretariat is being inaugurated in Thimphu during the Summit. I wish to convey my best wishes to the CEO of the SDF on his appointment. We would urge Member States to take full advantage of the mechanism of SDF through expeditious clearance and implementation of projects and programmes to promote the welfare of the people of the SAARC region, to improve their quality of life and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

We are fully committed to working within SAARC to contribute to the development of the region through social development and regional economic integration. In this context, I am happy to report that regional projects initiated by the Government of India in Telemedicine, Tele-education, Rain Water Harvesting, Seed Testing Laboratories and Solar Rural Electrification, are under implementation in most SAARC Member States.

The "Climate Change" theme of the Summit is very apt. We are happy to support the proposal of the Chair for a Special SAARC Declaration on the theme of Climate Change to be issued by the Heads of State / Government. We also support a fresh SAARC position on Climate Change for COP 16 in accordance with the UNFCCC principles and Bali Action Plan. It is my sincere wish that the dialogue on Climate Change is carried in a meaningful manner at this Summit.

Terrorism poses a serious danger to the economic stability of any civilized society. The South Asian region is particularly afflicted by this menace. The time has come for us to rally against the forces of terrorism that seek to divide and weaken our societies. I extend a call to my fellow leaders to join hands to fight and defeat terrorism, including through the early ratification of regional instruments such as the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at the last Summit in 2008, and early conclusion of the proposed UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), as directed by our leaders at the 15th SAARC Summit. India, in cooperation with Sri Lanka, is involved in the strengthening of the SAARC Terrorists Offences Monitoring Desk and the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk for sharing of information amongst our security forces.

Our member countries have made positive progress towards establishment of the South Asian University. I am happy to note that the SAU will start classes in August 2010.

SAARC belongs to the people of South Asia who have ensured that its focus is delivery oriented and intended for the larger benefit. It is also an important reason to ensure that that parallel strands of culture and trade are inter-twined for greater regional synergy and for economic prosperity. We in India have always attached importance to facilitating people-to-people contact in our region through exchanges in the fields of culture, tourism, literature, youth etc. I am also happy to inform the Council that permanent premises for the SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts have been acquired in New Delhi and work on developing the Museum is progressing as per plan.

I am grateful to all SAARC Member States for ensuring their participation in the training programmes that has resulted, not only in the exchange of knowledge and know how, but also in the cementing of bonds of friendship among officials, academics, students, and representatives of civil society. Experiences shared by Member States at the 30th Session of the Council of Ministers resulted in the development of 'Model Villages' in each of our countries. I am pleased to inform you that our experience with the model village cluster has been extremely satisfactory. There have been calls from the grassroots levels for an expansion of this programme. I look forward to hearing your experiences on the model village scheme.

I wish to conclude by once again thanking our host for the excellent arrangements and assuring Your Excellency of India's consistent support.

Thank You



127. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the eve of his departure for Bhutan to attend the SAARC Summit.

New Delhi, April 27, 2010.

I will be leaving tomorrow for Bhutan to attend the 16th SAARC Summit being hosted by Bhutan.

This Summit has special significance as it takes place on the twenty fifth anniversary of SAARC. This is also the first time that Bhutan will be hosting a SAARC Summit.

The establishment of SAARC in 1985 was a visionary step for the South Asian region. During this period the region has witnessed major transformation, and the idea of regional economic cooperation has taken firm roots. We have established a robust institutional framework for cooperation in diverse areas such as food security, poverty alleviation, terrorism, communication links, trade and economic, and a range of social issues impacting lives of our people. The South Asian Free Trade Agreement, the SAARC Development Fund and the South Asian University are some concrete examples of regional projects that will enable greater economic inter-linkages, and promote people to people contacts within the region.

The Summit will provide the countries of this region an opportunity to collectively reflect on where we are, what more we can do together to meet the developmental aspirations of our people, and how South Asia can play its rightful role in the international arena.

The winds of change are blowing across the world. South Asia cannot be immune to the trend of greater integration, both at the regional and global levels. If we as South Asians work together, there is nothing that we will not be able to achieve. India will play its part in the resurgence of South Asia.

The theme of this year's Summit is "Climate Change". I look forward to discussing regional cooperation and strategies for tackling the effects of global warming in our region. Ours is a particularly vulnerable region,

which demands a coordinated and well thought out response cutting across sectors. We all stand to benefit by learning from each other's experiences and strengths.

India enjoys close relations with Bhutan which are based on complete mutual trust and understanding. I look forward to holding bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Jigmi Y. Thinley to build upon these solid foundations. I also look forward to my meetings with leaders of other SAARC countries.



128. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 16th SAARC Summit.

Thimphu, April 28, 2010.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Thinley for his election as Chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. I assure him of India's fullest support.

I also take this opportunity to convey our deepest appreciation to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the Royal Government of Bhutan for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit.

It is a singular pleasure for me to visit Bhutan once again and to experience its pristine beauty and the warmth of its people.

I wish to welcome the two new Observer countries, Australia and Myanmar, to the SAARC fraternity.

Excellencies,

This is a historic Summit. This year we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of our organization. This is also the first time that we meet in Bhutan.

In the last few years Bhutan has witnessed momentous changes, and I take this opportunity to wish its people even greater prosperity, peace and progress.

Speaking at the first SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi described the establishment of SAARC as an act of faith. Based on our experience so far we can affirm that this was also an act of great foresight and statesmanship.

In these two and a half decades our sub-continent has been witness to much progress. Yet, each one of our countries, and our region as a whole, has a long way to go in fulfilling the aspirations of our people.

In looking back at these two and a half decades we can claim the glass is half full, and compliment ourselves, or, we can admit the glass is half empty and challenge ourselves.

I believe we should challenge ourselves by acknowledging that the glass of regional cooperation, regional development and regional integration is half empty. Intra-regional trade flows have grown and transport and telecommunication links have expanded. Yet, the share of intra-regional trade and investment flows in total trade and investment flows in South Asia is far below what we see in East and South-east Asia. It is also well below the potential.

We have created institutions for regional cooperation, but we have not yet empowered them adequately to enable them to be more pro-active.

Excellencies,

We have opened new windows of cooperation. The SAARC Development Fund, the Food Bank, the South Asian Free Trade Agreement and the South Asian University are examples of new institutions that will knit our region more closely together.

The challenge before us is to translate institutions into activities, conventions into programmes, official statements into popular sentiments. Declarations at summits and official level meetings do not amount to regional cooperation or integration. Regional cooperation should enable freer movement of people, of goods, of services and of ideas. It should help us re-discover our shared heritage and build our common future.

Excellencies,

We must ask ourselves what kind of South Asia we wish to create for our present and future generations? At this anniversary Summit we should renew our compact to build a region that is better connected, better empowered, better fed and better educated.

By rising to this challenge we will not only help ourselves but also become a net contributor to global economic prosperity. We can once again become part of global trading routes and networks. We can influence the global discourse on issues of concern to us. If we do not, we run the risk of marginalization and stagnation.

We are able to cooperate individually as members in various international fora. But it is unfortunate that, together, the people of South Asia do not have the voice they should and could have in the global polity. The 21st century cannot be an Asian century unless South Asia marches together.

Excellencies,

There is perhaps no region more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than ours. Bhutan has led by example in combining development with conservation of the environment. It is therefore most appropriate that our Summit focuses on this issue.

Regional cooperation can be a significant multiplier in 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 welcome the conclusion of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment. I am happy to announce the setting up of an 'India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia' to help Member States in meeting urgent adaptation and capacity building needs. I would also propose the setting up of Climate Innovation Centres in South Asia to develop sustainable energy technologies based on indigenous resource endowments.

India has recently launched a National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem. The National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology under development at Dehradun in India could serve as a nucleus for regional cooperation in this vital area.

Excellencies,

I have a vision of inclusive growth in South Asia both within our countries and for the region of South Asia as a whole. Regional and sub-regional imbalances in growth affect all of us in varying degrees, and have led to social unrest.

This will require much greater attention in the future, with an emphasis on development at the grassroots level. We will have to institute the right policies in the areas of agriculture, forestry, appropriate technologies and disaster management.

South Asia is emerging as the hub of technological innovation. The manner in which we are able to harness technology for development will be crucial. Initiatives such as tele-medicine and tele-education are already having a profound effect on our societies. There is much that we can do together and learn from one another in all these areas.

Health and human resource development are perhaps the most compelling of the areas that impact on the dignity and wellbeing of our people. We need to bring on the agenda issues relating to basic education, skill development, the creation of a scientific temper among youth, women's empowerment and nutrition.

I am happy that we are ready to begin the first academic session of the South Asian University in August 2010. India will provide 50 'SAARC Silver Jubilee Scholarships' for meritorious students from SAARC LDC countries for the South Asian University.

Excellencies,

Mutual respect and tolerance are part of our civilisational heritage. So is the abhorrence of extremism, radicalism and terrorism. Let us pledge to revive the South Asia of our dreams that is once again a source of new ideas, new knowledge and new opportunities.

Let us make SAARC a dynamic organization that can realize this collective vision for all our people.

I thank you for your attention.



129. Press Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagements at Thimphu.**Thimphu, April 29, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and thank you for waiting. As you are aware, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh arrived at Thimphu yesterday to attend the Sixteenth SAARC Summit. On the sidelines of the Summit he has had a number of interactions. Foreign Secretary is here to brief you about some of the interactions that the Prime Minister had. She is joined by the Media Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Harish Khare, who is sitting to the left of Foreign Secretary. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao would be making an opening statement and thereafter be happy to take a few questions. Ma'am, the floor is yours.

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu. I will give you an update on the meetings that the Prime Minister had today. He began the day with a meeting with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal of Nepal. This was followed by a meeting with His Majesty the King of Bhutan. Thereafter he met Sheikh Hasina the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He also attended the Retreat of the SAARC Heads of State and Government. Thereafter he held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan.

In the meeting with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister stressed our support for multiparty democracy in Nepal, our support for democratic forces in that country, and our belief in forward movement of the Constitutional process in Nepal, our support for strong purposeful Government in Nepal which Prime Minister said he believed that Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and his Government could provide for the country at this moment. They spoke of follow-up to agreements and understandings reached during Prime Minister Nepal's visit to Delhi in August last year, about the implementation of the various agreements concerned. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the progress that had been recorded in regard to implementation of these understandings.

Prime Minister Nepal also briefed Prime Minister about the internal political situation in Nepal, the Constitution-making process, the issues concerning the reintegration of Maoist combatants. In all, they had a very cordial and useful meeting.

With His Majesty the King of Bhutan - as you know India and Bhutan share a very special and unique relationship. Both His Majesty the King and our Prime Minister expressed their deepest satisfaction over the state of relations, about the excellent nature of cooperation between India and Bhutan. His Majesty the King recalled his very successful visit to Delhi last December. Of course, they spoke about developments in Bhutan, the progress of the building of democratic institutions. His Majesty spoke about his contact with the people of Bhutan, his extensive travels into the interior of the countryside, and the fact that he is in touch with his people. The Prime Minister expressed his great admiration for the manner in which His Majesty the King was engaged in building these very strong bonds of understanding with his people.

With Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, again the Bangladesh Prime Minister referred to her very successful visit to India early this year. She said this visit had caught the imagination not only of the two countries or the region but the entire world. They spoke again about the implementation of agreements reached during that visit. They were happy at the fact that much progress has been recorded in this regard. The one billion dollar credit agreement, the extension of credit that India has agreed vis-à-vis Bangladesh is moving forward, and projects are being identified in this regard. The Joint Rivers Commission has met. The two sides are building closer understanding on the issue of water resources. The officials of the two sides will continue to meet in regard to implementation. Next week there will be a high-level delegation from Bangladesh led by the two Advisers to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh who will visit Delhi to continue the discussions in this regard.

After the Retreat that Prime Minister attended with the other Heads of State and Government, the bilateral meeting between our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan was held at Bhutan House. Prime Minister and Prime Minister Gilani had very good talks. They discussed all issues in a free and frank manner. They agreed that India-Pakistan cooperation is vital, if the people of South Asia are to realize their destiny and if SAARC is to become an effective and powerful instrument of regional cooperation. They agreed that relations between the two countries should be normalized, and channels of contact should work

effectively to enlarge the constituency of peace in both countries.

Prime Minister emphasized to Prime Minister Gilani the various issues that cause concern to India, issues relating to terrorism, the rise in infiltration, and the slow progress in the trial of the Mumbai perpetrators. He told Prime Minister Gilani that India is willing to discuss all issues of concern with Pakistan and to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue, but that the issue of terrorism is holding back progress.

Prime Minister Gilani on his part shared his perceptions on these issues in a candid manner. He said Pakistan is serious about prosecuting the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks and that all efforts were being made to bring the trial of these individuals to a speedy conclusion. Prime Minister Gilani said that Pakistan would not allow Pakistan territory to be used for terrorist activity directed against India.

The meeting was an exercise in mutual comprehension because there is a lack of mutual trust in the relationship impeding the process of normalization. The two sides have agreed on the need to assess the reasons underlying the current state of relations, or current state of affairs of the relationship and to think afresh on the way forward.

They have agreed that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries will be charged with the responsibility of working out the modalities of restoring trust and confidence in the relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern. Thank you.

Question: The statement that you have just read out seems to indicate that there has been a decision to move forward and reopen some channels of communication but not maybe a full Composite Dialogue process. How would you categorize what you are saying that the Foreign Secretaries and Foreign Ministers are now to be charged with taking this forward? What would you call this process now?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think we have to get stuck with nomenclature here. I think what you have to focus on is the fact that both sides are agreed that dialogue is the only way forward, that it is essential to open channels of communication, that there is a need to restore trust and build mutual confidence and that we should discuss all issues of mutual concern.

Question: When you say that we are ready to think afresh, could it lead to Composite Dialogue in times to come? And, was the case of Hafiz Saeed specifically taken up?

Foreign Secretary: Prime Minister did mention our very deep and continuing concerns about Hafiz Saeed, the fact that he has been allowed to go free and engage in language and in communications that are certainly not conducive to building an atmosphere of peace and stability. Yes, we did mention it. And I believe our concerns were registered with the Pakistan side. They did mention that they have some difficulties as far as their judicial system is concerned about tackling such issues. We expressed the hope that their laws to deal with such issues could be strengthened in times to come. As I said in my answer in response to Maya's question, we are not getting stuck with nomenclature here. I am not going to answer that question in the way you have framed it. I said both sides have agreed that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries will take this process forward now, this process of trying to build more trust and confidence in the relationship and to address all issues of concern, thereby ensuring better communication between the two countries.

Question: After Sharm el-Sheikh there was a dialogue between the two prime ministers. Now when is the next meeting? Have any modalities been settled about it?

Foreign Secretary: No modalities have been worked out about it. Let me put it this way. The two sides have agreed to meet as soon as possible. We have not yet fixed a date. Obviously it would be unrealistic for me to tell you here and now that we fixed a date. The Prime Ministers have just met. But the instructions of the Prime Ministers are that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries should meet as soon as possible.

Question: Post-Sharm el-Sheikh there was this entire debate that there was a de-linking from terror as far as talks were concerned but we do seem to have gone back to the old position when we asked Pakistan to act especially on terrorism and track down terrorists. Could you throw some light on that? Secondly, were water disputes and the issue of Kasab brought up by the Pakistani side?

Foreign Secretary: The focus is on charting a course forward. That definitely I think is the message from today's meeting. So, the searchlight is really on

the future, not on the past. Our concerns about terrorism remain very much on the agenda. Prime Minister was very clear that public opinion in India particularly is most concerned about this issue, the issue of the terror machine that operates from Pakistan and that it would be essential for Pakistan to address this issue comprehensively. I believe that Prime Minister Gilani understood the concerns that we expressed in this regard. For instance, on the Mumbai trials he said that their intention is to complete the trial as soon as possible to see that the perpetrators are brought to effective justice. When I say issues of concern will be discussed between the two countries, obviously they will encompass all issues of mutual concern.

Question: What about the water issue?

Foreign Secretary: I have answered that question. All issues of mutual concern would be focused on in the dialogue.

Question: But did the Pakistan Prime Minister raise this issue in particular?

Foreign Secretary: No, the idea was on the renewal of dialogue to understand the state of affairs in the relationship, what is it that is holding both sides back at the moment, how do we address the state of affairs? So, I think there was a lot of soul-searching here. I think you must regard this meeting in that light, a meeting that resulted in an understanding between the two sides that we should honestly attempt now to take this process forward because it is good for our two countries, it is good for the region, and it is good for the destiny of our two peoples.

Question: Madam, during the time of discussion with Sheikh Hasina, was there any particular reference to trade through Bangladesh via Agartala?

Foreign Secretary: We did discuss trade and transit issues, the issue of better facilitation of such trade, improvement of the facilities at the integrated check posts, the Customs Stations. Both sides were completely on the same page about improving these facilities so as to facilitate better movement of trade in goods and indeed of people between the two sides.

Question: Madam, I was wondering what has really changed during the last two years? Pakistan has not given any assurance about attacking the terror and the same assurances came today. What has really changed the Government's mind to reopen the dialogue process?

Foreign Secretary: It is not just a question of one-side agreeing to reopen the dialogue process. I think there was a certain, shall I say, confluence of thought here of basically both sides agreeing that dialogue is the only way forward and that we must attempt to take this process forward, that we should discuss all issues of concern, we should try and understand what are the problems that affect the relationship, and that eventual normalization of relations is good for the people of the two countries and good for the growth of our economies. For instance, one terrorist attack sets back economic well-being by so many percentage points. So, I think both sides want to focus on development, want to focus on taking their economies forward, and improving the living standards of their people in generally bringing peace to the region.

Question: Madam, did the Pakistani side raise the issue of Baluchistan?

Foreign Secretary: The issue was not raised specifically. To the best of my knowledge it was not raised. On this issue, the Pakistan side is well aware of the fact that India does not seek to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, in the affairs of its neighbours, and Pakistan is our neighbour, and there has been no evidence at all to suggest that there has been any interference by us in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

Question: Madam, you said there was a lot of soul-searching.

Foreign Secretary: Well, that is my phrase.

Question: Okay. My question is about terrorism. Did the Pakistan Prime Minister give a commitment to our Prime Minister that there would be no use of Pakistani territory. Anyway, you did say something to this effect that any commitments on the end of terrorism vis-a-vis India? Do you think that there is any linkage between the end of terrorism and the beginning of dialogue?

Foreign Secretary: Prime Minister was very emphatic in mentioning that Pakistan has to act on the issue of terrorism, that the terror machine, as he termed it, that operates from Pakistan needs to be controlled, needs to be eliminated. That was very clearly said. Prime Minister Gilani on his part said that Pakistan was equally seized of these concerns, that terrorism has affected Pakistan's well-being also, and that they want to address this issue comprehensively and effectively.

Question: Madam, before this bilateral meeting, the Pakistan Foreign Office had said that Sharm el-Sheikh should be the foundation of whatever future dialogue takes place. Did any such matter come up at this meeting? Is that a position that can ever be acceptable to India?

Foreign Secretary: No, the issue did not come up.

Question: From your briefing we understand that the resumption of the dialogue between India and Pakistan is the biggest outcome of this meeting today.

Foreign Secretary: Dialogue was never broken off. From our side when did we ever say that dialogue was closed? When the Foreign Secretaries met in February we said at that time also that dialogue was the only way forward.

Question: I should say Composite Dialogue. How is it different from the Composite Dialogue? What would you be doing?

Foreign Secretary: I really do not want to get into that kind of debate. I think it does the relationship no good to get stuck with names like that. I think the idea is to discuss all issues of concern. I am not going to get stuck with nomenclature, I said that very clearly. So, you are not going to get an answer from me on that.

Question: Madam, how long was the one-to-one dialogue between the two prime ministers? Was the Kasab question raised and did Pakistan again ask for his custody?

Foreign Secretary: *One-to-one dialogue was about a little longer than an hour.* As far as the issue of Kasab is concerned, I was not present during the one-to-one discussion, let me say. I am not able to tell you whether that issue was discussed during the one-to-one meeting.

Question: You have just said that both sides have agreed to mutually get down analyzing why things have gone wrong between the two countries. Why this sudden realization? Do you think you want to disown the past and all the rhetoric that you have been engaging in about terror from Pak? What is the reason for this sudden change in attitude?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think literal interpretations can help this relationship. I do not believe the past can be abandoned. I do not believe in any relationship you forget the past and then build anew. You have to understand from the past and then build the future accordingly. I think that was what came through.

Question: Madam, there is frustration among the other countries that SAARC Summit has always been overshadowed by the bilateral problems between India and Pakistan. Apart from the bilateral issues, what is your view in terms of trade in services bringing about more economic cooperation between SAARC countries?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say to you that India attaches the utmost importance to its participation in SAARC, to the strengthening of regional cooperation within SAARC, to speed up the process of implementation of the various understandings and the projects that we have agreed to implement within the ambit of SAARC. And that came through very clearly in our meetings at the Standing Committee of the Foreign Secretaries, at the Council of Ministers, and at the Summit meeting yesterday. SAARC at 25 years, the Silver Jubilee 16th SAARC Summit I think focused on these issues very effectively. Of course, bilateral meetings are always held on the sidelines of such summit meetings. The relationship between India and Pakistan I think receives the focus of all South Asian neighbours also. So, I know that there is a lot of interest when India and Pakistan meet. But I do not think the word overshadow should be used in this context. I think that SAARC, its cooperation among all eight neighbours in South Asia, has a vision for the future. In fact, the Vision Statement that the Summit Declaration hopes to speak of, you will see it once it is released, talks about a number of ideas that we could institutionalize to take this common vision of SAARC forward. Trade in services helps us to build more cooperation in the hospitality industry, in civil aviation, in health, in education. So, again it is a visible sign of SAARC coming of age, the new maturity in our cooperation.

Question: Just to go back to what you were saying that you do not want to get bogged down by nomenclature and that India and Pakistan will discuss all issues of concern, apart from terrorism what are the other issues of concern?

Foreign Secretary: Maya, I need not educate you on the relationship. You know exactly what is meant by that. So, I am not going into details, but all issues of concern.

Question: Okay. Just an aside. On the Madhuri Gupta case there is plenty of attention in Delhi. I am sure you all have been following the developments on that. Your reaction please?

Foreign Secretary: Our Minister of State for External Affairs has made a statement in Parliament today on the subject. I would ask you to refer to that.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



130. Thimphu Statement on Climate Change issued by the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC countries.

Thimphu, April 29, 2010.

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 28-29 April 2010,

Recalling the high priority attached by the Leaders of SAARC at successive Summits towards preserving and sustainably managing the rich, fragile and diverse ecosystems of South Asia;

Expressing deep concern about the adverse effects of climate change and its impact on the region, particularly on the lives and livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people of South Asia;

Recognizing that effective responses, both on mitigation and adaptation should be formulated and implemented at regional and international levels;

Mindful that while South Asia's contribution to climate change is minimal, the impacts of this global phenomenon transcends national boundaries;

Also Mindful that the Member States of SAARC as developing countries face the dual challenge of addressing the negative impacts of climate change and pursuing socio-economic development;

Emphasizing the overriding importance of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in our region, and convinced that reducing dependence on carbon in economic growth and promoting climate resilience will promote both development and poverty eradication in a sustainable manner;

Determined that South Asia should become a world leader in low-carbon technologies and renewable energy;

Reiterating the principles of equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to be the basis for an agreed outcome in the global negotiations on climate change;

Also underlining that an agreed outcome of the global negotiations must emerge from an inclusive, transparent, open and democratic process of negotiations;

Noting that South Asia is particularly prone to climate change and related disasters making the need for a regional response to meet the challenge of climate change more urgent and compelling;

Welcoming the adoption of Climate Change as the theme of the Sixteenth SAARC Summit as an important initiative to galvanize and consolidate regional endeavours with the objective of making South Asia climate change resilient;

Also Welcoming the signing of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment as a significant step towards promoting and strengthening regional cooperation;

Convinced that South Asia could benefit from cooperative regional initiatives and approaches, exchange of experiences, knowledge, transfer of technology, best practices to address the challenges posed by climate change;

Aware that preservation of environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change are mutually reinforcing;

Determined to address the adverse effects of climate change in accordance with the purposes and principles of regional cooperation enshrined in the SAARC Charter;

Hereby adopt the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change and agree to undertake the following:

- (i) Review the implementation of the Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change and ensure its timely implementation;
- (ii) Agree to establish an Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change to develop clear policy direction and guidance for regional cooperation as envisaged in the SAARC Plan of Action on Climate Change;
- (iii) Direct the Secretary General to commission a study for presentation to the Seventeenth SAARC Summit on 'Climate Risks in the Region: ways to comprehensively address the related social, economic and environmental challenges';
- (iv) Undertake advocacy and awareness programs on climate change, among others, to promote the use of green technology and best practices to promote low-carbon sustainable and inclusive development of the region;
- (v) Commission a study to explore the feasibility of establishing a SAARC mechanism which would provide capital for projects that promote low-carbon technology and renewable energy; and a Low-carbon Research and Development Institute in South Asian University;
- (vi) Incorporate science-based materials in educational curricula to promote better understanding of the science and adverse effects of climate change;
- (vii) Plant ten million trees over the next five years (2010-2015) as part of a regional afforestation and reforestation campaign, in accordance with national priorities and programmes of Member States;
- (viii) Evolve national plans, and where appropriate regional projects, on protecting and safeguarding the archeological and historical infrastructure of South Asia from the adverse effects of Climate Change;

- (ix) Establish institutional linkages among national institutions in the region to, among others, facilitate sharing of knowledge, information and capacity building programmes in climate change related areas;
- (x) Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Marine Initiative to strengthen the understanding of shared oceans and water bodies in the region and the critical roles they play in sustainable living to be supported by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center;
- (xi) Stress the imperative of conservation of bio-diversity and natural resources and monitoring of mountain ecology covering the mountains in the region;
- (xii) Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Mountain Initiative on mountain ecosystems, particularly glaciers and their contribution to sustainable development and livelihoods to be supported by SAARC Forestry Center;
- (xiii) Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Monsoon Initiative on the evolving pattern of monsoons to assess vulnerability due to climate change to be supported by SAARC Meteorological Research Center;
- (xiv) Commission a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disasters Initiative on the integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to be supported by SAARC Disaster Management Center;
- (xv) Complete the ratification process for the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment at an early date to enable its entry into force; and
- (xvi) The Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change shall meet at least twice a year to periodically monitor and review the implementation of this Statement and make recommendations to facilitate its implementation and submit its report through the Senior Officials of SAARC to the SAARC Environment Ministers;



131. Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia" issued on the conclusion of the 16th SAARC Summit.

Thimphu, April 29, 2010.

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 Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal; 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 Thimphu, Bhutan, on 28-29 April 2010 for the Sixteenth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

2. The Leaders expressed satisfaction that SAARC had achieved a number of important milestones with the completion of twenty five years of its establishment. The Leaders underscored the relevance and importance of the Association in providing a platform for regional cooperation to accomplish the Charter objectives.

3. In this Silver Jubilee Year of SAARC, the Leaders emphasized the need to develop a 'Vision Statement'. They agreed to form a 'South Asia Forum' for the generation of debate, discussion and the exchange of ideas on South Asia and its future development. The Forum will consist of eminent personalities of diverse background including from all SAARC Member States. The Forum would provide inputs, based on a comprehensive understanding, for charting out the future course of SAARC in the medium and long run and recommend, if required, the necessary improvements required in the existing mechanisms. Such a forum could function on public-private partnership lines, and allow for multiple inputs beyond governments into the consideration of the future of SAARC.

4. In order to commemorate the 25th anniversary, the Leaders laid emphasis on effective communications and public diplomacy. They drew

attention in this regard to the need to reach out to different sections of the South Asian community, particularly its students and youth, private media, private sector, think tanks, civil society, and institutions of economic development.

5. The Leaders agreed that the scope and substance of cooperation had expanded to diverse fields, providing a firm basis for genuine partnership. However, a number of these had not translated into meaningful and tangible benefits to the people. They, therefore, highlighted the need for more efficient, focused, time-bound and people-centric activities and called for appropriate reflection of all the SAARC decisions into the national policies and programmes of Member States. They resolved that the Silver Jubilee Year should be commemorated by making SAARC truly action oriented by fulfilling commitments, implementing declarations and decisions and operationalizing instruments and living up to the hopes and aspirations of one-fifth of humanity.

6. The Leaders, while appreciating that all the Member States had evolved into multi-party democracies, underlined the challenges faced by them in ensuring effective, efficient, transparent and accountable governments. In this regard, they emphasized the need for regional cooperation to strengthen good governance through sharing of experiences, best-practices and establishing institutional linkages. They noted the proposal by Bangladesh to convene an Inter-governmental Meeting in Dhaka on the idea of a SAARC Charter of Democracy on which Bangladesh offered to circulate a Concept Paper.

7. The Leaders recognised the need to draw on the democratic and participatory tradition collectively represented by the Parliamentarians of South Asia for the progress of SAARC. In this context, the Leaders recommended the convening of a "Conclave of SAARC Parliamentarians" in line with the SAARC Charter and directed the SAARC Secretariat to convene a Working Group, comprising nominees of the Member States, to workout the modalities for establishment of such a Conclave.

8. The Leaders emphasized on a greater focus to pursue people-centric development with due emphasis on socio-cultural progress and upholding traditions and values and in that regard, noted the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) pursued by Bhutan, inter alia, in ensuring people-centric

development, culture, preservation of environment, better governance. They further noted that other Member States might consider Bhutan's experience with the concept and welcomed Bhutan's offer to host a SAARC Workshop on GNH in 2010.

9. The Leaders emphasized on deepening regional efforts on poverty alleviation, the overarching objective of SAARC. They called for the expeditious mainstreaming of the SAARC Development Goals (SDGs) in the national processes and completion of the Mid-term Review of the SDGs as scheduled. They further noted the useful finding and recommendations made by successive regional studies through the Regional Poverty Profiles (RPPs) and directed the relevant SAARC mechanisms to act on them. In this regard, they welcomed the offer of the Government of Nepal to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation in 2011.

10. The Leaders welcomed Climate Change as the theme for the Summit and reaffirmed their commitment to address this challenge. In this context, they adopted the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change and directed that the recommendations contained therein be implemented in earnest.

11. The Leaders noted that while climate change impacted every country, the SAARC Member States as developing countries were shouldering a major burden, in spite of having contributed least to the problem. They emphasized that global negotiations on climate change should be guided by the principles of equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and should be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

12. The Leaders, underscored the need to initiate the process to formulate a common SAARC position for COP16 and thereafter, including on issues such as separate financing for adaptation and mitigation as well as technology transfer. In this regard, they welcomed the offer of Bhutan to host an Inter-governmental Expert Group meeting.

13. The Leaders welcomed the Government of Nepal's initiative to organize a Ministerial Meeting of Mountainous Countries in Kathmandu later this year.

14. In pursuance of the recommendation contained in the SAARC Ministerial Statement on Environment on conservation of aquatic ecosystem, trans-boundary bio-diversity zones, automated network of weather stations and regular and systematic sharing of scientific data, the Leaders called for focus on water management and conservation and development of cooperative projects at regional level in terms of exchange of best practices and knowledge, capacity building and transfer of eco-friendly technology.

15. The Leaders, deeply concerned by the extent of environmental degradation in the region, reiterated the importance of sustainably managing environment and development through adoption of eco-friendly approaches and technologies and that South Asia should become a world leader in low-carbon technology and renewable energies. They welcomed the signing of the SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment and called for its early ratification and implementation.

16. The Leaders, concerned by the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, called for effective regional programmes in early warning, preparedness and management including response and rehabilitation while remaining within their respective national laws and procedures. They called for further negotiations and early finalization of the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters.

17. The Leaders noted with satisfaction the ongoing initiatives in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through regional cooperation. In this regard, the Leaders welcomed the announcement by the Government of Maldives to nominate a Woman Secretary General as the Tenth Secretary General of SAARC.

18. The Leaders appreciated the comprehensive directives of the Colombo Statement on Children of South Asia, specially highlighting the importance of the in-depth assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child (2001-2010) and its follow up. Recognizing the important role young people play in the region, the Leaders directed the development of a SAARC Youth Action Plan, in line with the SAARC Youth Charter, to guide regional cooperation in this area. To achieve this end, the Leaders directed to organize SAARC Youth Summit, involving policy makers and youth leaders from all Member States.

19. The Leaders underlined the important role of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) for financing regional and sub-regional programmes and projects. They welcomed the ratification of the SDF Charter. The Leaders also welcomed the inauguration and operationalization of the Permanent Secretariat of the SDF including the appointment of its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Leaders also urged the importance of projects being funded through SDF are demand-driven, time-bound and aligned with the developmental priorities of the region. The Leaders also emphasized the need for the Member States to take full advantage of the mechanism of the SDF through expeditious clearance and implementation of the projects and programmes to promote the welfare of the people of the SAARC region, to improve their quality of life and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

20. The Leaders reiterated their commitment to implement SAFTA in letter and spirit. They emphasized the need to realize the full potential, through reduction of the size of the sensitive lists, acceleration of trade facilitation measures, and removal of non-tariff, para-tariff and other barriers. They directed the SAFTA Ministerial Council to work in earnest in these areas in a time-bound manner.

21. The Leaders welcomed the signing of the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services and expressed that this will open up new vistas of trade cooperation and further deepen the integration of the regional economies. They called for the early ratification of the Agreement. The Leaders also called for the early conclusion of negotiations on the specific schedule of commitments under the Agreement.

22. The Leaders emphasized the need to strengthen the role of private sector in regional initiatives through appropriate mechanisms including through Public-Private Partnership as well as the need for greater intra-SAARC investment promotion efforts.

23. The Leaders underlined the need for taking concrete measures to improve trade facilitation. They directed the relevant SAARC bodies to expedite their work in these areas. They also recognized the importance of development of communication system and transport infrastructure and transit facilities specially for the landlocked countries to promote intra-SAARC trade.

24. The Leaders noted with appreciation that SAARC Commerce Ministers had coordinated SAARC position on WTO Issues and Doha Development Agenda during the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference and agreed on the SAARC Ministerial Communiqué. They directed the Commerce Ministers to continue the process.

25. The Leaders emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation in education and directed greater interaction among the universities in the region towards undertaking of joint programmes on collaborative research and exchange programmes. They underscored the imperative of recognition of degrees, and where possible facilitation of credit transfers for open and distance education etc. They directed the expeditious finalization of mutual recognition of academic and professional degrees as also harmonization of educational curriculum in South Asia.

26. The Leaders took note of the Reports of the Steering Committee of the South Asian University, and appreciated the progress being made towards establishing the University. They also underscored the importance of establishing regional campuses of the South Asian University. They appreciated the announcement of the CEO of the SAU project office to initialize the first academic session of the University with effect from August 2010. Further they asked the Steering Committee to work towards finalizing the modalities of the University.

27. The Leaders called for collaborative efforts to achieve greater intra-regional connectivity and endorsed the recommendation to declare 2010-2020 as the "Decade of Intra-regional Connectivity in SAARC". They agreed on the need to expedite negotiations with a view to finalizing the two agreements on Motor Vehicles and Railways.

28. The Leaders, reiterating the centrality of connectivity to further deepen and consolidate regional integration, mandated the Chair to convene an Inter-Governmental Meeting to recommend specific measures to enhance multi-modal connectivity including air, sea and surface transport.

29. Acknowledging the enormity of the challenges related to food insecurity and poverty, the Leaders directed the SAARC Agriculture Ministers to vigorously pursue regional cooperation in agriculture covering all sub-sectors to enhance overall agricultural productivity. They called for

regional efforts on increased sharing of best practices, technologies, techniques, and materials. Given the importance of quality seeds in enhancing productivity, they further directed early consideration of the concept of a regional seed bank, regional testing and certification of seeds, and a framework for transfer of plant genetic material and seeds. They agreed that South Asian agriculture must benefit from collaborative efforts from within and among SAARC countries by undertaking specific initiatives and projects.

30. The Leaders underscored the need for promotion of tourism to enhance greater people-to-people contacts in the region and called for the creation of tourism-friendly environment. They welcomed the offer of the Government of Nepal to host the Third SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Kathmandu in 2011 which coincides with the Nepal Tourism Year 2011.

31. The Leaders recognized the need to enhance cooperation in the energy sector to facilitate energy trade, development of efficient conventional and renewable energy sources including hydropower. They emphasized the need to undertake studies to develop regional energy projects, promote regional power trade, efficiency, conservation and development of labeling and standardization of appliances, and sharing of knowledge and technologies.

32. The Leaders agreed that an Action Plan on Energy conservation would be prepared by the SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Islamabad with inputs from the Member States and submit to the inter-governmental mechanism for consideration. They called for the creation of a web portal on Energy Conservation for exchange of information and sharing of best practices among SAARC Member States.

33. The Leaders noted the proposal from India for preparing a Roadmap for developing a SAARC Market for Electricity (SAME) on a regional basis, as SAARC is considering electricity trading, supported by enabling markets in the Member States.

34. The Leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and expressed deep concern over the threat which terrorism continues to pose to peace, security and economic stability of the South

Asian region. They reiterated their firm resolve to root out terrorism and recalled the Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism adopted by the Thirty-first Session of the Council of Ministers in Colombo. They emphasized that the linkages between the terrorism, illegal trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substance, illegal trafficking of persons and firearms all continue to remain a matter of serious concern and reiterated their commitment to address these problems in a comprehensive manner. The Leaders emphasized the need to strengthen regional cooperation to fight terrorism and transnational organized crimes. They reaffirmed their commitment to implement the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol and SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. They re-emphasized the importance of coordinated and concerted response to combat terrorism. The Leaders also recognized in this regard the value of the proposed UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and noted the progress made during the recent rounds of negotiations and called for an early conclusion of the Convention.

35. The Leaders welcomed the hosting of the Third Meeting of SAARC Home/Interior Ministers and related Meetings in Islamabad to review the implementation of relevant SAARC Conventions. They underscored the importance of the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and called for its ratification.

36. The Leaders welcomed the 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 and appreciated their participation in the Summit. They acknowledged that Australia and Myanmar were attending the Summit for the first time. They appreciated the interest shown by the Observers to work with SAARC.

37. The Leaders welcomed the offer of the Government of Maldives to host the Seventeenth Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2011.



132. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on "Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan for the 16th SAARC Summit".

New Delhi, May 3, 2010.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh returned from Bhutan on 30th April where he participated in the 16th SAARC Summit. This was a historic summit as it marked the 25th anniversary of the Organization. This was also the first gathering of the SAARC leaders in Bhutan.

As Honourable members are aware, we have a historically close relationship with Bhutan. We would like to compliment the Royal Government of Bhutan and its enlightened leadership on the excellent manner in which they organized the Summit, and ensured productive outcomes.

Prime Minister had very fruitful discussions with Prime Minister Jigmi Thinley and an audience with Their Majesties the King of Bhutan and the Fourth King of Bhutan. These discussions have reinforced my conviction that India-Bhutan relations remain strong, deep-rooted and steeped in mutual trust and understanding. Prime Minister and Prime Minister Thinley launched two new large hydropower projects as part of our commitment to jointly develop 10,000 MWs of hydro-power capacity in Bhutan by the year 2020. They also laid the foundation stone of the Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences and initiated an e-governance and IT project in Bhutan.

At the SAARC Summit, Prime Minister recalled what Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said at the first SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 1985, that the establishment of the organization was an act of faith. The Summit provided an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved in these two and half decades, what more needs to be done, and on the kind of a South Asia we wish to create for our present and future generations.

Prime Minister stressed that regional cooperation should enable freer movement of people, of ideas, and of goods and services. It is not sufficient to merely conclude agreements and conventions. The

challenge before us is to translate these agreements into practical activities and programmes, which touch the lives of our people. Prime Minister emphasized the need for greater regional cooperation in areas such as agriculture, forestry, education, healthcare, women's empowerment, skill development and technological innovations. The Summit concluded an Agreement on Trade in Services.

The 21st century cannot be an Asian century unless South Asia marches together. Prime Minister shared our vision of a prosperous and vibrant South Asia playing its rightful role in shaping the global discourse on issues facing the world. There was a convergence of views on the need to transform SAARC into a truly action-oriented, people-centric and dynamic regional organization. There was unanimous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The theme of the Summit was "Climate Change". The leaders of the SAARC countries exchanged views on deepening regional cooperation for tackling the effects of global warming in our region, and how we can benefit from each other's experiences and strengths. A Summit Declaration on Climate Change as well as a Convention on Cooperation on Environment was concluded.

There was widespread appreciation for India's initiatives and role in contributing to the region's stability and prosperity. We will continue to persevere in our efforts to create a climate of constructive cooperation in South Asia based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

Prime Minister had the opportunity of having bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Maldives and Sri Lanka, and the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. There was a common desire among all our neighbours to further strengthen their relations with India.

During Prime Minister's meeting with President Nasheed of Maldives, the two sides reviewed our close and friendly relations, based on mutual trust and understanding and shared interests. Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to deepen our partnership with Maldives across all areas.

President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka informed Prime Minister of their efforts for political reconciliation and for bringing lasting peace in the country.

Prime Minister congratulated the President on the recent election victory in Presidential and Parliamentary elections, and reiterated India's commitment to assist Sri Lanka in its relief and rehabilitation efforts, and to strengthen our bilateral relations in diverse areas.

With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Prime Minister reaffirmed our commitment to expeditiously implement the various decisions taken during her landmark visit to India in January 2010.

Prime Minister conveyed to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, India's support for the ongoing efforts of the people of Nepal for the consolidation of multi-party democracy in Nepal. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress made in our cooperation since the visits of Prime Minister Nepal to India in August 2009 and the President of Nepal in February 2010.

Prime Minister had a cordial and frank discussion with Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan. He told him that if the trust deficit between India and Pakistan can be eliminated all issues can be resolved through dialogue. Good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan were in the interest of both our countries as well as in the interest of the peace, stability and development in the region. He reiterated our serious concerns on terrorism emanating from Pakistan, and urged the Pakistani Prime Minister to expedite action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack. He was assured that Pakistan was serious about bringing these perpetrators to book. The Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries have been entrusted with the responsibility to work out mechanisms on how the trust deficit can be removed.

President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan visited India on April 26-27, 2010, before proceeding to Thimphu for the SAARC Summit. Prime Minister met President Karzai and discussed a broad range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries. Prime Minister reiterated our commitment to assist the Government and people of Afghanistan in their efforts towards the reconstruction and development of their country.



133. Inaugural Address of External Affairs Minister at the International Conference on SAARC @ 25.

New Delhi, September 16, 2010.

Smt. Kapila Vatsyanji,

Shri Shyam Saran,

Secretary General of SAARC, Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma,

Dr. Bsiwajit Dhar,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to deliver the inaugural address at this international conference marking the 25th anniversary of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC, as it is widely known. On December 8, 1985, when the Charter of SAARC was adopted by seven leaders of this region in Dhaka it was indeed an 'act of faith' as the then Indian Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, termed it. It was also 'an act of great foresight and statesmanship' as Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has affirmed more recently. In a quarter century of its existence SAARC has come a long way in shaping regional economic cooperation and development in the face of multi-faceted challenges.

SAARC as an organization has been working quietly to touch the lives of people in South Asia in many different ways. The most visible aspect of this cooperation has been in the area of trade. At the same time, increasing regional engagement in core areas of development including education, health, agriculture, energy and infrastructure have also contributed significantly in delivering the fruits of development to South Asians at the grass roots level. There has also been a significant increase in intra-regional tourism, people-to-people exchanges through cultural and social activities and the exchange of ideas.

As per the SAARC Charter of 1985, a fundamental objective of SAARC is "to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life". To achieve this objective a key strategy adopted has been

to work towards enabling freer movement of goods and services. The implementation of the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in 2006 was a significant milestone in this effort. Intra-regional trade in South Asia has begun to grow and has doubled over the past 5 years. While estimates of intra-SAARC trade vary, it is fair to assume that this figure touched close to \$ 550 million in 2009, increasing from just \$ 10 million in 2006 when SAFTA came into force. What is also significant is that intra-SAARC exports, as a proportion of total SAARC exports, have more than doubled in these last 25 years. This reflects the growing importance of the region for the overall trade of its Member States.

Besides tariff reduction commitments, SAARC countries have also advanced by taking a number of initiatives which, inter alia, include reducing lists of sensitive products, tackling non-tariff and para tariff barriers, enhancing customs cooperation, harmonising of standards and granting special and differential treatment to the LDCs. However, there is considerably greater potential to increase the share of intra-regional trade and investment flows as has been witnessed in East and South East Asia. It is time that the South Asian region takes adequate cognisance of the economies of the neighbourhood just as different regions across the world have adopted the strategy of regional economic integration to exploit the synergies for mutual benefit in a balanced and equitable manner.

The signing of the SAARC Agreement on Trade and Services earlier this year should strengthen economic cooperation in the region further by expanding intra-regional investment and production opportunities. I am glad to inform you that India has very recently ratified this Agreement and I hope that the early ratification of this Agreement by other member states will give a boost to realising the full potential of trade in services in the region.

It is widely acknowledged that the lack of adequate transport connectivity and infrastructure are the main reasons for high transaction costs of trade. It is, therefore, not surprising that the decade 2010-2020 has been declared the "Decade of Intra-Regional Connectivity in SAARC". While projects and corridors for increasing physical connectivity in the region have been prioritised on the basis of the SAARC Regional Multi-modal Transport Study, we are yet to see implementation of these projects on the ground. Efforts to negotiate regional Agreements on Motor Vehicles and Railways have

also not yet succeeded. Progress in these areas is critical for taking forward intra-regional economic cooperation.

Climate change is another challenge facing our region, which is rich in natural resources and includes diverse ecosystems. The SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment signed in the Thimphu Summit provides a strong basis for taking forward cooperation in this field. I am glad that SAARC countries are working together to present a common position to the 16th Conference of Parties Meeting in Cancun later this year. However, there are more pressing needs of adaptation and capacity building for our member countries in the region. To meet those urgent needs, India has announced an initiative to create an 'India Endowment for Climate Change'. We hope to soon develop a concept paper to take this initiative forward.

In a region afflicted by continuing natural disasters, the creation of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) in New Delhi in 2006 was certainly a step in the right direction. However, the Agreement to develop a Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism under the auspices of the SDMC has not yet been finalised. This is unfortunate as it is hampering the ability of the Centre to respond to urgent needs of members including during disasters.

South Asia continues to be primarily agrarian even after these 25 years. The enormity of challenges facing South Asian agriculture are widely known, as is the nexus between food insecurity, poverty and climate change. Efforts have been made, through the creation of a SAARC Food Bank, to help meet the urgent requirements of shortfall in foodgrains in member countries. I am glad that the quantum of foodgrains in this Bank has now been doubled to four hundred and eighty six thousand metric tonnes. The last Summit in Thimphu also agreed on establishing a Regional Seed Bank to improve the quality of seeds available to farmers in our countries.

Within the broad framework of social development initiatives, issues relating to Womens Empowerment, Gender Equality, Youth and Children have been undertaken. The SAARC Social Charter lays out the broad, long-term basis for such cooperation. More recently, the creation and operationalisation of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) has given renewed hope to the development of projects that should directly benefit the livelihoods of people

at the grass roots level. Presently there are only a few projects that have been undertaken by the SDF. However, it is my sincere hope that with the full operationalisation of the SDF Secretariat in April and new funding contributions, many other projects in the social, economic and infrastructure sectors would soon be developed.

I am particularly pleased at the progress achieved in the establishment of a South Asian University(SAU) here in Delhi. The academic session of the SAU has just begun on 26 August with two initial courses having participation of 50 students from all across the region. I am optimistic that the University, once fully operational, will provide world class education opportunities to the youth of South Asia. This \$ 300 million undertaking, co-shared by SAARC Member States, should establish itself as a centre of excellence producing generations of scholars and professionals in disciplines of developmental relevance to the region. It should also help to create a genuine South Asian identity for the youth of the region, which itself should go a long way in furthering the objectives of SAARC.

One measure of success of SAARC is the interest shown in the organisation by non-Members. The fact that an organisation of eight members has nine Observers from all across the world is a testimony to the potential the organization holds. Whether we fully achieve the potential is, of course, in the hands of Member States.

As we mark this 25th Anniversary of the organisation, we should take stock of the progress achieved in a sober and realistic manner and seek to draw lessons from the past. At all times, we should bear in mind the original objective of SAARC to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improve their quality of life.

We need to look to an 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 should surely be an achievable goal.

You may be aware that at the Thimphu Summit the Indian proposal to form a South Asia Forum for the generation of debate, discussion and exchange of ideas on South Asia and its future was accepted. The Forum is intended to function on public-private partnership lines and allow for multiple inputs

beyond governments to chart out the future course of SAARC in the medium and long run. We are currently in the process of preparing a concept paper to develop this idea further and look forward to your participation in the Forum in due course.

The Government of India on its part remains fully committed to working within SAARC to contribute to the development of the region through social development and economic integration. We also remain committed to pursuing these objectives in a non-reciprocal manner.

Distinguished friends, as you spend the next two days deliberating over these and other issues, I urge you to think boldly but realistically and to come out with concrete suggestions for the enhanced dynamism of the South Asian region in the near future.

I am very thankful to the organizers for giving me the opportunity to speak to you at this Conference in the 25th year of SAARC. I do hope that SAARC will grow from strength to strength and contribute to the well being of the peoples of the region.

Thank you.



SCO

134. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs S. M. Krishna's visit to Tashkent for SCO Summit.

New Delhi, June 9, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening, and good to see you again. Let me introduce my colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), who *inter alia* handles matters pertaining to SCO and Uzbekistan. You are aware that the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri S.M. Krishna, will be leaving for Tashkent tomorrow to participate in the SCO Summit. He would be accompanied by Foreign Secretary, Shrimati Nirupama Rao; Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (ERS) and other senior officials.

The engagements pertaining to the Summit would take place on the 10th and 11th June. Tomorrow there is an informal dinner for the Heads of Delegations which will also give them an opportunity to interact. On Friday, the 11th of June, EAM will participate in the meeting of the Heads of the State Council of the SCO Summit. There is also an official reception later in the honour of the participants. In the second half of 11th of June he would be calling on His Excellency Islam Karimov, the President of Uzbekistan. This is briefly the programme.

Let me touch upon the SCO process. You are aware that SCO is the successor to the Shanghai 5 Grouping and was launched in Shanghai in June 2001. It has six member States, which are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. SCO Secretariat was established in Beijing in January 2004. In the same year, Mongolia joined SCO as an Observer. A year later in 2005 at Astana, India, Pakistan and Iran joined as Observers. So, SCO has four partner countries which have an Observer status. Later in 2005, the Dushanbe Summit introduced the Dialogue Partner status for countries and organizations. Sri Lanka and Belarus became the Dialogue Partner countries in SCO in the Yekaterinburg Summit in June 2009.

Then they have Special Invitees and Afghanistan has been a Special Invitee since 2005 as Afghanistan is a major area of interest for SCO. SCO has also formed an Afghanistan Contact Group which has held several meetings. Russia organized a meeting on Afghanistan in Moscow in March 2009, in which members and observers participated including India. Another Special Invitee is Turkmenistan which has a neutral status.

The Council of Heads of States constitutes the supreme decision-making body and meets annually. Also, the Council of Heads of Governments meets annually. India, since becoming an observer in 2005, has regularly participated in the Council of Heads of States meetings as well as Council of Heads of Governments meetings. During the Summit in 2008 at Dushanbe, SCO took a decision to raise the level of involvement of the observer countries. You know that four member countries in SCO are Central Asian countries. Central Asia is a part of our extended neighbourhood and we have the best of relations with each SCO country.

Speaking at Yekaterinburg SCO Summit in June 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said and I quote, "The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation represents a vast landmass rich in cultural diversity, creativity and resources. India has the privilege of having excellent bilateral relations with each of the members of the organisation. Our relations with them go back in time. They rest on solid, civilisational, cultural and economic linkages that have flourished over the centuries".

Ladies and gentlemen, India would like to see greater connectivity with SCO countries. We wish to strengthen people-to-people contacts, exchanges of business persons and scholars, as well as trade, investment and technology flows between India and SCO. India also welcomes closer cooperation in the field of energy and food security as well as infrastructure development. We wish to see peace, prosperity and stability in the region that SCO represents. As such we have been and would like to further enhance our cooperation in counter-terrorism with SCO. Terrorism is an issue which concerns every country in the region and for that matter the entire mankind. It is a common challenge which we have and are taking up jointly. That sums up our approach to SCO. We have been playing an active and constructive role and are willing, are open to playing a larger role at SCO.

I would also like to briefly touch upon our excellent bilateral relations with Uzbekistan. I mentioned that the EAM will be taking the opportunity of calling on His Excellency the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Karimov. We enjoy historical linkages spanning millennia with Uzbekistan. There is a great deal of mutual respect and goodwill between our countries. Hindi is taught in several schools in Uzbekistan. In fact, a number of streets in Tashkent are named after Indian leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister Shastri and so on. ICCR is planning to hold a festival of India in Uzbekistan soon.

There is a Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Information Technology that was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India when he visited Tashkent in April 2006, and the Centre is doing well. We are interested in enhancing all-round cooperation with Uzbekistan including in areas like energy, mining, trade and investments, information technology, human resource development, health, agriculture, culture, tourism and so on. Indian investors have signaled their interest to invest in diverse sectors like

construction, infrastructure-building including roads, railways and airports, the hydrocarbons sector, tourism, agro-chemicals, education, and IT.

We have a very happy tradition of regular high-level exchanges. I would like to recall here that EAM Shri S.M. Krishna had paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on 22nd and 23rd of October 2009 when he called on President Karimov and had detailed discussions with his counterpart. Uzbekistan has been supportive of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. We greatly value our ties with Uzbekistan and would like to see them enhanced further.

Thank you.



135. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the plenary session of Tashkent Summit of SCO.

Tashkent, June 11, 2010.

Your Excellency, President Karimov, Chairman of the Summit,

Distinguished Heads of State and leaders of delegations,

Secretary General of the SCO,

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be here in Tashkent at this august gathering of world leaders for the Annual Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 as an Observer. We attach great importance to this Organization and value our partnership with its members. Indeed, we see most SCO member countries as belonging to our 'extended neighbourhood', bound to us by strong ties of history and culture. Within the parameters of participation open to Observers, India has demonstrated its strong commitment to SCO, by engaging with the Organization in several different areas and by participating actively at several of the Ministerial meetings.

With the Presidency last year of Russia and the current Presidency of Uzbekistan, Observer states have been given an expanded role and India has shown its commitment to the ideals of the Organization through constructive engagement in diverse areas. Earlier this year in January, India participated in Moscow at an informal SCO meeting, to prepare for the London Conference on Afghanistan. In March 2010, our Deputy Minister for Culture led the Indian delegation to the meeting of the SCO Culture Ministers at Sanya, China. Under the Russian Presidency, we were invited to and we attended several of the Ministerial meetings.

SCO has played a constructive and forward-looking role over the past few months in the international deliberations on the future of Afghanistan. We commend this and believe that the SCO is uniquely fitted to provide positive contributions to the global discourse on Afghanistan. SCO can certainly add a critical regional perspective and play a constructive role in ensuring a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. We in India stand committed to the social and economic development of Afghanistan. We see Afghanistan as a hub for transit, trade and energy, connecting Central Asia and South Asia.

The Yekaterinburg SCO declaration rightly recognized the dangers posed by illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and transnational organized crime. Terrorism and extremism, along with narco-trafficking, are key challenges facing all countries of our region. India, as a victim of terrorism, understands the threat posed by this menace to economic and social development. Regional cooperation to counter terrorism can play a key role in supporting action taken by individual countries. SCO has been pro-active and has taken major initiatives to pool the resources of its member countries for the joint struggle against this scourge. The Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) under the auspices of SCO is based in this city- Tashkent- and India is ready to cooperate fully with this important organization for exchanging information and working out a common strategy for combating terrorism.

Economic development and the fair distribution of the fruits of economic growth require connectivity between our peoples. We are ready to work with the SCO for the economic development of the region and feel the SCO can make a valuable contribution to common initiatives to set up viable transport links between the countries of Central and South Asia.

India has consistently articulated its desire to play a more constructive and meaningful role as an Observer at the SCO. We deeply value the role of the SCO in bringing security, stability and development to our region and stand ready to step up our engagement to contribute more meaningfully to the SCO for the common good of the people of our region. We believe that our historically friendly ties with all the member States, our close political relations and equally, our burgeoning trade and investment relations, as well as our expertise, developed over the decades, in diverse sectors, ranging from rural development to high technology - all equip us to fulfill greater responsibilities in this forum.

I would like to congratulate Your Excellency, President Karimov and the Government of Uzbekistan for the excellent arrangements made for the Tashkent Summit and to thank you for the gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I felicitate the Uzbek Presidency for the effective stewardship of the Organization and wish all success to the Kazakh Presidency. I hope that the deliberations of this Summit Meeting are fruitful and end in all round success.



**135A. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs
on the visit of SCO Director, Executive Committee of
the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.**

New Delhi, September 10, 2010.

At the invitation of the Government of India, H.E. Mr. Jenisbek M. Jumanbekov, Director, Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), visited India from 7-9 September 2010. This was the first interaction between India and the RATS.

India became an Observer of the SCO at its 2005 Summit in Kazakhstan. The Prime Minister of India, DrManmohan Singh participated in the 2009 SCO Summit held in the Russian Federation, while External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna represented India at the 2010 SCO Summit held in Uzbekistan.

During his visit, H.E. Mr. Jennisbek M. Jumanbekov called on the National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon and Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Ms. Vijayalatha Reddy. He held delegation level talks with the Indian side, led by Additional Secretary (Political) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji.

The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and in the region. Both sides expressed concern at the volatile security situation in this area, which seriously threatened peace and stability, and had an adverse impact on the socio-economic development of the people of this region. The sides expressed their resolve to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation in tackling the threats emanating from terrorism.

The two sides agreed to exchange information on issues of mutual interest, and to draw up a programme of future cooperation on the basis of the relevant decisions taken by the SCO.



136. Statement by Minister of Power Sushil Shinde at SCO meeting.

Dushanbe, November 25, 2010.

Your Excellency, Prime Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Akil Akilov,

Distinguished Heads of Government of the Members and Observers of SCO,

Secretary General of the SCO,

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

2. It is indeed a proud privilege for me to be in Dushanbe at this august gathering of world leaders for the meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. I had the honour to represent India in the Heads of Government meeting in Astana in October 2008 and I am delighted to be at this forum again. I

would like to begin by thanking the Government and people of Tajikistan for their gracious hospitality.

3. India has been associated with the SCO since 2005 as an observer. In these five years, we have witnessed several tumultuous developments affecting us globally and within the region which SCO represents. We are yet to come out of a continuing global financial crisis. Till now, global recovery efforts have had only mixed results. This is why we support the important theme of this Council Meeting which is to examine ways and means of further deepening cooperation amongst us in overcoming the long term consequences of this crisis.

4. SCO member states and observers constitute half of humanity. Our region is rich not only in resources but also in human capacity and endeavours. Therefore, developments affecting our common SCO region are of significant consequence to the welfare of a greater part of the world.

5. We attach great importance to our association with the SCO, which has steadily emerged as an active and dynamic regional body. Within the existing participatory mechanism open to the observer countries, India has demonstrated its strong commitment to the SCO by engaging with the organisation in several different areas and by participating actively at several of the Ministerial meetings. Most SCO member countries belong to our extended neighbourhood, with strong historical and cultural ties binding us together. India values the endeavours of the SCO for bringing peace and stability and for the collective prosperity of our peoples. On our part, we stand ready to contribute towards the economic development of countries in the SCO space.

6. We congratulate the people of Kyrgyzstan on their recent Parliamentary elections, and hope that this democratic process will bring stability and development to the people.

7. SCO has played a constructive and forward-looking role in contributing towards peace in Afghanistan. We recognize the role of SCO member states in contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan. India is doing its utmost for the social and economic development of

Afghanistan, even at the cost of the lives of our people. India stands committed to the development of Afghanistan and to prosperity for the Afghan people.

8. Terrorism and extremism coupled with narco-trafficking are grave challenges facing all our countries. India as a victim of terrorism, understands the threat posed by this menace to economic and social development. Regional cooperation can play an important role in supporting action taken by individual countries. SCO has been proactive in taking major initiatives to pool the resources of its member countries for the joint struggle against this scourge to mankind. The Regional Anti Terrorist Structure (RATS) can become a very important vehicle for a regional answer to the terrorism challenge. We look forward to be more engaged with RATS and in counter-terrorism exercises in the region.

9. Excellencies and Distinguished guests, India had travelled a long way in recent years. Our economic growth has averaged 8% and we have weathered the global financial crisis through prudent regulatory steps. Despite the global recession, we recovered to a growth rate of 7.4% and are projected to grow at 8.5% in 2010-11 and 9% thereafter. India realises that prosperity in our region will come through growth and development in all our countries. As we come out of a short term policy agenda of crisis management and global re-balancing, we would like to see a strong development agenda adopted in various international fora, to correct the development imbalance that our world and our region face. In this regard, we consider cooperation within SCO membership as important. Specifically, we consider cooperation in Energy, infrastructure and human resource development as critical to progress.

10. We are happy to see that the Tashkent Summit of the SCO in June 2010 has decided to open the doors of the organization to new members. India has consistently articulated its desire to play a more constructive and meaningful role at the SCO platform. We deeply value the role of 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. India's friendly ties with all the member states, our close political relations and equally, our increasing trade and economic relations as well as our expertise, economic size and

technological advancement- all equip us to fulfill greater responsibilities in this forum.

11. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like once again to thank the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for the wonderful arrangements and for having us all over to your beautiful capital, Dushanbe. For us, Tajikistan is a neighbour with which we share a common heritage and close bonds stretching back to ancient times. These bonds will continue to remain strong in the generations to come. I take this opportunity to wish the people of Tajikistan continued peace and prosperity in the coming years, and congratulate Your Excellency for successfully organizing this important Summit.

Thank you !



ASIA-MIDDLE DIALOGUE

137. Address by Minister of State Smt Preneet Kaur at the 3rd Asia - Middle East Dialogue Meeting.

Bangkok, December 15, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Honourable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sawadee Kha, and Namaskar

I am delighted to be here today in Krung Thep, the city of Angels, with friends from Asia and the Middle East, or West Asia as we call it. It is interesting to look at geographical terms given to our region like Middle East or Far East, which perhaps reflect the world view of those who coined such terms. Perhaps, some day we might find terms like Middle West or Far West coming in vogue!! However, in spite of use of such terms, the

fact remains that we remain united by rich tapestry of our common history, culture and heritage.

2. I thank Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya and the Government of Thailand for the warm welcome accorded to us, and for the hospitality that has made Thailand a leader in the field of Tourism and hospitality. AMED's journey, from our previous host Egypt to Bangkok, marks the continuing experience in gracious hospitality that is a hallmark of our shared culture. I would like to convey our warm greetings and felicitations to His Majesty the King of Thailand, whose 83rd birthday anniversary we celebrated with great enthusiasm recently.

3. It is good to be among fellow Asians. AMED symbolizes the confluence of ideas and thoughts, and we are happy to see this process gathering strength since the first meeting in Singapore in 2005.

4. Issues we discuss in this session relate to our interdependent economic world. This is an apt time to do so, given the upheavals in the world economy. The global economic slowdown affected us all. While recovery is advancing, the path to sustainable medium term growth remains somewhat shaky, as evident in the latest financial problems affecting some European countries.

5. Our economic interdependence is not a recent phenomenon. For a few thousand years now, India has been situated on the crossroads of world's major trading pathways. Be it the ancient silk route, or the sea routes in the Indian Ocean, straddling both eastern and western coasts of India, people plying their trade through centuries have not only carried with them goods, but also ideas, thoughts, traditions and knowledge of each other. I recall the well known Moroccan Ibn Batuta, one of the greatest travelers the world has known, who came to India in the 14th century to be a guest in the court of Sultan Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq for several years. He was later sent as Sultan's envoy to China, and visited many countries in South East Asia in the process. His epic voyages are just one example of the dialogue that has been going on within Asia for thousands of years now, and we are proud of the part India has played in it.

6. These close historical links and connectivity are also mirrored in modern day partnerships and close ties between India and countries of West Asia. The Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) alone are host to more than 5.5 million Indians, who constitute a significant proportion of the expatriate population in these countries. They remit more than US\$30 billion annually out of a total of around USD 50 billion annual remittances to India - the largest inward remittance flow in the world. Trade with GCC countries in 2009-10 was of the order of US\$93 billion making the GCC India's largest trading partner.

7. In our contemporary world, this interdependence has grown manifold thanks to amazing leaps in technology, enabling faster means of transporting people and goods, lightning speed of communications, the internet, and the omnipresent media. We have all been brought together like never before. Among other things, this has also meant a rapid integration of global supply and delivery chains, as nations and enterprises find the more efficient and cost-effective ways of generating products and services, and building upon their own core competencies and resources. As a result, our connectivity has become synonymous with our interdependence.

8. Our connectivity is not limited to domain of economics alone. A Complex web of causes and effects of major challenges like climate change binds us all. We recognize our common and profound vulnerabilities to climate change, and the consequent common but differentiated responsibilities to combat together its perils. Environmental stewardship demands responsive leadership. As we conveyed at Cancun, India will not only be among the fastest growing economies in the world as measured by GDP-Gross Domestic Product-but will also be amongst the most responsible in ensuring a high rate of growth of the real GDP-Green Domestic Product.

9. The enhanced connectivity is a key force behind globalization, and to put it starkly - represents demise of distance. If a small bank fails in some part of the world, or there is a crop failure in some region, one can be sure its effects are going to be felt across the world.

10. In the economic arena, this connectivity is nowhere visible more than world financial markets, where average daily turnover in foreign

exchange markets alone is estimated at about US\$ 4 trillion. Needless to say, this complex, super fast connectivity has its downfalls too. At times, such huge volumes of capital chasing high returns in short term can magnify minor local uncertainties into extensive, prolonged and highly destabilizing crises, as this region witnessed in the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

11. The powerful nature of global interdependence was amply demonstrated in the recent Global financial crisis. Excessive credit expansion and asset price inflation, both fuelled by so-called "financial innovations" of dubious value, and a lax regulatory environment, led to an accumulation of risk that was not adequately understood and ultimately produced a severe crisis, which even though it began in the developed world, spread rapidly across the world. The most important fallout of the crisis was the large-scale unemployment generated in many developing countries, threatening many people's livelihood.

12. India was able to weather the storm in a relatively better manner, largely due to action taken by our central bank the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) well before the crisis to tighten bank credit to the real estate sector and to limit bank exposure on this account.

13. It is a matter of satisfaction that many emerging market countries have been able to withstand the meltdown and are able to rebound. I am happy to note that the Indian economy has recovered fairly well from the crisis. The economy, which had grown at 9% in the four years prior to the crisis, had slowed down to 6.7% in the 2008-09. It recovered to 7.4% growth in 2009-10 and is likely to grow at 8.5% in 2010-11. We hope to achieve 9% growth in 2011-12.

14. Challenges demonstrated by the Global Financial Crisis also represent new opportunities. It is said that 'a crisis is a terrible thing to waste'. A global response to it swiftly coalesced together, of which the G20 action is but one example. Reforms of the World Bank and the IMF have since been successfully initiated, as is a much needed reform of financial regulation through a broad based Financial Stability Board (FSB). As a member of G-20, India has striven to ensure that the process fully takes on board the views of our fellow developing countries.

15. While coordinated response to the crisis has helped avoid further collapse of the world economy, the crisis has by no means blown over. High unemployment in developed economies threatens a revival of protectionist sentiment, given that use of conventional monetary and fiscal tools to revive the economy has been yielding limited results. We must, however, at all costs resist any resurgence of protectionism and avoid competitive devaluation.

16. A crucial dimension of connectivity is the flow of people. As I mentioned earlier, people-to-people contacts have constituted the dialogue between our societies for centuries. Tourism is for many countries, and our host Thailand is one example, an engine of growth today. To give an example, more than 3 million Indian tourists visit ASEAN countries every year and about 380 flights connect Indian and ASEAN cities every week. They foster our understanding, appreciation and respect for each other, so important for our peaceful and harmonious co-existence, besides generating employment and sustaining traditional arts, heritage and communities. The same goes for professionals and service providers, who I can say have taken the most advantage of the interconnectivity to convert our economies into knowledge-based ones. As a member of ASEAN + 6 and the East Asia Summit process, we welcome initiatives in our Asian region to build such enhanced connectivity. Following successful implementation of the India ASEAN Agreement on Trade in Goods, we now look forward to the early conclusion of comprehensive India-ASEAN Agreement on Services and Investment. We will continue to work with our partners in SAARC and BIMSTEC to foster and encourage greater trade and connectivity.

17. At the same time, we also 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, and traffickers of drugs, arms and humans are some of them. In recent past alone, we have been witness to several incidents of terrorists trying to cause chaos and mayhem by creating disruptions in global connectivity networks. While India has seen first hand such attacks, they pose a significant challenge to all of us, and the international community needs to act in concert to defeat this common threat.

18. Our multi-dimensional interdependence would not be possible without physical connectivity. Development of connectivity infrastructure is, in my views, a key objective for us. Some salutary proposals, such as the nearly 1,41,000 km long Asian Highway network, have been under development for a while. Implementation of such projects has not been commensurate with our expectations. Thrust on multi-dimensional connectivity is also the theme of the ASEAN Master-plan on Connectivity unveiled at Hanoi recently. India is working closely with its ASEAN partners in this endeavour.

19. Our collective experience has shown that in order to be sustainable, global economic growth has to be inclusive, and its fruits be shared equitably. I would suggest that just as global connectivity ensures flow of inputs and resources that go into producing wealth; it has to also ensure a balanced distribution of wealth thus generated across the regions and countries. A fair and equitable trading system, as enshrined in the objectives of the Doha Development Round, is the sustaining force behind the web of connectivity we've built today, and it is therefore imperative that we work together to bring the Doha Development Round to a satisfactory conclusion at the earliest.

20. Finally, our interdependence provides both challenges and opportunities. It makes all of us joint stakeholders for the Global Good. It brings us together and places a great responsibility on people, governments and leaders to act in concert. I am sure deliberations in the meeting would help lead us further down the path we have chosen to traverse together.

I thank you for your attention. *Khop Khun Kha.*



G-15**138. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of G-15 Summit.****Tehran, May 17, 2010.**

Your Excellency President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to represent India at the fourteenth summit of the Group of Fifteen in this beautiful city of Tehran. At the outset, I would like to express our deep appreciation to His Excellency the President of Iran for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting. I would also like to express our profound appreciation for the efforts of Iran during its chairmanship to reinvigorate the G-15.

Since the establishment of the G-15, we have made collective efforts to inject issues of interest to developing countries into the global agenda, and to seek outcomes that address our concerns. Some among us are engaged in addressing these issues in the G-20 forum.

While it may appear that the immediate global economic and financial crisis is behind us, it would be early to say that we are on the path of long term recovery. Sustainable recovery of the global economy will depend on several factors, including how the developed economies fare, enhanced investment for infrastructure development, stable capital flows to the developing markets, appropriate macro-economic adjustments, and avoiding complacency in the area of financial sector reforms. We need to continue our efforts for a comprehensive reform of the international financial institutions to make them more inclusive. We also must work for ensuring a balanced outcome of the Doha Round which addresses the concerns of the developing countries.

The 14th Summit, coming after over two decades of our Group's founding, affords us an opportunity to review the progress and revitalize the grouping. We should make it an effective platform, not only for South-South

cooperation but, equally importantly, for policy articulation in the global discourse in the areas of trade, money and finance, equitable development, food and energy security, climate change and other issues of concern to our peoples.

We need to collectively look at ways and means to promote South-South cooperation. India has been happy to share its developmental experiences with fellow developing countries, and has implemented some developmental projects in the G-15 framework. India stands ready to cooperate with other members of the group to undertake new projects for deepening and expanding our cooperation.

We need to consolidate ourselves as partners in development, willing to work towards creating a global environment of enhanced understanding and cooperation that is conducive to inclusive and sustainable development. We need to work on greater involvement of our business community and civil society in the G15 process.

I would like to congratulate the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for assuming the chairmanship of the Group in succession to the Islamic Republic of Iran and assure them of our full support and cooperation.

Thank you.



**139. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna
at the meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers.**

New York, September 24, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to participate in the Ministerial meeting of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) and would like to begin by expressing our deep appreciation for your leadership of the Group. We commend your efforts in undertaking a frank and thorough review of the working of the Group with the help of the High-Level Task Force. We welcome the recommendations of the Task Force. We hope that the implementation of the recommendations will help to revitalize and reposition the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The continuing global economic crisis points towards the urgent need for the creation of a more effective and responsive governance architecture for the global economy, including through bringing about appropriate reforms in the international financial institutions. Only equitable and inclusive solutions that provide a due place for developing countries, can redress existing systemic challenges and help avert future crises.

Developing countries continue to face a range of challenges in various multilateral fora. In order to counter these challenges and optimize the outcomes for developing countries, the need for sustained interaction and coordination among our countries in multilateral processes becomes paramount. We, therefore, welcome the recommendations of the Task Force to promote thematic consultations and articulation of common positions, where possible, on key international issues of interest to member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

While global economic recovery is still fragile and private demand in the industrialized countries is likely to remain weak for some time, South-South cooperation acquires particular salience. The Group's membership has varied capabilities in diverse areas which can be harnessed for the common good of developing countries. G-15 collaborative projects can serve as vehicles to share national competencies and exemplify concrete and credible partnerships between our countries. With the youthful demographic profile in our countries, (G-15 projects can focus on human resource development and help translate this advantage into empowering economic assets.

In this context, the Revised Guidelines proposed by the Task Force for monitoring and successful implementation of the projects are timely and welcome. With the new guidelines and monitoring mechanisms in place, we hope that there will be a renewed zeal to initiate projects based on contemporary priorities of the member states. India has, in the past, actively participated in G-15 projects and has coordinated a number of them. We assure you of India's continued support and active collaboration in G-15 projects. On our part, we stand ready to share our developmental experience and partner interested member countries in capacity building, training, technical assistance and other sectoral cooperation projects.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to respond to the challenges of today's fast changing and interconnected world, G-15 must improve its internal working methods and streamline its institutional mechanisms. India, therefore, welcomes the recommendations of the Task Force for the establishment of the working groups on Sectoral Cooperation and Institutional Mechanisms. We hope that these working groups will be operational soon and contribute to a revitalized and energized Group. The institution of the Personal Representatives is central to the successful functioning of the Group. We look forward to their more regular and frequent meetings to provide effective supervision of the Group's activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we hope the new set of reforms will revitalize the Group and enable it to play a more significant role in the international arena, commensurate with the potential and capabilities of its member countries, both in contributing to the bridging of the North-South divide and in enhancing South-South Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



CICA

140. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to Istanbul for 3rd Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit.

Istanbul, June 8, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, led the Indian delegation to the 3rd Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* (CICA) at Heads of State/

* CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. While the idea of convening CICA was first proposed by

Government level held today in Istanbul, Turkey. The Summit was attended by leaders from 20 existing Member countries of CICA. Vietnam and Iraq joined as new Members while Bangladesh became an Observer. Several other countries and international organizations also attended the Summit as Observers/Guests.

The Declaration adopted by the 3rd CICA Summit recognizes the important role being played by the CICA in meeting the challenges faced by the world community in general and Asia in particular. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to continue to develop CICA as a forum for dialogue and to enhance cooperation. Member States condemned terrorism and regarded it as the most serious threat to international peace and security.

On the margins of the Summit, CIM Shri Anand Sharma held discussions with President Abdullah Gul of Turkey and Prime Minister Putin of Russia, FM Dipu Moni of Bangladesh and FM Kasit Piromya of Thailand. These discussions afforded an opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to furthering bilateral relations in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.



Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, on 5th October 1992, at the 47th Session of the UNGA, the Charter of CICA was adopted at the 1st Summit Meeting held in Almaty on 4th June 2002.

Sixteen Asian states joined the CICA at the time of its inception. Presently CICA has twenty Member States. These are; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. Seven countries (Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Vietnam, Ukraine and USA) and three multi-national organizations, including United Nations, have observer status. The CICA Secretariat, the administrative body of the CICA is located in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

A founding member, India has actively participated in the CICA process since its inception. Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee attended the 1st Summit in June 2002. Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas represented Prime Minister at the 2nd Summit in June 2006.

SIDS**141. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Review Meeting of the Mauritius strategy for implementation on Small Island Developing States.****New York, September 25, 2010.**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your leadership, guidance and support for the cause of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The international community has expressed solidarity with the SIDS since the Barbados Programme of Action and subsequently through the Agenda 21 and the Mauritius International Meeting on Sustainable Development of SIDS. Unfortunately, the declared commitments have not been supported by commensurate global efforts.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Barbados Action Plan to strengthen and advance sustainable development in the SIDS has made limited progress in spite of the best efforts by these countries.

The structural deficiencies in SIDS economy arising out of lack of diversification, excessive dependence on tourism and commodities, higher production and transportation costs, small domestic market and vulnerability to external shocks have placed these countries at a clear disadvantage.

The impact of the global financial, food and energy crises has further exacerbated their vulnerabilities and reversed their socio-economic development.

Building resilience in the SIDS to address their structural vulnerabilities must, therefore, continue to be the central plank of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

India fully recognizes the significant threats posed by climate change to the SIDS and the urgency to address the need for adaptation, mitigation,

financial and technological support to these countries to develop an effective response.

Our consciousness of the situation is particularly deep since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas.

India fully supports a firm demonstration of greater sensitivity and a more concrete response to the urgent adaptation needs of the Small Island Developing States as part of any emerging outcome of the ongoing multilateral negotiations.

The financial pledges made at Copenhagen including the Fast Start Funds must be fulfilled at the earliest. We would urge the developed countries to disburse these funds without further delay, under the overall supervision of the UNFCCC, to meet the urgent adaptation needs of the SIDS for whom climate change poses an existential threat.

The strategies adopted by the SIDS to build their renewable energy capabilities in wind and solar power, and waste to energy systems are steps in the right direction to lessen dependence on fossil fuel imports.

Food production is vital to sustainable development and we appreciate and support the steps taken by the SIDS in developing aquaculture systems to enhance food availability. The international community must address the specific concerns of the sea fishing industries in these countries and ensure that food security is given primacy over short-term market needs.

Mr. Chairman,

SIDS urgently need adequate financial resources - access to ODA, FDI and other forms of external capital flows- capacity building, market access, and technology transfer to address their special needs.

I take this opportunity to urge our developed country partners to fulfill their promise made and extend 0.7% of their GNI to global development agenda.

Addressing debt sustainability amongst the SIDS remains a leading challenge. India supports policies that provide safer debt instruments and limit destabilizing capital flows.

The international community needs to pay particular attention to assisting the SIDS through strengthening national disaggregated data and information systems and developing strategies to enhance disaster management capabilities in them.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that capacity building in the SIDS holds the key to sustainable development. We are willing to help the SIDS in whatever way we can - within our resources and as part of our South-South cooperation, to share our experience and expertise in the fields of climate-friendly technologies and sustainable development to supplement their national programmes.

Our cooperation has been in diverse sectors, and has included climate change adaptation, information and communication technology, waste management systems, remote sensing, hydrographic survey, telemedicine, public transport, education, irrigation systems, fisheries, and agriculture and food security.

Permit me, however, to stress that efforts by fellow developing countries cannot be a substitute for the efforts required from our developed partners.

India remains steadfast in its effort for the holistic and sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States.

Thank You.



SICA**142. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India-SICA (Integrated System of Central America) Dialogue on the margins of 65th UNGA session.****New York, September 27, 2010.**

I am glad to meet Your Excellencies and continue this important India-SICA dialogue. At the outset, I would like to thank Belize, as President of SICA, for taking this initiative of organizing India-SICA Dialogue. SICA has evolved into an important regional organization. It is increasingly playing an active role not only on regional issues but also on global issues of concern. India values its relations with SICA member countries and is interested to strengthen and deepen our relationship for mutual benefit.

There had been two rounds of India-SICA Ministerial Dialogue so far. The last dialogue took place in New Delhi in June 2008 and my predecessor had led our side. I am happy to note that there has been substantial progress on the last agenda. In addition to exchange of number of ministerial and official level visits, there have been a few initiatives on the economic front too.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Costa Rica for opening its Mission in New Delhi this year. Panama, El Salvador and Dominican Republic have Missions in New Delhi for quite some time. We would welcome other SICA member countries to also consider opening their Diplomatic Missions in India. We had opened our Diplomatic Mission in Guatemala last December. We also have a Mission in Panama since long. We are keen to expand our presence in the Latin American Region and will open new Missions in the region in a phased manner.

2. Cooperation in the UN

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the SICA member countries for their support to India in the UN and other multilateral fora. We value your support for India's candidature for the non-permanent

membership of the UNSC for 2011-12. We wish to work with you on UN reforms. Given the present realities, we believe that India should be given its due place in the UN Security Council. Similarly India strongly believes that a reformed UN should address the problems of small states and give due recognition to their aspirations.

3. Cooperation in disaster management

Excellencies, India is aware of the vulnerabilities of small states to natural disasters such as hurricanes, landslides, flooding, earthquakes, drought etc. As an expression of solidarity, in a modest way, India has been reaching out to SICA countries whenever they are struck by natural disasters. I wish to underline here the importance of setting up a well coordinated permanent disaster management mechanism for all SICA countries especially since natural disasters in this part of the world are recurring. India would be pleased to share its experiences in disaster management with SICA and assist it to respond to such calamities by way of training, rescue operations, sharing of technology and infrastructure creation.

4. Climate Change

India strongly believes that the global dialogue on Climate Change should give due recognition to the concerns of the Small States. We wish to work closely with SICA member countries on this important issue at the forthcoming COP-16 meeting in Cancun in November 2010.

5. Trade & Investment

It is indeed satisfying that trade and economic relations between India and SICA have increased considerably in recent times. It has risen from US\$ 517 million in 2005-06 to US\$ 843 million in 2009-10. I am sure you all agree that even this substantial increase in our trade is not commensurate with the existing potential. It is important to build awareness on the available opportunities in our two regions through participation in each other's trade fairs and business conclaves. Earlier this year two business conclaves on Latin America & Caribbean were held in New Delhi and I must say the response of the businesses on either side was highly enthusiastic.

I would also like to seek your support for setting up an India-SICA Business forum which would facilitate greater engagement between our two businesses. This was one of the agenda items at the last meeting in New Delhi and needs to be pursued. We should encourage our Chambers of commerce on both sides to work towards this objective.

Indian companies are now actively looking at opportunities in the SICA region. SICA region is strategically located and provides a gateway to markets in North America and South America.

We appreciate the measures taken by some of your countries to relax visa restrictions for Indian nationals. This is an encouraging development. Such measures will, no doubt, go a long way in encouraging our entrepreneurs to visit the region and explore investment opportunities.

6. Lines of Credit

Another way of enhancing our trade and investment engagement is through utilization of Lines of Credit, both official and commercial. In this regard I would like to draw your kind attention to India's offer of Lines of Credit of US\$ 10 million to all member countries of SICA at the last meeting in New Delhi in June 2008. Recently Belize and Nicaragua have sent their project proposals. These are being studied and processed in consultation with the concerned ministries of Government of India. We will welcome proposals from all our SICA partners.

At the last dialogue in New Delhi our two sides agreed to constitute a Joint Technical Committee to lend assistance on technical cooperation issues. So far this has not happened. May I suggest that we constitute this committee in an agreed time-frame.

As a matter of informing you we are streamlining our internal procedures in order to expedite clearance of proposals for Lines of Credit. May I urge you to consider making viable proposals of interest to you. I would welcome any suggestions from you in this regard.

7. ITEC Programme

As part of our commitment to south-south cooperation, India has been providing technical assistance to developing countries to assist them in

their capacity building initiatives. Our ITEC programme and IT centres are highly popular in developing countries. In Latin American region, in particular in SICA countries, our IT centres are running successfully, creating employment opportunities for the youth. On your request we have extended these programmes for one more year after completion of their two years programme.

I would also like to mention that several SICA countries are being offered ITEC slots every year for training of experts. However, I am given to understand that the utilization of these slots is modest. May I urge you all to avail our ITEC slots to the full. I welcome any suggestions in this regard.

Thank you.



NAM

143. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine.

New York, September 25, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important committee. I recall the last meeting of the committee at Sharm el-Sheikh in July 2009, where India renewed its commitment to the just cause of the Palestinian people and, to seeking progress in the peace process.

2. In line with our support for UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, India renews its support for a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 & 1515. We have also 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.

3. We have also called for an end to illegal 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. On the events of 31 May 2010, India deplored the tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza. There can be no justification for such indiscriminate use of force, which we condemned. We extended our sympathies to the families of the dead and wounded. It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force.

4. We welcome the 'direct talks' between the Israelis and the Palestinians, which have resumed after a hiatus of almost 2 years. We are hopeful that the talks and negotiations would continue, leading to a comprehensive peace process for final resolution of the Middle East conflict.

5. Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to bring to your attention, India's continued developmental support to Palestine. Last year, we enhanced our annual contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East [UNRWA] to \$ 1 million, besides, making a special contribution of US \$ 1 million to UNRWA in response to UNWRA's flash appeal. Last year and this year, India contributed US\$ 10 million annually as untied budget support to the Palestinian National Authority. This year's budget support followed from discussions between His Excellency, President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in February this year. These exemplify India's continuing commitment to Palestine.

6. Mr. Chairman, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew India's commitment to the work of this committee, confident that under your guidance, we would continue to contribute to the work of the Movement in support of the Palestinian people.

Thank you.



**144. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at
NAM Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meeting.**

New York, September 27, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this meeting.

As we celebrate half a century of the founding of our Movement next year, the theme of today's debate is significant and timely.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nonaligned Movement, as it stands today, owes a great deal to the inspiration and foresight of its founding fathers like Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, President Nasser, President Tito, and President Sukarno. They shared the vision of the Non-Aligned Movement as an assertion of freedom of judgement and freedom of action, in international relations built upon the basic principles of solidarity, peace, justice and equity.

As early as in 1946, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, stated, "We propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power politics of groups, aligned against one another, which have led in the past two world wars and which may again lead to disasters on an even vaster scale. We seek no domination over others and we claim no privileged position over other people. But we do claim equal and honourable treatment for our people wherever they may go, and we cannot accept any discrimination against them. We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible and the denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war".

As a force representing the newly-independent former colonies emerging from variety of national liberation struggles, our Movement helped close a long and painful chapter of colonialism, imperialism and institutionalized racism- an achievement of which we can be justifiably

proud and draw inspiration. However, the expectations that the political emancipation would lead to rapid socio-economic development and give the developing countries a greater say in shaping the world order are still far from being realized.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, our Movement stands at the crossroads. The challenges confronting us are much more complex, multidimensional and transnational in nature. In today's increasingly, inter-connected and inter-dependent world, the vision of our founding fathers is more relevant than ever before and must continue to guide our perspective as we move forward.

The central challenges of our times relate to management of global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradicating hunger and deprivation, tackling pandemics, raising literacy levels and coping up with climate change. Equally serious challenges are posed by terrorism, drug-traffickers and organized crime syndicates, and other challenges to international peace and security.

These challenges are heightened by persistent structural infirmities and democracy deficit in the architecture of international institutions of global governance. The apparent failings of our global political, economic and fiscal institutions limit our collective ability to respond to these challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Movement remains well-positioned to address such challenges. We need to discover strengths of our past and there must be sharper focus on issues that unite rather than divide the members. Without solidarity of purpose and commitment, without a measured, result-oriented approach, we cannot address systematic challenges that transcend individual national capacities.

Moving forward, we need to reinvigorate our efforts towards a more democratic, equitable, and legitimized international architecture that reflects the contemporary realities. The world's international institutions, in particular, the UN and its Security Council and the Bretton Woods

Institutions require fundamental changes which only developing countries can promote. The continuing democracy deficit in the UN, the parliament of nations, is unsustainable. Genuine reform is essential, in particular of the Security Council. It must encompass expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and improvement of its working methods.

Terrorism is one of the greatest scourges of our times. The Movement cannot afford to equivocate on this vital issue and must be at the forefront of combating this menace. 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. We need to enhance the international cooperation against terrorism and plug gaps in the legal framework. This requires that the negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN, which have been going on for over a decade, are finalised and the convention is concluded at the earliest.

India attaches the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament which is also enshrined in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988. During the 63rd UNGA session, our Prime Minister reiterated the proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination within a specified time frame. The Movement needs to play a more active and advocating role in efforts towards achieving universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and a world free of all nuclear weapons.

Members of the Non-Aligned Movement are the largest troop providers to the UN peacekeeping operations. They are also host to most of the UN peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding efforts. It is therefore critical that the Movement must spearhead efforts towards ensuring a meaningful engagement in the substantive discussions on these issues.

As we have just undertaken a comprehensive review of the progress towards the realization of MDGs, Mr. Chairman, we are reminded of the long and arduous journey that lies ahead in realization of these goals.

The developing and the developed countries need to work together to effectively tackle the challenges of food security, energy security, health, education and environment and climate change. Accelerated and sustained efforts are needed towards eradication of poverty and lasting improvements in nutrition, health and education.

African countries form the largest single grouping in NAM. Nowhere are the challenges humankind faces more pressing than in the African continent. The Movement must continue to work towards ensuring Africa's pre-eminence in the global development agenda.

In this stocktaking, naturally, our thoughts also turn to the people of Palestine, who have endured great suffering and hardship. With the latest renewed impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, we hope that this would lead to a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we are at the cusp of an opportunity. Our overall approach while addressing the overarching challenges that we face must be guided by a new, forward-looking and focused Agenda for our Movement, which brings conviction to our positions.

This will require consolidation of our Movement by building areas of commonality. We must strive to build unity and solidarity, recognizing that amongst 118 members, there will be diversity.

The imperative for a new agenda and discourse in our Movement has never been greater.



COMMONWEALTH

145. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries.

New Delhi, January 5, 2010.

It is indeed a matter of great honour for India to host once again the prestigious Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries for the third time. I extend a warm welcome to each one of the distinguished participants. I am very happy that this Conference will carry forward the multifaceted high-level engagement that is now part of the established Commonwealth tradition. India is also looking forward to welcoming thousands of sportsmen and women later this year when we celebrate the great sporting traditions of the Commonwealth countries during the Commonwealth Games.

This Conference gives us an occasion to reflect on one of the fundamental values of the Commonwealth - that of adherence to democratic principles. The past few decades have undoubtedly seen the triumph of the will of the people. Democracy is taking roots in every corner of the world. Why this has come to be was perhaps most appropriately summed up by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He said and I quote, "Democracy is good; I say this because other systems are worse".

Democracy, in precept and practice, will never wear the mantle of perfection. Consensus building does take time. But in the end, the decisions that emerge from such processes are durable. They have the support of the majority and they take into account the legitimate concerns of the minority.

India's own tryst with democracy drew its inspiration from our freedom struggle. And so, at a time when most developing countries opted for authoritarian models of government, India chose to be a multi-party democracy. This journey has not always been smooth. There have been stresses and strains. This is inevitable in a diverse and plural society that India is. Despite these often noisy political contestations, India has remained as a functioning multi-party democracy. Democracy has strengthened our polity and our institutions.

I believe that India's experiment in trying to achieve economic salvation within the framework of a pluralistic, democratic polity that respects individual freedom and the rule of law has profound implications for the world at large. If our way of governing can succeed and if we are able to banish poverty from our land in a generation, it will convincingly answer the question of whether democracy can sustain rapid development and growth.

Each society and each democracy has to come to terms in its own way with the competing demands of freedom and development and of respecting diversity while maintaining unity. There is no "one-size-fits-all" democratic system. Democracy cannot be imposed from outside. It has to evolve from the native genius of each society and absorb local political and cultural traditions.

Under the Commonwealth umbrella, our effort should be to recognize each attempt at democratization, howsoever incipient, and encourage it to blossom. There is great diversity and a wealth of experience among the Commonwealth countries. We should pool our experiences and expertise and extend a helping hand particularly to small states and countries that are trying to consolidate their democracies.

India is making a modest contribution in this regard and our effort has been to offer our experience of running the organs of democracy such as parliament, the judiciary and the election commission. Our large aid programmes in Africa and elsewhere have strong components for the development of capacity and human resources.

At the recently held meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth at Port of Spain, we issued a Declaration on Climate Change that affirmed that a global climate change solution is central to the survival of people and to the promotion of development.

The leaders of the Commonwealth agreed to implement the Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan in particular by contributing to the efforts of member states in transforming their economies and strengthening the capacity and voice of vulnerable groups. It is the small states and indeed the developing world in general that is bearing the brunt of a problem they did little to create. Issues relating to climate change require undoubtedly a collective and cooperative approach

based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility. I call for a greater sense of fairness and justice in global approaches to dealing with the problem of climate change.

In recent times, democratic representation has deepened as more and more sections of the electorate are gaining a political voice. In India, this has become manifest in the growing number of regional and sub-regional parties and a concomitant rise in coalition politics. This has not only presented a challenge for governance but also for the conduct of the system of parliamentary democracy, as the voices of the smaller parties have found greater resonance within the political structure. The role of presiding officers has come into sharper focus. The task of running parliament smoothly, giving due representation and voice to all sections, has become more complex and challenging. The aspirations of the smaller parties may often be anchored in narrower considerations but they carry great weight for their constituents. In the end, democracy must respond to these everyday concerns of the common man and parliament should be the forum to articulate and address them.

I am pleased that the Speaker facing these challenges in our own Parliament is a very distinguished woman, Mrs. Meira Kumar, who sheathes the proverbial iron fist beneath a velvet voice.

Throughout the world, there is now a generational shift in politics as there is in business and other fields of human endeavour. In India, seventy percent of the population is below the age of 35, and they are voting in large numbers. We must act to meet their expectations.

It is also imperative that women are given a more meaningful voice in our political and developmental processes. In India, I am proud to say that, with reservation in our local bodies, we have today more than a million elected representatives who are women. They are deepening our democracy and enriching our development processes.

Our representative bodies should think of ways to marshal the energy and the impatience of the young and the vast latent capabilities of our women. I hope that the deliberations today will address these valuable issues constructively.

The growth of extremist ideologies is threatening civilized existence everywhere. The proponents of such ideologies are challenging the

tenets of democracy and representational politics by resorting to intimidation, terror and other manifestations of intolerance. We should not and we cannot give any quarter to such forces. At the same time we should look at ways and means by which such forces can be eliminated without undermining our democratic foundations. This will require sustained international effort and cooperation and I am sure that your deliberations will give new insights on how we can tackle this grave menace.

This Conference is an important forum of the Commonwealth. Over the years, the Conference has begun to address issues that have gone beyond the conventional issues that concern presiding officers. I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

With these words, let me say once again what a pleasure it is for India to have you here in our midst, and to wish you all success in your deliberations.



146. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

New York, September 27, 2010.

Excellencies Foreign Ministers of Commonwealth Member States,

Secretary General of the Commonwealth,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by applauding the manner in which the Government of Trinidad & Tobago has chaired the Commonwealth in the past year, in particular the successful hosting of the CHOGM in Port of Spain in November 2009. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey the support of my government to Australia as the chair of the next Summit to be held in 2011 in Perth.

With its unique membership structure, substantive orientation and style of functioning based on consensus-building, informality and goodwill, the Commonwealth provides its members with a strong sense of purpose and utility. The Commonwealth has also devoted much of its activities to the needs and interests of its larger developing country membership, including 32 Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries. India, on its part, also has a strong and abiding interest in promoting, maintaining and strengthening healthy democratic institutions and the rule of law, which are the primary objectives of the Commonwealth.

At the CHOGM 2009, the Prime Minister of India had announced several new initiatives in support of the Commonwealth. I am happy to share with you that all of these initiatives have already been implemented or are in the final stages of implementation. These pertain to training of diplomats, the Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal (CP3) portal doubling our contribution to the Commonwealth Media Development Fund, creation of 250 additional slots for training civilians from Commonwealth countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, and in addition, providing on a bilateral basis 1,564 training slots to ITEC partner countries in the Commonwealth.

I am happy to learn that 2009 CHOGM mandates are successfully being implemented. During 2009 CHOGM, the need to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism on a priority basis was emphasised. It is important that this happens early, preferably during the current Session of the UN General Assembly.

Like other Member States of the Commonwealth, India believes that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with young people. India is, therefore, supportive of developing a new assessed scale of contributions for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) on a consensus basis as early as possible.

I am convinced that the Commonwealth Secretariat will continue its proactive role in other areas as mandated by 2009 CHOGM such as education, health, energy security, food security, migration, human rights, combating corruption, human trafficking, reform of international institutions, trade and investment, and assisting the small states to implement crisis-resilient strategies. It is also our hope that the 'Commonwealth Connects' would

promote strategic partnerships and help member states build ICT capacity.

This year the Secretary General and our Permanent Representatives have interacted to bring to the UN the unique perspective of the Commonwealth on current issues in the global discourse. This interaction could be facilitated by regular contact of the Commonwealth Office in New York with the UN Missions of Commonwealth countries on matters of interest.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that India eagerly looks forward to welcoming sportspersons and officials from Commonwealth countries to the Delhi Commonwealth Games, due to begin the coming Sunday.

Thank you.



BIMSTEC

147. Keynote address by Minister of State Dr Shashi Tharoor on "India's North-East and BIMSTEC- A Retrospect".

Shillong, April 9, 2010.

I am delighted to be here in Shillong today in such a splendid setting, the abode of clouds. It is my first visit to the beautiful North-East of our country since becoming a Minister and I am very happy that an event closely linked to my Ministry has brought me here. As many of you are aware, the Ministry of External Affairs has over the past couple of years embarked on a vigorous outreach programme as part of its Public Diplomacy efforts. In this context, I recollect that in June 2007, for the first time, a Seminar was organized by the Public Diplomacy Division of the MEA here on India's Look East Policy. It is a matter of satisfaction, that the general direction set then has been followed and we are back again in Shillong for discussion on a very timely and important topic that focuses on the role of BIMSTEC in unlocking the potential of the North-East of India.

The North-East of India is the bridge between two sub-regions of Asia - South Asia and South-East Asia. Both regions are in the midst of tremendous positive change, spurred by economic growth and

development. For various reasons, the details of which you are well aware, we in India have so far to a large extent not been able to leverage the various opportunities that this sub-region of India offers for the well-being and prosperity of the people who live here. Amongst the opportunities we should seize are not only the geographical factor of being a bridgehead between South-Asia and South-East Asia, but also the natural and human resources of the Seven Sisters of the North-East. Today's challenge is to harness these opportunities to ensure that growth and development does not bypass this region but passes by this region. It is encouraging to note in this context the role BIMSTEC is attempting to play in truly linking this region not only to other parts of India but beyond India.

The defining feature of India is 'Unity in Diversity' and 'Diversity in Unity'. Each and every region of India exhibits this feature along with a strong underlying sense of national unity and Indianness at the heart of this diversity. This rich mosaic of diversity and variety can be more prominently seen in the North-Eastern states of the Indian Union. Nature has endowed this entire region bountifully in many respects. It has rich bio-diversity; its hydro-potential is unparalleled; it has petroleum and natural gas along with other minerals and it also has great forest wealth. But more than these rich natural endowments, it is the great human resource wealth of the region which is a unique endowment, being a result of the confluence of diverse ethnic, linguistic, religious, cultural and educational currents.

Although industrialisation was brought to this region by the British East India Company in the early 19th-century with the cultivation and first export of tea way back in 1839, the rapid development of industry has not taken place here. Even coal was found here soon thereafter and exploited which led to the development of private and Government railways. The first oil refinery of Asia was set up in 1901 in Digboi following the discovery of oil in Upper Assam. It is also important to remember that in the past, during the times of acute foreign exchange scarcity, Assam's tea and jute exports were sources of much-needed foreign exchange. So it is all the more ironic and disheartening that today this region is yet to take full advantage of the industrialization and economic development of our country, and that significant differences in terms of some development indicators have emerged with other parts of India. Happily various initiatives are in place to correct the discrepancies and I am happy to observe that even my Ministry

is playing a leadership role in one such initiative, which is to contribute towards BIMSTEC's efforts to bring economic development to this strategic region of India.

With the paradigm shift from a state-centred approach to one of interdependence and global and regional cooperation, we have become all the more aware of the geo-economic potential of the North-Eastern region as a gateway to East and South-East Asia. I am convinced that by gradually integrating this region through cross-border market access, the North-Eastern states can become the bridge between the Indian economy and what is arguably the fastest growing and most dynamic region in the world. While we live with the geographic fact that our North-Eastern region is landlocked, the geographical location of the North-East makes it the doorway to South-East and East-Asia and vice versa, a doorway for these economies into India.

Let us consider some basic facts. A glance at the map of the North Eastern region reveals that the region is almost entirely surrounded by foreign States and the seven sisters of the region are internally locked with concomitant locational disadvantages, despite the fact that each of these States shares at least one international border. The North-Eastern region is cradled by five Asian States - China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland share a 1643 km long border with Myanmar; Assam Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram share a 1880 km border with Bangladesh; Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim share a 468 km border with Bhutan; Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim share a 1325 km border with the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. The region's difficulties following from the loss of connectivity and market access as a result of Partition in 1947 are well known. Traditional transportation routes - rail, road and river, linking the Chittagong and Calcutta ports, suddenly became unavailable and alternative routes were prohibitively costly. To cite an example, the distance between Agartala and Calcutta port is 1,700 km, whereas, earlier, it was just about 375 km through the territory of what became East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The result, therefore, was massive market and logistical disruption, from which the North-East of India still suffers.

The UPA government under Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has taken a number of initiatives, which will have a long-term economic impact on

the region. The important initiatives include the launching of the North-Eastern Region Vision 2020 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in July, 2008. This vision is a historic path-breaking document which spells out the challenges that need to be addressed in a collaborative manner over the next ten years. In pursuance of this Vision, seventeen Thematic Groups, headed by the line Ministries or Departments in specific areas, have been set up. The Ministry of DoNER has assumed the responsibility for monitoring the Prime Minister's economic packages announced during the visits of the Prime Minister from time to time to the North-Eastern States. These packages contain important infrastructure projects, such as rail and road development and power projects.

Since the services industry is not very well-developed in the region, incentives have also been provided to some specified sectors like hotels, adventure and leisure sports, nursing homes and vocational training institutes. Considering the rich biodiversity of the region, biotechnology has been brought under the purview of the new Policy.

This may sound like an internally-focused approach, but it is part of a larger picture. India's 'Look East' Policy, which was enunciated in the early nineties, was not merely a matter of external policy; it was also a strategic shift in India's vision of the world and India's place in the evolving global economy. Most of all, it was about reaching out to our civilizational neighbours in the region, and availing of the economic opportunities presented by these countries.

India's engagement with BIMSTEC is a key component of our Look-East Policy. I am glad to see my friend the Ambassador of Thailand here [check?], because in a sense, BIMSTEC is a forum where our Look East Policy meets Bangkok's Look West Policy. BIMSTEC is a unique link between South-Asia and South-East Asia. From the very beginning, it has been considered a powerful mechanism to promote opportunities for trade, investment and tourism between these two regions. Societies within BIMSTEC are pluralistic; our languages are rich and diverse and we have a shared cultural heritage.

Since its inception in 1997, BIMSTEC is playing a role in connecting South-Asia and South-East Asia. BIMSTEC started in 1997 for regional cooperation with only four member-countries. Today, the combined Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) of BIMSTEC partners has increased two and a half times to reach 1.7 trillion US dollars. At present, connectivity among the members is far more than it was in 1997, and intra-BIMSTEC trade turnover and investment and people to people exchanges have multiplied.

Starting with six sectors, the BIMSTEC agenda of cooperation has expanded to fourteen sectors: i) Trade & Investment (ii) Technology (iii) Energy (iv) Transportation & Communication (v) Tourism (vi) Fisheries (vii) Agriculture (viii) Cultural Cooperation (ix) Environment and Disaster Management (x) Public Health (xi) People-to-People Contact (xii) Poverty Alleviation, (xiii) Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and (xiv) Climate Change.

India is the lead country in important areas such as Transportation & Communication, Tourism, Environment and Disaster Management and Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) within the BIMSTEC framework is being discussed. A BIMSTEC Energy Centre and a Weather and Climate Centre are proposed to be established in India. We have also offered 330 annual training slots to BIMSTEC countries under our Technical economic co-operation programme.

If we take advantage of the experiences of member-countries in a concerted way, it is possible to have a far-reaching impact on poverty reduction and on the overall development of the region. For this to happen, tremendous effort and investment will have to be made in the North-Eastern states to benefit from the doors that are being opened. There needs to be greater focus on capacity building, especially in building up human resources capacity, by preparing them for the opportunities that will open up in the commerce, tourism and services sectors.

The overlap between the internal and the international makes it also essential that we dovetail the development strategies of the North-Eastern region with the BIMSTEC initiative. Pursuance of the Look East Policy for over 15 years has put in place certain diplomatic and political structures. There is now need to make these structures work for the North-Eastern Region. Diplomatic initiatives urgently need to be converted into commercial, touristic and investment opportunities. For this purpose, MEA

has to closely work in close cooperation with the Ministry for the Development of the North-Eastern Region, the Planning Commission, all economic ministries and the State governments.

Bilateral relationships are also vital in strengthening our collective efforts. I am particularly pleased to see the High Commissioner of Bangladesh here, because we have recently had an excellent visit from his Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to New Delhi. The increased momentum of the strengthening of our relations inevitably contribute to our effective cooperation within BIMSTEC as well.

Development of transportation and communication linkages and greater connectivity would play a key role in ensuring more effective regional development and cooperation. In this regard, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has conducted a study on transport infrastructure and logistics that has identified the bottlenecks in this area among BIMSTEC countries and suggested ways to overcome them. Tackling constraints and bottlenecks in transportation and communication holds the key to enhancing overall cooperation as connectivity in the areas of transport and communication is the basic building block to obtain any form of cooperation.

It is heartening to note that the last Ministerial meeting of BIMSTEC in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in December 2009, endorsed the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) conducted by ADB. This paves the way for further steps to strengthen transportation and communication among BIMSTEC countries.

As part of the Look East Policy, India strongly supports the various initiatives taken to improve comprehensive physical connectivity between countries in the region. These include the Asian Highway Network which is being coordinated through the United Nations ESCAP office in Bangkok, which envisages a comprehensive network of roads connecting the countries in Asia. There is separately an East-West Highway Project running from Vietnam through to Myanmar, through which India could get access to all mainland South East Asian countries i.e. Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore.

From our perspective, the most critical link would be to create road connectivity from the North-East of India through Myanmar into South East Asia. In this connection, there is a Trilateral Highway Project between India,

Myanmar and Thailand, under construction. Thailand and India in fact have completed construction of the link roads on either side. Some portions of the internal road connectivity in Myanmar remain to be completed, and Myanmar has made requests for grants and funding to enable this project to be completed, which are under consideration by both India and Thailand. Once this road is completed, it would conveniently link us with the East-West Highway as well as the Asian Highway Network.

We are involved in a variety of cross-border development projects with Myanmar in diverse fields such as roads, railways, telecommunications, IT, science and technology and power. These initiatives are aimed at improving connectivity between North-Eastern India and Western Myanmar and are expected to give an impetus to the local economies as well as bilateral trade. Probably among the most important is the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Facility, which envisages connectivity 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 the North-East of India. In fact, given the importance that Government of India attaches to this project, we have decided to fund it completely on our own. The up-gradation of the 160 km Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo Road in Myanmar across Manipur has already been completed. Discussions are also on to start work on the Trilateral Highway Project, which proposes to connect Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand via Bagan in Myanmar. Efforts are also underway to improve infrastructure, particularly road links, at the second India-Myanmar border trade point at Rhi-Zowkhathar in Mizoram sector by up-gradation of the Rhi-Tidim and Rhi-Falam road segments in Myanmar. Apart from developing road links, efforts are underway to have a rail link from Jiribham in Assam to Hanoi in Vietnam passing through Myanmar.

So the theme "Land locked to land linked" is appropriate. But land locked is a geographical concept. In today's IT age you can be linked without land. That is why we are also working on enhancing digital connectivity with this region, in particular through an optical fibre cable link between Moreh in Manipur and Mandalay in Myanmar.

Similarly, India's excellent relations with Bhutan and its involvement in the development and growth of Bhutan's economy also translate into direct benefits for the North-Eastern states. Recent increases in the export of raw material and agricultural produce from this region to Bhutan have meant

better opportunities for agriculturists and industries in the North-East. In fact, Jaigaon on the Indian side of the border across from Phuntsoling on the Bhutan side, has grown and become prosperous with its position as the nodal point for trade with Bhutan. Mutually beneficial development of water resources between India and Bhutan is another characteristic of this relationship and most of the hydro-electric power that is being generated as a result from projects like Chukha, Kurichu and Tala is for the use of the Eastern and North-Eastern states of India.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The BIMSTEC process has made steady progress over the brief years of its existence. Our hosting of the second Summit in New Delhi last year and two Ministerial Meetings during the last three years of our Chairmanship has helped the process move forward. Important milestones achieved during India's Chairmanship of BIMSTEC have been the finalisation of the Convention on Combating International Terrorism and the Memorandum of Association for the Establishment of Cultural Industries Commission and Observatory, the Energy Centre and Centre for Weather and Climate.

BIMSTEC cooperation should also be accelerated in the other agreed priority areas such as energy, fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, environment and natural disaster management.

We see BIMSTEC as an important vehicle to promote regional cooperation and economic integration in a range of areas in our region. We would like to see BIMSTEC develop as a vibrant organization effectively making the North-East our country's gateway to South-East Asia. Our Governor is widely read man, and he is aware that I have often argued that in today's globalized world the distinction between the national and the foreign is increasingly irrelevant. Standing here in Shillong today, I see an opportunity for India to advance its national priorities in this region and its foreign policy interests in the wider region in one seamless approach. I am sure this will offer much ground for rich discussion and I wish you a rewarding and fruitful seminar today.

Thank you and Jai Hind.



PACIFIC ISLAND-FORUM DIALOGUE**148. Opening Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the plenary of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' meeting.****Port Vila, Vanuata, August 6, 2010.**

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 Vanuatu for the excellent arrangements made for the Forum meetings, as also thank our hosts for their warm and gracious hospitality.

India's "Regional Assistance Initiative" for Pacific Island Forum countries is based on the priorities identified by the leaders of Pacific Island Forum countries in the Pacific Plan. In keeping with its desire to develop closer engagement with the Pacific region, India has increased its annual Grant-in-Aid to US\$125,000 to each of the Pacific Island Countries for their economic development.

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 courses on Small and Medium Enterprise promotion, training courses for diplomats by Foreign Service Institute of India and scholarships for higher studies in different centres of academic excellence in India. This year we have provided assistance for computerization of ministries to Palau and Tsunami Warning System to Tonga.

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 to 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 Island Developing countries.

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.

Last year India offered additional assistance to PIF countries in the IT sector. Under this, Government of India offered assistance for setting up Learning stations in all the PIF countries and IT Center of Excellence in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. This is on the lines of an initiative to provide computer education in India to children in rural areas and urban low income areas. Many PIF countries have shown interest in getting these learning stations installed.

Finally, I would like to reiterate India's commitment for the economic development of the Pacific Island Countries and its greater integration with 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 in previous years may avail of the same along with the offer made this year.

Thank you.



**149. Intervention on Climate Change by Minister of State
Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Post-Forum Partners meeting.**

Port Villa, Vanuata, August 6, 2010.

Please see Document No.42



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - V

DIASPORA

150. Statements issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on various incidents of violence against Indians in Australia.

January 2010.

[In January 2010 there were a series of incidents of violence against Indians in Australia. There were similar incidents in the previous year too and the Government of India had taken up the matter at official level with the Australian authorities. The External Affairs Minister himself had taken up the issue with the Australian leaders when he had visited Australia in 2009 and also when the Australian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister had visited New Delhi. In a manner of speaking the incidents in January were in continuation of the ones that had taken place in 2000. A the series of new incidents indicated there was not much of an improvement in the situation and New Delhi remained concerned and seized of the matter as the statements below would indicate.]

EAM condemns brutal attack on an Indian student in Melbourne.

New Delhi, January 3, 2010.

Minister of External Affairs strongly condemned the brutal attack on an Indian student Mr. Nitin Garg in Melbourne and called on the Australian authorities to speedily bring to book person/s responsible for the crime. He has directed the Indian High Commissioner in Canberra and the Indian Consul General in Melbourne to closely coordinate with the Australian authorities and extend all assistance to the family of Mr. Nitin Garg as well as members of the Indian community there.

Incidents of attack on Indian students/Indian community in Australia

New Delhi, January 9, 2010.

We have been informed this morning of an unfortunate incident that occurred at 2 am (local time) in Melbourne (Australia). According to details available so far, an individual named Jaspreet Singh (29 years old) has received burn injuries in an alleged attacked by miscreants.

No further details regarding the individual or incident are available at present. The Indian High Commissioner in Canberra and Consul General in Melbourne are following up this matter vigorously with the Australian authorities.

The condition of the victim is not critical but he has been hospitalized and is receiving treatment.

Under the circumstances, the media is advised to exercise utmost restraint in reporting on these sensitive issues, as it could aggravate the situation and could have a bearing on our bilateral relations with Australia.

Official Spokesperson's response on assistance by GOI for the family of Shri Nitin Garg

January 9, 2010

An ex-gratia payment of Rs. 2.5 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India (GOI) for the family of the victim, Late Shri Nitin Garg.

GOI has also borne all expenses for the repatriation of the body of the deceased to India, including transportation.

An officer of the CPV Division of MEA was at the Airport today, and assisted in the release of the body of, along with the family members of Late Shri Nitin Garg.

Earlier, our Consulate in Melbourne had also extended all necessary facilitation for early release of the body of the victim, Late Shri Nitin Garg and had also assisted in repatriation of the body back to India.

* * * * *

Telephonic conversation of External Affairs Minister with Australian Foreign Minister

January 11, 2010

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith telephoned External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, today afternoon. The Australian FM

conveyed his condolences on the tragic deaths of Indian citizens in Australia in recent attacks, and said that the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia had already condemned these attacks.

EAM conveyed his deep concern at the recent series of attacks especially in the last 10 days, which seem to have recurred after a period of relative calm of a few months. He reiterated the need for immediate corrective measures, pointing out that the issue had consistently figured in our Parliament.

Foreign Minister Stephen Smith conveyed that he was conscious of the need for an early breakthrough in the ongoing investigations concerning these incidents, and that his Government attached the highest priority to ensure the continued well-being of Indian students. He was also appreciative of the concern in our Parliament following these unfortunate incidents. He conveyed his understanding of the spirit in which EAM had underlined GOI's grave concerns.

EAM recalled that Australian leaders had time and again, reassured India that the Australian authorities were treating the incidents of assaults with utmost seriousness. However, the incidents seem to be continuing. He emphasized to the Australian Foreign Minister that non-redressal of this vital issue will cast a shadow on our otherwise excellent bilateral relations, and urged that the Australian government should immediately ensure that the concerned State police authorities deal with ongoing investigations with sensitivity and a sense of urgency.

* * * * *

IMPORTANT ADVISORY FOR INDIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

The Ministry of External Affairs cautions Indian students who are planning to study in Australia that there have been several incidents of robbery and assault on Indians in Australia, particularly in Melbourne, which has seen an increase in violence on its streets in recent years, with the offenders suspected to be mainly young people in their teens and early 20s.

The most recent incident of this kind has been the fatal stabbing of a young Indian, aged 21 years old, in Melbourne on 2 January, as he was walking to his place of work late at night from a train station through a public park.

These incidents are continuing to occur despite efforts by the local police to step up anti-crime measures, and are occurring all over Melbourne without any discernable pattern or rationale behind them. Increasingly also, the acts of violence, are often accompanied by verbal abuse, fuelled by alcohol and drugs.

While, the majority of Indian students studying in Australia, especially those enrolled in Universities and reputable institutions, have a positive experience of living and studying in Australia, the number of such incidents of assault as well as of robbery has been on the rise in recent months, which has affected not only Indian students but also members of the larger Indian community in Australia.

Keeping these factors in view, the Government of India advises Indian students studying in Australia as well as those planning to study there, that they should take certain basic precautions in being alert to their own security while moving around:

- **Do not travel alone late at night.**
- **If you are travelling alone, make sure that you have checked out your route carefully and that you keep to well-lit, populated areas as far as possible.**
- **Make sure that someone knows where you are going and at what time you are expected to return.**
- **Don't carry more cash with you than what is required.**
- **Do not make it obvious that you are in possession of expensive items, such as ipods or laptops.**
- **Always carry some identification with you as well as details of who should be contacted in an emergency.**
- **If in danger, dial 000 to get police help.**

- **In case you have a complaint, get in touch with the officer responsible for students welfare in the High Commission or the Consulate nearest to you.**

CONTACT DETAILS : STUDENT WELFARE OFFICERS CANBERRA

Mr. R.K. Kapoor, Second Secretary,
High Commission of India,
3-5 Moonah Place, Yarralumla ACT 2600
Tel 02-6225 4920
Mobile: 0432 585 493

SYDNEY
Mr. Gautam Roy,
Consul,
Consulate General of India,
25, Bligh Street, Level 27, Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel : 02-9223 9241
Mobile : 0413 770 598

MELBOURNE
Mr. Anil K. Gupta
Consul,
Consulate General of India,
15, Munro Street, Coburg, VIC 3058
Tel : 03-9383 1052
Mobile : 0430 020 828



151. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the First Meeting of his Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians.

New Delhi, January 7, 2010.

The Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians consisting of sixteen eminent overseas Indians representing different disciplines from across the world attended met today.

Prime Minister said that never before Government of India had brought together on one platform such an eminent group with the wealth of knowledge, experience and achievements as the Members of the Global Advisory Council. Prime Minister observed that he was confident that India would quickly return to sustained high growth path of 9-10 percent.

The Members of the Council appreciated the initiative of Prime Minister for setting up the Council, and providing a platform for overseas Indian community to share their experience and knowledge for the socio-economic development of India. Members were of the unanimous view that India and its overseas community can and should build a strong, strategic and mutually beneficial partnership. Members shared their views on various aspects such as contributing to social and philanthropic work, education and skill development, collaborating work with the academic and scientific community, developing institutions of excellence, facilitating investments into India, and initiatives for facilitating young overseas Indians to rediscover their roots.

Prime Minister welcomed the ideas and suggestions made by Members of the Council. Prime Minister said that the Government would give most careful consideration to all the suggestions made by the Council members, and that he looked forward to sustained dialogue with the Members of the Global Advisory Council, including through smaller steering groups focusing on specific areas, in opening new avenues of cooperation between the overseas Indian community and India. The External Affairs Minister, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and senior officials also participated in the discussions.



152. Speech by the Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the High Commissioner in Zambia.

Lusaka, January 7, 2010.

Please see document No.482.



153. Inaugural Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the inauguration of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

New Delhi, January 8, 2010.

It gives me very great pleasure to join you at the inauguration of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010. Every year on this day we celebrate and honour the contribution of the overseas Indians is making for the development of their spiritual and ancestral home. We are immensely proud of the achievements of our diaspora. Your achievements have made a great contribution in changing the image of India to the world at large. Let me therefore join Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Chief Minister of Delhi to welcome you to New Delhi and wish you a very happy New Year.

This year we have the great honour and privilege of having the distinguished Lord Khalid Hameed as our Chief Guest. Lord Khalid Hameed epitomizes the spirit of the global Indian. He is not only a very distinguished professional and entrepreneur in the field of medicine and healthcare but he is also an active leader in community services, including most importantly those that promote inter-faith harmony. It is our privilege Sir to have you as the Chief Guest this year. I extend a very warm welcome to you Sir and I thank you for immense thought provoking address on inter-faith harmony.

Yesterday, we held the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians. Some of the best and brightest men and women working in different parts of the world in various fields happen to be people of Indian origin. This is a tremendous knowledge pool and we

would like the Council to reflect on where India should be heading in the next 20 years and what we should do in government, in business, in education and in arts and culture and in promoting inter-faith harmony to get where we ought to be 20 years from now. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Members of this Council and I thank them for their time and effort in a very valuable cause.

The year gone by was an eventful year for India. We undertook the largest democratic exercise in the world during the general elections that were held in May, 2009. These elections reinforced the values of pluralism, tolerance and secularism that are a defining ethic of Indians, whether living in India or abroad.

I recognize the legitimate desire of Indians living abroad to exercise their franchise and to have a say in who governs India. We are working on this issue and I sincerely hope that they will get a chance to vote by the time of the next regular general elections. In fact, I would go a step further and ask why more overseas Indians should not return home to join politics and public life as they are increasingly doing in business and academia.

We are all legitimately proud of India's vibrant democracy. But I cannot say that we have delivered in full measure on the enormous promise and potential of our country. I recognize the frustration well wishers feel when they lament why things don't work faster or why well formulated plans and policies don't get implemented as well as they should be.

It is probably true that we are a slow moving elephant but it is equally true that with each step forward we leave behind a deep imprint. There is a price that we pay in trying to carry all sections of our people along in national development. It is perhaps a price worth paying. Each citizen should feel that his or her voice is heard and have a sense of participation in national development. This is the only way we know to accommodate the enormous diversity of opinions and interests in our country. It is also this characteristic that makes our democracy so vibrant.

But underlying our system is an inherent political and economic resilience that gives our country and its institutions great strength and buoyancy. During the year gone by, the world faced an unprecedented economic and financial crisis. But the Indian economy weathered the crisis quite well.

We were affected but not so much as many other countries. We hope to achieve this year a growth rate of around 7%, which is one of the fastest in the world. We are equally optimistic that we can return to and sustain an annual growth rate of 9-10% in a couple of years.

The rapid growth of India's economy in the last few years has helped lift millions of people out of poverty. We have been able to expand access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities to a vast majority of our population. This is, however, a work in progress and much more remains to be done. I solicit your assistance to achieve those goals. We wish to accelerate the efforts to effectively address the key constraints in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, health and education. These are the key priorities for the second term of our government.

We seek the active involvement of the overseas Indian communities in accelerating the pace of our economic and social development. In this context, it is important that we make efforts to connect the second generation of overseas Indians with their ancestral heritage and involve them actively in India's march forward.

India is today one of the top investment destinations. Economic opportunities are expanding everywhere. Overseas Indians however, while being good savers tend to be somewhat conservative investors. Most remittances are placed in bank deposits. Foreign Direct Investment in India by overseas Indians is low and far short of potential. I would urge overseas Indians to take a careful look at long-term investment opportunities now on the horizon in our country.

Indian industry is rapidly developing a global orientation. Many Indian companies are transforming themselves into multinational corporations with global brand names. As Indian industry steps outward, the Indian diaspora could do more to inter-link Indian industry with global markets. They could reinforce the improving brand image of India. I sincerely hope that the newly established Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre will become an effective hub for promoting two-way interaction between the overseas Indian community and our institutions.

About forty percent of the total remittances of over 50 billion US dollars in 2007-2008 came from skilled and semi-skilled overseas Indian workers. The security of our overseas workers and students is a top priority of my

government. Many of them have been badly affected by the economic crisis. We are conscious of the need to structure an appropriate 'Return and Resettlement Fund' and we are working on a project to provide a social security safety net for the returning workers.

We have been negotiating with the governments of countries with large emigrant Indian populations to improve the welfare and protection offered to our workers. Over the last year, we have signed labour agreements with Malaysia, Bahrain and Qatar that create institutional frameworks to look into issues such as recruitment, terms of employment and workers' welfare. We also signed social security agreements last year with Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and are now negotiating such agreements with a number of other countries.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has also established the 'Indian Community Welfare Fund' in 18 countries in which there is a significant overseas Indian workforce. These funds support 'on-site' welfare measures including food, shelter, repatriation assistance and emergency relief to overseas Indians in distress.

In the coming years, India will need to invest much more in building physical, social and human capital. We must together position India as a supplier of skilled and trained manpower across a wide spectrum of skill sets and sectors. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is already collaborating with Indian Industry and the state governments in this effort. We would like to benefit from the services of overseas Indian professionals and volunteers to help Indian workers upgrade skills in specific trade where there is growing demand. At the meeting of the Council yesterday some very valuable suggestions were made to upgrade the quality of higher education system in our country.

We are now working to enhance work opportunities for our skilled manpower particularly in the west. We are trying to build labour mobility partnerships with key countries in the European Union and have finalized one such partnership with Denmark. These agreements will help to maximize benefits from labour mobility while addressing host country concerns such as irregular migration and integration problems.

We live in an increasingly integrated world; a very fast changing world. In our lifetime we have seen India walk with greater confidence and ability. In

the lifetime of our children we would want them to see the India of our and their dreams - an India that lives up to the expectations of those who struggled to make it free and those who toil to take it forward and an India that wishes to live in peace, as it seeks prosperity for all.

As India seeks to realize its destiny in the 21st century, our engagement with the world draws its spiritual motivations from the values of our freedom struggle and our cultural and spiritual heritage. I end with a thought from Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore who once observed:

'For us the highest purpose of this world is not merely living in it, knowing it and making use of it, but realizing our ownelves in it through expansion of sympathy; not alienating ourselves from it and dominating it, but comprehending and uniting it with ourselves in perfect union'.



154. Speech by Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna at the Plenary Session of PIO Ministers and dignitaries from the overseas Indian community.

New Delhi, January 8, 2010.

Dato Seri S Samy Vellu, President, Malaysian National Congress, Hon'ble Ministers and dignitaries of Indian origin from Canada, Trinidad & Tobago, Malaysia, Singapore, Fiji, Mauritius and South Africa,

My esteemed colleague Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to have the opportunity today to address this remarkable group of individuals, all of Indian ancestry and each having attained distinction in a particular field of endeavour in the country that you have made your home. Together, you form a formidable brain trust of the great Indian Diaspora - local in its commitment and global in its outlook.

As we meet here this afternoon, I can say with pride that our ancient nation stands on the cusp of a truly monumental transformation. Our

economy has not just weathered the worst global recession since the Great Depression but has come out with flying colours. During a period when many of the world's industrialised countries faced an economic contraction, our GDP grew by a respectable 6.75% last year and should hit a robust 7.75% growth this year. This should put us back on track for a sustainable trajectory of about 9% a year that we were trying to maintain before the global economy was buffeted by the greed and irresponsibility of financial institutions whose pursuit of short term profits at the expense of all else has laid open both the shallowness and the obsolescence of the post Bretton Woods international economic order. The resilience demonstrated by the Indian economy is eloquent testimony to the skilful architecture of the stimulus package crafted by our government, to the wisdom of putting in place ambitious programmes for rural development and employment generation well before the onset of the recession, to the early recognition of the imperatives of fostering inclusive growth in a country like ours, and of course to the dynamism and enterprise of our businesses as they adapted rapidly to a changed global environment. Together, these represent a forceful validation of the case that we have consistently put forth over the last two decades in favour of a more balanced, equitable and contemporary global order.

Equally remarkable, ladies and gentlemen, is the fact we are able to accomplish this within the context of a democratic polity that saw us conduct the world's largest electoral exercise last April. Since the last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas conference, we have seen the UPA government complete a full five year term in office despite the challenges of coalition politics, we have seen Dr. Manmohan Singh become the first Prime Minister to be re-elected in over three decades, we have seen an Indian space ship make the landmark discovery of water molecules on the Moon and we have seen our cricket team gain the number one position amongst Test playing nations! No. My government will not take credit for the cricket! But there is much else that we have done for which we can legitimately take credit as we strive towards inclusive economic growth and development; empowerment of the weaker sections of society; poverty alleviation; investment in social and physical infrastructure; strengthening of our science and technology infrastructure; employment and skills generation; food security; health care; energy security; the defence of our borders; ensuring the well-being of our farmers; protection of the environment and

effective and transparent governance, including through the greater involvement of our youth. The re-election of the UPA government is a mandate to pursue this ambitious agenda and to constantly remind ourselves of the challenges ahead and warn ourselves against any kind of complacency.

As India's Minister for External Affairs, it is my duty to share with you our perceptions of some of these challenges that we face in our foreign policy environment and also outline our vision for addressing these challenges.

The over arching objective of our foreign policy is to work towards a stable and peaceful environment, globally and also in our immediate neighbourhood so that we can attain our national objectives of comprehensive socio-economic development. In doing so, we are often required to strike a creative balance between our bilateral relations with major global powers and our national interests on complex issues ranging from world trade and nuclear non proliferation to climate change and the environment.

In our immediate neighbourhood, we have exceptionally close and friendly ties with Bhutan. We have strongly supported Nepal's transition to a democratic polity and we have been encouraging all political parties to extend their cooperation to the government in working towards an early conclusion of a durable peace process. In Sri Lanka, the conclusion of the military operations culminating in the defeat of the LTTE provides an opportunity to chart out a future free from terrorism and conflict. We have been providing humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka and hope that the process of rehabilitation of internally displaced persons would be completed at an early date. We look forward to a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka that meets the political aspirations of all communities through an effective devolution of power. In Bangladesh, the return of multiparty democratic politics is a positive development. We have been assured that Bangladesh's territory will not be allowed to be used by elements inimical to India, as we pursue mutually beneficial cooperation in many other areas.

We support a stable Pakistan at peace with itself and the region. We wish to address our differences with Pakistan through dialogue. At the same time, we have made it clear that a meaningful dialogue will be possible only in an environment free of terrorism. After the Mumbai attacks of 26

November 2008, Pakistan has taken some halting measures to address the evidence presented to them. However, we are still to see Pakistan take effective steps to end infiltration and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism. As the Prime Minister has said - should Pakistan show the statesmanship and vision to act resolutely against terrorists, India would be willing to meet it more than half-way.

India and China have together been prosperous and powerful before and could be so again in the future. There is space for both of us to grow and meet our people's aspirations. The relationship we have with China is complex but increasingly diverse both in texture and substance. China is now India's largest trading partner and there is convergence in our views on many global issues including the emerging architecture on world trade and on climate change. There are, however, important bilateral issues that cannot be wished away. We seek to resolve these peacefully, through dialogue. The maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas will receive close and continuing attention in this scenario.

Further afield, we have vital interests in the regions of West Asia, South East Asia, North East Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe, not least due to the presence of significant populations of the Indian Diaspora in several countries in these regions. West Asia is critical to our energy security and economic well-being due to the significant volume of remittances from the region and our increasing trade with the countries of the region. We have an important stake in the stability of the Gulf and the peaceful resolution of the situation around Iran.

With ASEAN, we have signed a Free Trade Agreement - another milestone in our "Look East" policy. Our relationship with Japan has entered a new phase in the last few years. A new South-South partnership is being built with South Africa and Brazil under the IBSA framework.

This brings me to the major powers - Russia and the United States. Our relations with Russia are time tested and we are giving a fresh impetus to bilateral cooperation with them in areas such as nuclear energy, space technology and defence. With the United States, we are building on the positive momentum achieved in the last few years. Our new dialogue mechanism reflects the increasingly global dimensions of our bilateral discourse. India's established capabilities in high technology and our

impeccable record of using these technologies in a responsible and transparent manner are creating opportunities for upgrading our access to high technology. The Indian community in the United States has played a particularly active role in fostering our growing bilateral relationship and I want to place on record our appreciation of their contribution.

Turning to the international environment, I have already referred to our perceptions about the anachronistic character of the prevailing economic order, particularly at a time when we are witnessing an accelerated shift of global economic power to emerging economies like India, Brazil and China. On the Doha Round of trade negotiations, we are aware of the agenda of those who have tried to blame developing nations like India for standing in the way of its successful conclusion. This is a dangerous canard that deserves to be exposed. India has always stressed upon the importance of an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round. But this must happen on the basis of the development mandate that is intrinsic to the Doha Round, recognizing and addressing the legitimate demands of developing countries. We must also carefully guard against emerging protectionist tendencies.

Let me now touch upon the critical issue of climate change. At the recent Copenhagen summit, we put forth our view that since the industrialized countries are primarily responsible for the accumulation of green house gases over the last two hundred years, they should bear the bulk of the cost of mitigation and enable the transfer of necessary technology for this purpose. Compared to the affluent societies, the carbon footprint of the majority of our people is negligible. We cannot accept legally binding emission caps when we have one of the lowest per capita emissions in the world. This is not to say that we are unaware of the disastrous consequences of climate change. As a responsible member of the global community, and for the sake of our own environment, we have taken several major initiatives towards limiting our carbon footprint. We are today among the largest producers of wind and solar energy. Our biogas utilisation programmes have been path-breaking. We have adopted an ambitious National Action Plan for Climate Change, providing inter alia for afforestation, energy efficiency and monitoring of Himalayan glaciers. Our efforts would get a boost if we have access of some of the clean technologies from developed countries. It is disappointing to see that

the same countries that readily pledged a trillion dollars to fight the global financial crisis, offered barely a hundredth of that amount to enable developing countries fight the environmental crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have gone into some of the important foreign policy issues in detail because I believe that it is important for all of you to have a clear understanding of India's position. I hope that this will also enable you to develop a better appreciation of our concerns in your own countries, even as we strive to better understand your concerns and to put in place policies and practices that will build a much closer relationship between us.

Let me now outline our broad policy towards the Indian Diaspora. We recognize that we cannot view the Indian Diaspora as a single, monolithic bloc and adopt a one size fits all kind of approach. First, there is the large PIO community that is spread across the globe, has lived in host countries for several generations and is typically quite well-integrated into local society. Second, we have the NRI community that largely emigrated after India's independence. This group typically comprises of professionals that often occupy a high standing in countries like the US, UK and Canada. The third category, which is a predominantly post 1970 phenomenon, is the Overseas Indian Worker or OIW community that we see around the Gulf and increasingly in a number of other countries. We recognize, too, that there are significant inter se differences even within each of these categories and we try to take these into account wherever possible.

Within the ambit of this general approach, we have already taken a number of important steps. At the institutional level, the establishment of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs headed by a senior cabinet minister is itself a very clear signal of the importance that we attach to the Indian Diaspora. Other major elements of our strategic institutional framework include the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council, the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), the India Development Foundation (IDF), the Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE), and the Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK).

Institutional structures like these have enabled us to craft policies aimed at addressing a range of specific issues. For the PIO community, the

introduction of the OCI card has been well-received and has been followed by innovative schemes like the Know Your India or KYI programme and a scholarships scheme for the youth. Working through the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, we are expanding the network of Indian Cultural Centres abroad. We have also embarked on an ambitious programme to create Chairs of Indian Culture at a number of prestigious universities around the world. The project of 'tracing of roots' in collaboration with States such as UP and Bihar from where bulk of indentured labour migration had taken place is also attracting a lot of interest. The setting up of the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in Delhi as a repository of Diaspora history and resources as well as to showcase the Diaspora's strengths and networks will be another milestone in this direction.

We are aware of the problems caused by the numerous cases of breakdown of marriages between NRIs and Indian nationals. In States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and to some extent Andhra Pradesh, these are being viewed as a serious social problem. Our government has taken a number of steps to address the problem requiring compulsory registration of marriages, by publishing a Guidance booklet on NRI marriages.

For our Overseas Workers, we have taken a number of major initiatives to ameliorate their tough working conditions. These include a unique skills development programme for emigrating workers, refresher programmes for potential emigrants, an ambitious e-governance project to improve management of the emigration process and much else. We are also similarly trying to address the problems faced by Indian housemaids in the Gulf where we have received a number of complaints of harassment and mistreatment. We have also taken the initiative to formalize bilateral labour agreements with key host countries. Such agreements formalise government-to-government engagement and facilitate better management of international migration so that both sending and receiving countries benefit from it. They also provide a platform for implementing best practices. The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) has been upgraded to provide broader insurance coverage to emigrant workers.

We recognize that this remains work in progress. My ministry has been receiving a number of valuable suggestions from our missions across the globe about additional steps that are required to realize the fullest potential of our engagement with overseas Indians, not just from the economic, cultural or scientific perspective but in particular in terms of our human interaction. We realize that our people still face problems when they are trying to invest in India or even when they want to set up charitable organizations. The single window system does not always work the way it is intended and there is also room for improvement in the functioning of the Overseas Indian Facilitation Cell.

But there is a bigger picture that should not be missed. As I conclude, allow me to say that we have come a long way from those days not so long ago when the emigration of talented professionals was labeled Brain Drain and NRIs were viewed from a somewhat jaundiced perspective. Today, the same pool of overseas Indians is recognized as a Brain Bank. We seek to establish a genuine, mutually beneficial partnership with overseas Indians of every hue - PIOs, NRIs and OWIs. We want to accomplish this through a process of dialogue and understanding and I am delighted that the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas gives us abundant opportunity through platforms like this one.

Thank you for coming to India, for joining us and for the passion that you nurture for India and for all matters Indian. I look forward to our continued interaction for the good both of India and of all of you.

Thank you.



155. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the speech of Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

New Delhi, January 8, 2010.

The Government has taken several initiatives to build strong partnership with Overseas Indian Community. Efforts are being made to develop an inclusive agenda for engaging them to provide wide range roles and fulfill expectations of the NRIs. This was stated by Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs while addressing the inaugural session of 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas here today. He said that the meet has been organized to provide effective platform for interaction with NRIs and offer them opportunities for collaborations and partnerships on a wide variety of initiatives taken by the Indian Government.

Highlighting the initiatives taken in the recent years to strengthen India's engagements with its overseas community, the Minister said that over 500 thousand OCI cards (overseas citizenship of India) have been issued since 2006 and the Government is working on conferring benefits on OCI card holders to enable them to live and work in India. An Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre to provide a single window for overseas Indian investors has also been established. He expressed the hope that some similar opportunity provided by the country would facilitate the NRIs to partner with the country in their chosen area of work.

Appraising the delegates about the detailed agenda of the meet, the Minister said that the various sessions spread over two days would provide the opportunity to PIOs to articulate their region specific interests and concerns. That would help the government to understand better the needs of NRIs and to develop appropriate policies and programmes to meet their requirements and expectations, he added. Shri Ravi also said that the meet would help NRIs to understand the important steps being taken by the various state governments in India for their benefit.

Over 1500 delegates from about 55 countries are participating in the two day's meet. It will have six parallel sessions dealing with economic, social and cultural dimensions of relationship with NRIs. Union Ministers of all important infrastructure ministries and social sectors will address the meet to appraise of the government's programmes and policies.



156. Speech of Minister of State Shashi Tharoor at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

New Delhi, January 9, 2010.

I am indeed privileged to address this session of the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) 2010 on the "Gulf". At the outset I would like to complement MOIA for their initiative in scheduling a discussion forum on the Gulf. I am confident that this will permit a broader and deeper reflection into not only one of India's most important and enduring relationships but one with tremendous potential for development, diversification and enrichment.

2. A few years ago the notion of a "Look East" policy was all the rage. Of course we must look East, but we must look West too, and I don't mean at the western hemisphere but closer to home, at the Gulf. In keeping with our desire to strengthen our relations with the countries of the Gulf we are putting in place a structure of multifaceted cooperation covering all sectors. It is a matter of satisfaction that our efforts are being matched with enthusiasm by the countries of the Gulf. During my short tenure I have interacted with several members of the leadership of the Gulf countries and our own Diaspora. These interactions enhance my confidence that we will realize the potential of our relationship.

3. The Gulf region has historical, political, economic, strategic and cultural significance for India and offers tremendous potential for cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy and manpower. Our engagement with the Gulf countries predates our and their emergence as modern nation states; our forefathers have been dealing with each other much before our countries even had Foreign Ministries! So what we are doing these days is carrying this timeless relationship forward. The Gulf region is part of our extended neighbourhood, it is home to 4.5 million Indians and is the source of some \$22 billion in remittances and 70% of our energy imports. No wonder it is an area of special focus for India's foreign policy.

4. It is not at all surprising to see that the Gulf region has emerged as a major trading partner for India with annual two-way trade nearing US\$ 100 billion. But our engagement needs to go beyond trade pure and simple. Our attempt is to create institutional linkages in the areas of investment,

energy cooperation, and security cooperation. We are also seeking bilateral arrangements to look after the welfare of the large Indian community and those working in the Gulf. We are striving to enhance cultural, scientific and educational contacts and bridge the information gap through the projection of India in the Gulf and vice-versa. We wish to multiply such arrangements and projects. Negotiations to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the GCC are already under way and there is a strong desire on both sides to conclude this and make it an "FTA++" by including both services and investment in its ambit.

5. Nearly 75% of our crude oil requirement is met from this region. In 2008-09 India has imported more than 92 million metric tonnes of crude from the Gulf against our total requirement of about 128 million metric tonnes. As the Gulf region provides India with an overwhelming share of our oil and gas requirements, the region by implication plays a crucial role in our energy security and fuels the Indian growth story. In India we are very conscious of this critical relationship and we are investing more energy in strengthening our energy diplomacy. India has successfully bid for oil blocks in Yemen, Qatar and Oman. Efforts are ongoing to setup joint ventures in downstream petrochemicals, fertilizer and energy intensive industries in the Gulf countries and with the participation of the Gulf countries in India as well. The OMIFCO fertilizer plant in Oman and the Essar steel plant in Qatar are good examples. We are working to replicate OMIFCO models or its variants with some other countries.

6. India itself has invested its capital and labour in the Gulf and is sharing its considerable strengths in IT, education, health and other sectors with it. India welcomes Gulf countries' participation and investment in our vigorous growth process. New avenues for enhancing such cooperation are being explored through the exchange of visits of high-level investment and business delegations and the holding of seminars and business summits. Foreign Office consultations and Joint Commission Meetings are being regularly held with all the countries of the region to identify areas of cooperation and put in place institutional arrangements to promote it, such as Agreements on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA). These arrangements create greater confidence for investment promotion and today Indian investment in the Gulf perhaps exceeds Gulf investment in

India! To give an example, Indian investment in Saudi Arabia alone is of the order of US\$ 2 billion. However, when I saw the figures for investment from the Gulf in India up to October 2009, I saw a figure of about US\$1.59 billion, representing only 1.58% of the total FDI in India. This is contrary to expectations as one would imagine greater investments might come to India from the resource-rich Gulf region, particularly at a time when rewards elsewhere in the world are not very great. However, I am happy to note we are working on changing this scenario. Recently in November 2009 India and Qatar have signed an investment agreement to the tune of USD 5 Billion and we are working on developing more such understandings.

7. As I have mentioned, the Gulf countries collectively host the largest expatriate Indian community in the world, exceeding 4.5 million. Given the large Indian population in the region, a number of issues come up in our relations with these countries, which relate to our people-to-people contacts. We don't treat these as routine consular matters. Active steps are being taken in cooperation with the countries of the region to promote the welfare of the Indian community, especially expatriate workers. MOIA has been proactive in concluding MOUs with most Gulf countries and today we have MOUs with all the countries in the Gulf except with Saudi Arabia. These and similar arrangements will enable us to jointly deal with issues relating to the welfare of the expatriate Indian communities in the region. Both the Ministry of External Affairs and MOIA are working closely and will work together for the benefit and welfare of our diaspora abroad.

8. It is a matter of considerable satisfaction that over the last few years there has been significantly enhanced high level contacts and other exchanges between India and the Gulf. Our relations are getting revitalized with the realization on both sides that the need of the hour in the rapidly globalizing world of today is to leverage each other's strengths in order to maximize the shared benefits for our economies and our peoples. On our side our Honourable PM's visit in 2008 to Qatar and Oman and that of our Honourable Vice-President to Kuwait in 2009 further underscored the strength of our relationship with this vital region. Ministerial level visits have maintained the momentum, and it is no accident that my own first visit abroad as Minister was to the Gulf.

9. The first-ever GCC-India Industrial Conference that was held in Mumbai in February 2004 with the participation of Ministers from all the six

GCC countries was another important milestone. We have maintained and developed this forum and the fourth GCC-India Industrial Conference is scheduled to be held in Jeddah soon in 2010.

10. From the strategic point of view, India and the GCC share a need for continued political stability and security in the region. Our common political and security concerns should translate into compatible efforts for peace, security and stability in the region. Emerging threat perceptions in today's world create fresh challenges and opportunities for enhancing GCC-India cooperation. This could involve joint efforts to meet emerging domestic and regional challenges, foremost among them being the common threat of terrorism. In this framework, the India-GCC Political Dialogue being held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly constitutes a clear political commitment by the two sides to engage pro-actively with each other, on a regular basis, through an institutional mechanism, to exchange views and address issues of mutual concern. (In September 2009 we have held the 5th such dialogue.) In addition to policy-makers and practitioners, I also value exchanges amongst scholars and academics studying our two regions, and was pleased to welcome an impressive group from the Gulf Research Centre last week for a stimulating discussion. There is a great deal here that we can build upon.

11. I have spoken for longer than I intended to and would like to leave time for further discussion. Let me just underline that precisely because there are no major problems between us, we are anxious that the relationship should not slip into complacency. India will not take the Gulf countries for granted. We have very consciously built up a framework for cooperation, which is constantly deepening and widening. While the pace of growth could indeed be faster, nevertheless a critical mass is being created that will take us into a qualitatively upgraded relationship. I am sure that the elements and the initiatives I have described would not only enlarge the scope of our relationship but also provide more diverse and durable opportunities for our diaspora in the Gulf.

Thank You and Jai Hind!



157. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Valedictory Function of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas .

New Delhi, January 9, 2010.

I am glad to be here this evening in the midst of a wide cross section of 'Global Indians' from across the world. Let me begin by wishing all of you a very happy New Year and congratulating all those who have been conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.

Every year we celebrate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9th January to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India on this day in the year 1915. That a large number of delegates from over 50 countries are attending the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is an encouraging sign. Each of you by the dint of hard work and determination overcame many a difficulty in far away lands, to carve out a niche for yourself in your chosen fields. We are proud of your achievements.

The story of overseas Indians across the world is best captured in the words of Vishwamitra Ganga Aashutosh, the renowned poet from Mauritius:-

*"No gold did they find,
Underneath any stone
They touched and turned,
Yet, every stone they touched,
Into solid gold they turned."*

I am confident that with your calibre, creativity and enterprise you will continue to contribute to the advancement of human civilization, particularly as your roots lie in this, one of the most ancient civilizations of the world, in which acquisition of knowledge and universal welfare have been laudable objectives.

As we turn the corner of the first decade of the 21st Century, it is in fact, becoming more and more evident that we live in an increasingly inter-connected world. Such a world requires that each one of you must play the responsible role of a global citizen. Moreover, it is now clear that we are living in a knowledge based society in which knowledge is the resource

and knowledge workers the dominant work force. One of the driving forces of change has been the globalization process - the movement of people, business, industry and skills in the global market place. This process itself has been made possible by the spectacular advances in information, communication and technology. What then are the challenges to human progress in the 21st Century, which has all these characteristics?

In this century, human society faces the daunting yet inspiring task of forging "sustainability," in all its activities, so that while meeting current human needs, the requirements of future generations are also safeguarded. Poverty, hunger and disease still exist in significant parts of the world. Global trends of increased threats from terrorism, economic disparities and environmental degradation are among issues of growing concern. How do we work to promote development that is just, humane and inclusive? How can the vast reservoirs of knowledge be utilized to improve human conditions?

Overseas Indians estimated at over 25 million and spread across the world, have come to be recognized as the 'Knowledge Diaspora'. The knowledge, expertise, skills and resources of this vast and diverse Indian community can be an important input in India's march to becoming a developed country.

In the social infrastructure sector as also physical infrastructure development, India is looking at investment increasingly in the public-private partnership model. Our infrastructure financing needs are estimated to be over US Dollars 500 billion in the next five years. We are focusing on improving the quality and quantity of education at all levels of the education pyramid. The expenditure on healthcare infrastructure in the country is projected to grow at 5.8 per cent annually. This presents an unprecedented opportunity, including for our overseas community to participate and benefit in India's unfolding growth story.

The Indian growth story is an absorbing, exciting and a continuing one. We are a big and a growing market. We have a strong capital market regulator and a strong Central Bank. Our banks and financial institutions are based on 'best practices' in fiduciary responsibility and are well-regulated. All this enabled us to cope with one of the worst economic downturns in recent history, better than many other countries and it has also meant a quicker recovery. India posted a growth of 6.7 percent in 2008-09 and we will achieve over 7 percent this year. In the post-crisis world, India is increasingly perceived as one of the principal engines of

growth, a safe destination for investment and an emerging educational and technological hub.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is immense capacity that you have both in talent and in financial terms, that can be invested in India. We hope to see your greater participation in the coming years in the development of India. Of course, India's remittances from overseas Indians, estimated at over US Dollars 50 billion last year, were the highest in the world. What is less known, though, is the fact that nearly forty percent of these remittances - about US Dollars 20 billion annually - come from overseas Indian workers in the Gulf consisting of temporary contractual skilled and semi-skilled workers. They often face harsh living and working conditions and are separated from their families for long periods of time. I take this opportunity to salute Indian workers in the Gulf.

I would also like to congratulate Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi and his Ministry, for taking welfare measures for Indians living abroad. The Indian Community Welfare Funds established in 18 countries will provide timely succour to overseas Indians in distress. The bilateral Social Security Agreements as well as the Labour Welfare and Protection Agreements that have been concluded will be useful in getting the cooperation of the host governments on issues impacting the Indian community. Similarly, the Government is strongly taking up concerns about the protection and security of Indians, particularly students, with Governments of countries in which they live.

Since the last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the most significant development in India was the general elections. With an over 700 million electorate, this exercise in democracy is unmatched in its scale. The verdict of the people reinforced to the world, the idea of India - of a nation that upholds democratic values and seeks to build an inclusive and progressive society. In this paradigm, we have made considerable efforts to reach out to overseas Indians. This is a time to forge strong partnerships. I have no doubt that together we can walk the path of progress and make India a strong nation.

I wish you success in your endeavours.

Thank you,



158. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the conclusion of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2010.

New Delhi, January 9, 2010.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2010 concluded here today with the resolve to develop strong bond between Indian community abroad and their motherland by better understanding the needs of the community and providing them all possible opportunities.

Expressing satisfaction over the two day's deliberations, Shri Vayalar Ravi said that the Eighth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas marks a watershed, in the relationship, between India and its Diaspora. For the first time, we sought to define an 'inclusive agenda' to enhance reciprocal engagement between India and its overseas community. He said that the theme, this year has gone beyond the narrow confines, of asking what the overseas Indians can do for India to include and what India can do for overseas Indians. The focus of this PBD has been on developing innovative avenues by which overseas Indians can benefit from the myriad opportunities that India offers, the Minister observed.

Highlighting the significance of some of the issues raised during the PBD-2010, the Minister said that several potential modes for engaging the Diaspora - the proposal for issue of 'India Infrastructure Bonds', collaborating in Skill Development and building Business to Business Partnerships have been discussed. Shri Ravi said that this year's PBD also signals, a paradigm shift, in the level, the range and the pace, of our mutual engagement. It is our conviction, that we must now expand our engagement and reach out to the vast majority, of the average middle class overseas Indians. We must also make our mutual engagement strategic over the medium to long term.

Shri Vayalar Ravi said that there is a need to redefine the role, relations and partnerships of NRIs with the country in view of the fact that over the next decade India will be well on its way to join the ranks of developed countries and become an important player in global development. There is also a need to give deep thought to the role of youth, especially the role

of scientists, technologists and academics of Indian origin to address global issues like climate change. He stressed that it is time that 'gender' is acknowledged as an important dimension of the diaspora. They should be provided the opportunities to discover India - its glorious past, exciting present and promising future.

Reiterating government's commitment to forge strong bond with Indian community abroad, Shri Ravi said 'in particular, we wish to reach out to the younger generation of the overseas community - the children and grand children of overseas Indians who were born and raised abroad - and help them discover their roots'.

He said that the government is enthused by the response and the large number of delegates from across the world and assured all possible steps to implement the decisions taken and address the concerns raised during the meet.

On the conclusion of the meet, fourteen eminent overseas Indians from different walks of life were awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman - 2010 by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil. The Awards are conferred on a Non-Resident Indian or an organization/institution, who have made significant contribution towards better understanding abroad of India and support to India's causes and concerns in a tangible way.

The Awardees are, Mr. Mohinder Singh Bhullar from Brunei, Darussalam; Mr. Yanktesh Permal Reddy from Fiji; Mr. Ryuko Hira from Japan; (Mrs) Dr. Ruby Umesh Pawankar from Japan; Mr. Suresh Kumar Virmani from Oman; Mr. Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan from South Africa; Dr. Tholisiah Perumal Naidoo from South Africa; Dr. Rajni Kanabar from Tanzania; Mr. Deepak Mittal from Thailand; Dr. Lenny Krishendath Saith from Trinidad & Tobago; Dr. Azad Moopen from U.A.E; Dr. Mani Lal Bhaumik from U.S.A.; Mr. Ashok Kumar Mago from U.S.A; Mr. Upendra J. Chivukula from USA.



159. Address by Vice President H. Hamid Ansari to the Indian Community at a Reception hosted by the High Commissioner in Botswana.

Gaborone, January 11, 2010.

Please see Document No.436.



160. Excerpts relevant to treatment of Indians in Australia from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao under the programme 'Devil's Advocate' at the CNN-IBN TV with Karan Thapar.

New Delhi, January 17, 2010.

* * * * *

Interviewer: Foreign Secretary, let us start this part with the increasing spate of attacks on Indians in Australia. Are you satisfied with the response of the Australian Government?

Foreign Secretary: We have been in close touch with the Australian Government since these attacks began. And unfortunately there has been a spate of these attacks, violence directed against innocent and hapless, young Indians who have been the target of such violence. But the Australian Government has been sensitised to our concerns and we have impressed upon them that they need to do more to address the cause of this violence and to bring the perpetrators to book because you need to restore the climate of confidence and security among Indians living in Australia.

Interviewer: So, when you say you have impressed upon them the need to do more, that clearly suggests that they were not doing enough.

Foreign Secretary: I would say that the Australian Government has engaged with us closely in the wake of the attacks and there has been a continuing dialogue and communication. As you know, we have a good

relationship with Australia. From the Australian side it is often defined as excellent, and we have shared that assessment. But we must not let these events cast a shadow on the relationship.

Interviewer: Let me quote to you the Indian Minister for Overseas Affairs Vayalar Ravi speaking on the 9th of this month. He says, "Why can't they arrest them and put them behind bars and prosecute them? It is very unfortunate that things are not moving as they promised. It is very disturbing for all of us in the Government". Clearly, Mr. Ravi feels that the Australians are not doing enough.

Foreign Secretary: I think there is legitimate concern and the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs has expressed that legitimate sense of concern that we feel.

Interviewer: The MEA shares that concern?

Foreign Secretary: Obviously we share the concern in regard to a situation where our citizens are being attacked.

Interviewer: The Indian press are particularly concerned that the Australian Government is reluctant to accept that racism could be a substantive motive or cause behind these attacks. What is your assessment? What is the Government's view? Is racism a factor?

Foreign Secretary: Let us look at the situation. You have had one community targeted. You have had persons belonging to one community targeted. And these attacks have kept occurring. There has been a certain pattern of these attacks. What the Australians tell us is that you could attribute this to urban violence, opportunistic violence, but that racism could also be an element in this. So, let us see. The investigations are going on. But we are concerned that it is just this one community that has been targeted.

Interviewer: Twice or thrice you have said that there is just one community that has been targeted and the attacks keep happening. Yet, your Ministry has advised the Indian press to exercise restraint. Do you believe that their coverage has been exaggerated or unbalanced?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that the media feels the pulse of the people definitely and the people of India are concerned about the attacks that

have happened in Australia. Having said that, I would also like to add that you have to place every reaction you make in the larger context. And there is a very large number of Indians who live in Australia, who have made Australia their home over the decades. And you must ensure that while you must report without fear or favour, your responses, your assessments have to be calibrated and measured to the extent possible.

Interviewer: In other words, the press should keep things in context.

Foreign Secretary: In context, yes.

* * * *

Interviewer: Foreign Secretary, a pleasure talking to you.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you so much.



161. Speech by External Affairs Minister at the Reception hosted by the High Commissioner TCA Raghavan for the Indian Community in Singapore.

Singapore, March 26, 2010.

Members of Singapore-Indian Community

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today with you all. I bring you greetings and good wishes from the people and the Government of India. Every overseas Indian is a representative of India. As an overseas community you have made a distinctive contribution by virtue of your dedication, hard work and success. Your achievements and attainments reflect positively on India and you both brand a new India as also add cement to the India-Singapore bilateral relationship. What is most gratifying is that your diversity reflects the full range of our pluralistic society.

2. My visit to Singapore concludes shortly hereafter. During my stay here I have had occasion to meet with a number of Singapore's leaders

and exchange views with them on our bilateral relations as also on the regional and international situation. As you are aware we have exemplary and excellent bilateral relations with Singapore. Consultations between us are frequent and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong was in Delhi only last week as was Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in December.

3. Our bilateral relations are civilizational but also modern and contemporary covering areas such as investment, trade, financial services, etc. at the leadership level we have a consensus that the potential to develop our relations to even greater heights is immense in all fields of bilateral relations.

4. India is fortunate to have in Singapore a representative and gifted cross section of its own society. You are our true brand ambassadors in whatever field you are in. By contributing to Singapore's own economy and society you make at the same time a distinctive contribution to India's own evolution as a major economy. More than ever before we are poised for a growth spurt which over the next decade and a half will qualitatively transform our economy and society.

5. The fiscal year 2009-10 was a challenging year for the Indian economy. The significant deceleration in the second half of 2008-09 on account of global financial crisis and economic recession brought the real GDP growth down to 6.7 per cent, from an average of over 9 per cent in the preceding three years. It was also a year of reckoning for the policymakers, who had taken a calculated risk in providing substantial fiscal expansion to counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown. A delayed and severely subnormal monsoon added to the overall uncertainty. Yet, over the span of the year, the economy posted a remarkable recovery, not only in terms of overall growth figures, with the advance estimates placing the likely growth for 2009-10 at 7.2 per cent, but, more importantly, in terms of certain fundamentals, which justify optimism for the Indian economy in the medium to long term.

6. It is a matter of equal gratification for me to see the cultural and scholarly effervescence which is characteristic of the Indian community in Singapore. There is scarcely a field left untouched by your endeavours and truly your efforts add richness and depth to our cultural and literary heritage. I am sure that just as your contribution to Singapore, as it

established itself as a financial and trading hub, was immense, so will it be in the case of Singapore's establishment as a cultural and educational centre.

7. I am also glad to find that social exchanges and tourism traffic between India and Singapore are growing steadily. I believe that visa on arrival scheme for Singapore nationals coming to India for tourism will prove popular. I believe that air connectivity between different cities in India and Singapore has expanded dramatically. These are all signs of so much more proximity between the two countries. I hope, indeed I expect, that your connectivity and contacts with India will grow and flower and thereby your contribution to both countries and to the further expansion of bilateral relations between them will continue as it has so far.



162. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Ambassador in Vietnam.

Vientiane, September 9, 2010.

Please see Document No.340.



163. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Ambassador in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 13, 2010.

Please see Document No.269.



164. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the successful conclusion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Durban, South Africa.

New Delhi, October 7, 2010.

The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas(PBD) Africa was held from 1-2 October, 2010 at the International Convention Centre(ICC), Durban, South Africa. The event was inaugurated on 1st October, 2010 by the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi. The President of South Africa Mr.Jacob Zuma graced the closing session on 2nd October 2010. The theme of the Conference was on 'India-Africa: Building Bridges.'

This was the 4th regional PBD Convention organized by Government of India outside India. The first such event was held on 24th September, 2007 in New York, the second on 10-11 October, 2008 in Singapore and the third on 19 September, 2009 at The Hague. PBD Africa marked the 150th anniversary of the arrivals of Indians in South Africa and coincided with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The PBD Conventions are organized by the Government of India to engage with the overseas Indian community across the globe to build bridges with them and their host countries. The Convention in Durban focused on the Indian diaspora in the Africa and especially focused on South Africa which has a population of over 1.2 million of Indian origin.

The two-day Convention was attended by more than 400 delegates from the Africa. It was co-hosted by the Government of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Convention opened on 1st October, 2010 with a formal inauguration and dinner hosted by Shri Vayalar Ravi. The inaugural dinner was attended by Ms. Lulama Xingwana, Arts and Culture Minister of South Africa, Dr. Z.L.Mkhize, Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, Members of the National Assembly of South Africa, Members of Parliament of KwaZulu-Natal, Mayors and several other dignitaries.

Two Pre-Conference events were held on October 1st: A Business Roundtable and an Academic Seminar on Diaspora.

The Business Roundtable on 'Opportunity Africa' at ICC Durban was attended by over 100 prominent business leaders and professionals from India and Africa. The possibility of enhancing economic and trade relations between India and Africa and particularly South Africa were discussed in the meeting focusing on four crucial sectors: IT, skill enhancement and education; pharmaceuticals; mining and minerals and infrastructure. The recommendations of the Business Roundtable were placed at the business plenary session on 2nd October.

The Seminar 'Diaspora: Heritage in the context of Globalization' was held at Durban University of Technology. Prominent academics from India and Africa participated in the event. The recommendations of the seminar were placed before the plenary session on Diaspora on October 2nd.

On 2nd October, 5 plenary sessions were held on 'The relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 20th century', 'Business: Opportunity Africa', 'Youth and Gender: the Knowledge Economy and Social Development', 'Diaspora: Heritage in the Context of Globalization' and a Valedictory session.

The first session on the 'Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 21st century' was addressed by Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Ms. Ela Gandhi, Justice Moosa Ebrahim, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe and Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, legendary freedom fighter and anti-apartheid activist of South Africa. All speakers highlighted the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the context of his principles of non-violence, non-cooperation and truth-based resistance for addressing challenges around the world. Shri Vayalar Ravi, exhorted the Indian diaspora in Africa to be a cultural bridge that continued to interpret and convey Mahatma Gandhi's message to their home countries in Africa.

The second session on 'Business: Opportunity Africa' was addressed by Mr. Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan, Minister of Finance of South Africa. He recognized the increasingly important role of Africa and India in the emerging world economic order. The panelists discussed the vast opportunities for business, especially for small and medium enterprises, between India and Africa.

The third session on 'Youth and Gender' focused on the Knowledge Economy and Social Development. Ms. D. Purandeshwari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India, in her keynote

address highlighted India's success as a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic democracy, and its great strides in education, skill development and emancipation of women. She exhorted young Indians overseas to participate in the growth of India and of Africa, to build a better future.

The fourth session on 'Diaspora' focused on 'Heritage in the context of globalization', and recommended greater cooperation in research and studies of the diaspora of both India and Africa across the world. This will emerge as a new area of cooperation in the already extensive India-Africa relationship.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, urged the participants to attend the 9th PBD Convention being held in India on 7-9 January, 2011 in New Delhi. This event will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on 8th January, 2010. The President of India will give the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards to selected overseas Indians on 9th January, 2010.



165. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of Social Security Agreement with the Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, October 19, 2010.

India and Republic of Korea signed Social Security Agreement (SSA) in Seoul today. The Agreement was signed by Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs and Mr. Kim Jong-hoon, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea. The SSA would enhance movement of professionals between the two countries and strengthen the trade and investment. The Agreement provides, on a reciprocal basis, for the following benefits to Indian nationals working in the Republic of Korea:

- a) For short term contract up to five years no social security contribution would need to be paid under the Korean 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 the Republic of Korea from a third country.
- c) Indian workers shall be entitled to the export of the social security benefit if they relocate to India or a third country after the completion of their service in the Republic of Korea.
- d) The self-employed Indians in the Republic of Korea would also be entitled to export of social security benefit on their relocation to India, or a third country.
- e) In case of Independent Professionals, provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 8.3 of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between India and Republic of Korea shall apply and in case of any other category of workers, the SSA shall apply.
- f) The scope of bilateral cooperation in social security under SSA and under paragraph 3 of Article 8.3 of CEPA covers only the old age, survivors and disability pension under the legislations and regulations of both countries.
- g) 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 in order to avoid loss of contributions.

A number of professionals and self-employed Indians are working in the Republic of Korea. There is a huge potential for employment of Indian professionals and workers. India is likely to become a major source of migrant professionals due to its vast reservoir of technically qualified manpower in sectors like Information Technology, Engineering, Health, Finance and Management.



166. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Indian Community Reception hosted by the High Commissioner in Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, October 28, 2010.

Please see Document No.356.



167. Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy and Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs Dr. A. Didar Singh on the Indian Workers Resource Centre.

Dubai, November 23, 2010.

Consul General of India, Dubai (Shri Sanjay Verma): Welcome to the media traveling with the Hon. President, the Indian media based in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the other Northern Emirates. The briefing today will be by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy; Dr. Didar Singh, Ambassador Lokesh, and Dr. Ellangovan.

The focus, if I may emphasise, of this briefing is the Indian Workers Resource Centre which was launched this evening by the Hon. President. Questions about the other elements of the visit will be taken up tomorrow by Secretary (East) in a separate briefing. We will take advantage of the presence of Dr. Didar Singh who has come in especially for the launch of the Workers Resource Centre. I begin by inviting Ambassador to say a few words and then Secretary (East).

Indian Ambassador to UAE (Mr. M.K. Lokesh): Dear friends, I have already spoken but I just want to tell you that this is a very important initiative given the fact that the Indian community is the largest expatriate community in UAE and a significant number of them belong to the workers category. Many of them have many problems. Redressal of these problems has been one of our major concerns especially in the light of the recent economic downturn with the incidence of workers

being exploited, workers being distressed, radically increased. Therefore, it was felt that it is not possible for the Embassy or the Consulate to tackle these problems alone. We already have some initiatives like Indian Medical Welfare Centre. All of them virtually are NGOs. They are doing good work. But we needed to do this job in a professional manner. And this is one of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which the Embassy is implementing.

I think already you have seen the film which told you about the outline of the Centre, what it will do and how it will function. It has already started functioning. Of course, a Centre of this nature will have some teething problems but we will address them as and when they arise.

I thank you very much for coming here in good numbers and for giving your support. But without speaking any more, I will pass this mic on to Latha Reddy, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs in charge of this area. She will tell you more about this.

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Dear friends, thank you for turning up in such large numbers to attend this press briefing. I would just like to begin by putting into context the whole question of interaction of the leaders of our country with the Indian community when they travel overseas. A visit of our leaders from India to any country would not be complete without the very important element of interaction with our Indian community in those countries.

During this visit, our Hon. President has in fact already undertaken several activities for interacting with the Indian community in the United Arab Emirates. On the 22nd she visited the Indian Social Centre in Abu Dhabi and met with the Indian community leaders there. Earlier today on the 23rd she has visited the Abu Dhabi Indian School and addressed a very large gathering. She also had a more informal interaction with some of the students in the school there who were in a position to ask a question and to hear her reply.

There was also the function to inaugurate the new building of the Indian Islamic Centre in Abu Dhabi. Of course, the grand finale has been today's function at the India Club of Dubai which all of you have attended.

Of course with a population of 1.5 million, which is the estimated figure of Indians in the United Arab Emirates, this remains a very important element of our bilateral relationship. We have a number of success stories which we are all familiar with.

But in our happiness over those success stories we must not forget those who are less fortunate. A large proportion of the Indian community who work in this country fall into the semiskilled and skilled category of workers and face some rather distressing problems. We are indeed grateful to the authorities of the UAE, particularly the Ministry of Labour and the political leaders who have reached out positively to try to resolve many of these issues in cooperation with our Government. But it was felt that we needed to do something more.

This is where the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs - and we are privileged to have with us Dr. Didar Singh, Secretary from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs - decided to take the initiative under the leadership of the Hon. Shri Vayalar Ravi our Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, and to take this unique initiative to set up an Indian Workers Resource Centre which we have just inaugurated at the hands of our Hon. President here in Dubai today.

As this is an initiative of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, I think no one could be better suited to tell us some details about this which would in any case also be distributed to you. But I would like to request my colleague and friend Dr. Didar Singh to please give us some highlights of this programme and perhaps some background as to how this was set up.

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (Dr. A. Didar Singh):

As my colleague Madam Reddy has just said, it is very good to see this kind of interaction and this kind of interest from your side which emphasizes for us all over again that Dubai, UAE, the Gulf are very special places for us where interaction is so important and the interest is so high both at the local level and in India.

As some of you are aware, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is a special initiative of the Government of India. We are only the tenth such country in the world which actually has a diaspora Ministry. This is being

done because we all know we count over 25 million overseas Indians across the world in something like a 190 countries. Of these overseas Indians, as you know, we say about 15 million are Persons of Indian Origin. That means non-Indian Passport holders, persons who went through various waves of economic migration. And we count about 10 million as the Non Resident Indians (NRIs) that is Indian Passport holders in different parts of the world.

We are very proud that of those the majority is in the Gulf. 5.5 million is what is estimated to be in the Gulf itself. That is a very large figure. UAE itself, as you have just heard, has 1.7 million. It is a very large figure. Of that large figure, 65 per cent to 70 per cent is actually workers. So, they are by far the single most important component of the NRIs outside India in this region. It is the mandate of our Ministry and the responsibility of the Government of India to ensure that the workers are looked after in every manner.

We have from the Ministry established labour relations in the context of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with seven countries now through which we have bilateral interaction with the Governments to ensure the welfare of our workers here. We started another very major initiative four years ago in India called the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) which is in fact the parent of what you have seen inaugurated today.

The OWRC is a Government of India helpline and a resource centre based out of Delhi available for the whole country. It also has walk-in centres in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. We have extended that context of interaction and assisting the Indian workers. We have extended it now by this first establishment of the Indian Workers Resource Centre in Dubai.

The idea is that we provide a seamless service to the Indian worker starting from when he first thinks about going outside for economic migration back home in India, to when he comes here, and the issues that come up here, and then also whenever he goes back to India and has issues that need to be addressed there. This is the seamless interaction that we try to do to ensure that welfare of workers is the top of the priorities.

We have of course chosen Dubai to be the first place to launch it because we believe the demand here is the highest. This is something which I must compliment the Consul General, the Ambassador, our Missions here, who have worked at this. We have our Counsellor who is specially posted for Community Affairs in Abu Dhabi, Dr. Ellangovan, here. We have worked to start this year with the objective, but we will now extend it to other countries where the majority of NRIs are actually workers. This experiment for us is just a beginning. It is a beginning through which we will be able to extend these services to other places also.

Details of this Centre are available to you in this Press Release which has been given out. It has been established in one of the most prominent parts of Dubai. We have outsourced this to a private company that has a lot of experience in dealing with counselor type of issues, visas, passports, and now Workers Resource Centre. We will be seamlessly offering services in terms of addressing grievances, addressing problems, addressing issues that need to be taken up whether back home in India or with the Government here, or with individual employers through which these issues may arise.

Let me only finish by saying that this is not something new. Our Embassies are already doing this. Our Missions all over the Gulf are already interacting with the Indian community and particularly with the Indian workers. They have been doing it over the years. We are just trying to consolidate this very same initiative to make it more professional and to make it better to work in a manner which people can know about. And for that, your role is very important because this message has to go out. We can have all these nice meetings and meet all the prominent people of the Gulf in these kinds of occasions. But, as my colleague was just mentioning, the unsung heroes are those who are working in the labour camps. They need to get the message and that can only come through you.

We hope, therefore, that you will carry the news of this initiative now and in the future also to assist us in carrying this message so that people know they can come to this Centre, that there is a 24x7 helpline available to them which is manned by people who speak in seven different languages, so that any issue that comes up can be addressed right there.

Thank you very much.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: It is written here in your note also. Once a week it is already there. We already have at the Indian Mission, with the Ambassador, we have Dr. Ellangovan who is Counsellor (Community Affairs) who is already addressing these issues. This initiative of the Workers Centre here incidentally is for the entire UAE. It is not just for Dubai, it is for the whole of UAE. It is a free helpline available that can be rung up from any part of UAE.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: All recruiting agents are established in India through the Emigration Act which is an Act of Parliament and through which agents register in India. We have about 1400 agents who are registered in India. Of that, operational are about 600. It is not only through the Workers Resource Centre that the complaints come. Complaints come to us through the Indian Missions and directly also to us on an ongoing basis. We enquire into every single complaint. For your information, over a hundred agents have been put under suspension and in some cases removed. This is an ongoing activity. Whenever we get information that there is so-called unscrupulous agents operating, action is taken but as per law.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs: Every Indian is free to travel anywhere and is also free to travel back to his country. We do not stop anybody from either going or coming back. There are arrangements available in Indian Missions all over the world, not just in the Gulf. Whenever somebody does not have the facility to pay for his own travel, there are facilities available through the Counsellor Services to make this available in an emergency situation. Same situation will apply here also.

Question: Sir, I am a journalist. I know so many cases ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: Just for your information, in the last year itself about 800 such workers have been

sent back, paid for through the Indian Community Welfare Fund which has been set up. You also know that this Ministry with the Ministry of External Affairs set up something called the Indian Community Welfare Fund. This is also available and it is now available in 42 countries around the world including in the Gulf. People can use this facility when they have an emergency issue that needs to be addressed.

Question: Sir, eight hundred workers from UAE or around the world?

Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs: UAE.

Question: *Mr. Didar Singh, a large number of Indian workers may complain here against their employers, and if not settlement is arrived at, (some portion of the question was inaudible) what else can you do in such cases?*

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: *Every worker comes here under a contract; we have something called model contract. Those who come on contract under the Emigration Act, they are already aware what is to be given them and what is not to be given; if he does not get according to the agreed contract, first thing is to proceed against the agent in India; as far as the overseas employer is concerned, there is a referral list, it is a black type situation, we check that list to find out what can be done, and our missions talk to the employer and if he is ready to sort out, then it get sorted out. If he is not ready to settle, he is put in the negative list.*

Question: *A mere reply is not enough; how to remove his problem is the real issue.*

Question: *On the paper he comes on 1000 Dharam, but here he get 600 rupees, what is done in such cases?*

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: *When e get that complaint directly, and a lot of them come, and used to come earlier also.*

Question: You showed that in the film..

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: *In the film, we showed one example, We showed in the film that such problems arise, and we look into them, talk to them, and try to settle them.*

Question: ... (Inaudible) ... website, all these complaints received should be updated. Will it be updated?

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs: Yes, that is the idea.

Secretary (East): I would like to answer that question. I think firstly Governments are not in the business of forcing other Governments. We talk to each other. We can negotiate solutions. We talk about setting up agreements or arrangements. Our Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has talks with the Ministry of Labour of those countries. The Memorandum of Understanding is there. We set up mechanisms to address certain problems. There are Joint Working Groups who would get together. Secondly, when it comes to legal cases there is a legal system that applies in each country and I think we as foreign guests in that country have to respect the legal system of each country. However, we do provide whatever assistance we can under our Consular laws. We provide legal assistance where required. We try to facilitate visits by the family. Where all legal resources have been exhausted, we then can also consider requesting for a special clemency on compassionate grounds in certain specific cases. There are different methods that can be followed. In the particular case you have mentioned in Sharjah, the legal process is still continuing. The legal resources have not been exhausted. That is the point.

Question: *I have a question. The maximum number of people who come to work here are a the labour class; not much educated, how to make him aware, he can neither go to the (inter) net, nor can wait too long, he only works through the media (part of the question was inaudible)will you try that they get all the information ...inaudible.....*

Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs: An Overseas Workers Resource Centre is already functioning in India for the last four years. They get all this information before hand, where they can go, what you can talk, this system is not only operational through web site, all worker have telephones, and they can acces us through the toll-free help line. The free call cnetre will function here also twenty-four hours. Any one can talks on this line twenty four hours in any language, whether he want to talk in Hindi, or in Malayalam, or in Kanada, or in English, there will be

some one to talk to him on this line. The complaints can be sent to India also, and we get them, please do not think, that we do not get these complaints, we do get these complaints and we take action on them, every case is processed.

Question: What is the strength of staff?

Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs: It is not a question of strength of the staff but the question is of the services being offered. The services are 24x7, and the services range from the Call In Centre which is a call centre like a BPO centre, there is counseling facilities where there are already *all the workers who come here, come under compulsory contract, he has to take compulsory insurance at the beginning itself. That insurance already provides for emergency health care and if he is faced with any life-threatening situation, it is also covered in the insurance, health insurance is also available through the employers, over and above that he can have any other insurance too. This facility is provided in India itself, which is called PVSy, he starts with that from India.* We, as I mentioned to you, plan to extend this to all countries where majority of workers go. At the moment we refer to them in India as Emigration Clearance Required. As per the Emigration Act, we have seventeen countries which are designated as Emigration Clearance Required and this is essentially required for those workers who are of educational qualification less than class 10.. So, basically it is taking care of only the semiskilled and low-skilled category of workers of whom ...

(Text in italics is translated from the Hindi Text)



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - VI

ASIA

- (i) SOUTH ASIA-COUNTRIES OF THE SAARC**
- (ii) SOUTH EAST- EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC**
- (iii) WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA**

(i) SOUTH ASIA—COUNTRIES OF THE SAARC

168. 17th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture by Minister of State Dr Shashi Tharoor on "India's Vision of Peace, Security and Development in South Asia".

New Delhi, January 11, 2010.

I am deeply honoured today to deliver the 17th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture. We recall with sadness this day 44 years earlier when Shastriji left us in faraway Tashkent. I was not quite ten years old then, but I still remember the day when I heard the news. It was heart-rending to learn that our doughty Prime Minister, the man who had earned the respect and love of the nation just a few months earlier as he led our nation to triumph in a war we did not seek, had given up his own life in the cause of peace.

2. It seems all the more appropriate, therefore, that our theme today should focus on peace in our subcontinent, the cause for which Lal Bahadur Shastriji made his last journey. But before I embark on my own views on the subject, let me recall Shastriji's first broadcast to the nation as Prime Minister on 11 June 1964, when he said, and I quote: "There comes a time in the life of every nation when it stands at the cross-roads of history and must choose which way to go. But for us there need be no difficulty or hesitation, no looking to right or left. Our way is straight and clear - the building up of a socialist democracy at home with freedom and prosperity for all, and the maintenance of world peace and friendship with all nations." (Unquote). There could not be a clearer and firmer articulation of India's national objectives at the time, both for achieving domestic goals and as well as conducting an effective foreign policy.

3. In the course of his political career, Shastriji became known as a man of great personal integrity, renowned as well for his resoluteness of spirit and firmness of action. Till 1965, though, few would have credited him with the genuine interest he did have in peaceful coexistence with our neighbours and for building cooperative and constructive relations with our brother countries. On 23 September 1965, even on the day the India-Pakistan war ended with victory for the Indian forces, Shastriji was in a far from triumphant mood. He said in his address to the nation, and I quote: "While the conflict between the armed forces of the two countries has come to an end, the more important thing for the United Nations and all those

who stand for peace is to bring to an end the deeper conflict... How can this be brought about? In our view, the only answer lies in peaceful coexistence. India has stood for the principle of coexistence and championed it all over the world. Peaceful coexistence is possible among nations no matter how deep the differences between them, how far apart they are in their political and economic systems, no matter how intense the issues that divide them." (Unquote)

4. Shastriji's words encapsulate, with conviction and decency, qualities for which he was rightly known, his vision for relations with our neighbours. I would argue today that nearly 45 years later, they continue to offer us an invaluable insight into the fundamental verities underpinning our relationships on the subcontinent. The question that all of us, who belong to this ancient land, need to ask ourselves is whether we desire peaceful coexistence and cooperation or are reconciled to being irretrievably mired in conflict and confrontation. A subcontinent at peace benefits all who live in it; one troubled by hostility, destructive rivalry, conflict and terror drags us all down.

5. I am conscious of saying these words today on the day that we are hosting here in India, Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the latest winner of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. Sheikh Hasina is a great leader of her country and I find joy in the topicality of today's talk when we in India are looking forward to a transformation in our relationship with Bangladesh. Both our countries - India and Bangladesh- share the same desire to make this a relationship that fulfils our vision of a future that ensures the wellbeing of both our peoples.

6. Just about two years ago, the picture in South Asia was bleak: Pakistan in turmoil, with the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and chaos in the streets; Bangladesh under military rule; Nepal and Sri Lanka convulsed by civil war; Bhutan managing a delicate transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional democracy; Afghanistan battling the forces of a resurgent Taliban; and even the Maldives facing mass disturbances in the lead-up to elections. When others say that India lives in a tough neighbourhood, we could not have disagreed. And yet, in the last year and a half, there has been significant progress in many

of these nations, and while much remains to be done, there are grounds for hope that our relations can improve, almost across the board.

7. The challenge before us in South Asia is to work relentlessly to promote peace, security and development. Yet, there are a number of challenges that continue to beset the region, that hold back the true potential of our countries, individually as well as collectively. These include terrorism and extremism, and the use of these as instruments of state policy; and the daily challenge of hunger, unemployment, illiteracy, disease, and the effects of climate change. There is still much work to be done to promote freer trade and better connectivity. These are among the factors that drag our people back from the path of sustained peace, development and prosperity.

8. We need to look to the future, to an interrelated South Asian future where geography becomes an instrument of opportunity in our mutual growth story, where history binds rather than divides, where trade and cross-border links flourish and bring prosperity to all our peoples. Some will say these are merely dreams; yet there few worthwhile achievements in the world that have not been preceded by ambitious aspirations. But dreams will only turn into reality if we take action to accomplish this brighter future together. One thing is clear. Our destinies are inextricably linked and we have to work together to build a better future for our region.

9. Our region has been blessed with an abundance of natural and human resources, a rich spiritual and civilizational heritage, a demography where youth is preponderant and a creative zeal manifest in all spheres of human endeavour. Our collective identity may be rooted in a turbulent history but the challenge is to translate the many factors that bind us into a self-sustaining, mutually beneficial and cooperative partnership that transcends the vicissitudes of the recent past. The people of South Asia have already made their choice and the spirit of an organization like SAARC embodies their aspirations. It is imperative that all nations of SAARC work collectively to realize their vision.

10. The Government of India, led by our Prime Minister, has a strategic vision of a peaceful subcontinent. We genuinely believe that the peace, prosperity and security of our neighbours are in our interest. Unlike some, India has never believed in undermining or destabilizing other countries;

we believe that each of us deserves an equal chance to attend to the needs of our people without being distracted by hostility from any of our neighbours. Where we have disagreements, we will never abandon the path of dialogue and reconciliation. We are resolute in our commitment for peace as we are firm in defending our country.

11. India desires friendly, good neighbourly and cooperative relations with all its neighbours. As by far the biggest country in the subcontinent (in size, population and GDP terms), we are often wrongly perceived as throwing our weight around and rightly expected to show magnanimity in our dealings with our smaller neighbours. This we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future. However, while it is not our expectation that our neighbours display an equal measure of reciprocity, we certainly expect that they remain sensitive to our concerns regarding our security. We do not think this is an unreasonable expectation. Within this framework a great deal can be achieved to our mutual benefit. People to people contacts, intra and inter-regional connectivity, cultural exchanges, trade, investment flows and integrated approaches to issues such as food, health, education and climate change will define any future architecture for the region.

12. It is also true that a cooperative future is not guaranteed unless we all work together on this unique project of a South Asia looking confidently to the future, each country secure in its own identity and putting development and the interests of its people above perceived fears and antagonistic posturing. No one country can do this alone. It must be a shared project.

13. The scourge of terrorism has cast its malevolent influence across the region and remains a major threat to all of us. It is a global menace, the epicentre of which is unfortunately located in our region. This threat needs to be addressed purposively and with determination. Terrorism must be repudiated, and terrorists and those who provide them succour and sustenance must be tackled resolutely. There are no 'good terrorists', and those who strike Faustian bargains with such elements are often left to rue the consequences for their own countries. Countries and organizations need to eschew the temptation to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy or to selectively target only those terrorist entities that are at present perceived to be a threat to them. This is a short-

sighted and self-destructive strategy as those elements that profess an ideology of hatred, intolerance and terror often bite the hand that feeds them. The famous fable of Dr Frankenstein offers a salutary and timeless reminder that those who create monsters must not assume they will always remain under their creator's control.

14. A climate of peace can only be built on a foundation of trust, unhindered by the use or the threat to use terror as a means to achieving narrow ends. The Mumbai terrorist attack in November last year was a great setback on the path of our relations with Pakistan. It will take concerted and credible action by Pakistan on two fronts to set things right: action to bring the conspirators and perpetrators of this dastardly attack to justice, and action to begin dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism, the platform from which so many attacks have been launched against our country in the last two decades. If these are done, a climate conducive for dialogue becomes possible; as our PM has said in Parliament, if Pakistan takes the first step, we will meet them more than half way. But only credible action by Islamabad will instil a modicum of confidence in the people of India that dialogue is worthwhile and that our neighbours are as determined as us to give peace a chance.

15. The Mumbai terror attacks and the overwhelming evidence of the involvement of elements in Pakistan in executing the Mumbai terror attack of November 2008, and in the conspiracy that planned, funded and launched it were a serious setback to the process of dialogue with Pakistan. Besides, an increase in ceasefire violations, continued infiltration across the LOC and the attacks on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in July 2008 and October 2009 have also placed immense strain on India-Pakistan relations in general and on the dialogue process in particular. Pakistan's evasive responses and denials in response to our requests for cooperation in exposing the conspiracy behind the Mumbai terror attack and bringing all its perpetrators to justice have not helped our bilateral relations. That is why, in the wake of the Mumbai terror attack, there has been a pause in the Composite Dialogue Process.

16. In recent weeks there have been high-level statements from Pakistan seeking the resumption of the dialogue process and about terrorism being an issue which both India and Pakistan must jointly address. Our position, articulated by our PM in Parliament on July 29, 2009, is that we can have

a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan only if they fulfil their commitment, in letter and spirit, not to allow their territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India. The inability or unwillingness of the Pakistani government to prevent its soil from being used to mount attacks on another state is a sad commentary that raises questions about whether it is at all serious about seeking a dialogue in order to improve relations with India.

17. As good neighbours, we are saddened by the continuing incidents of violence in Pakistan and we wish the authorities well in their efforts to repel militancy and fanaticism within their own borders. We would welcome indications that Islamabad shares our view that the forces of terrorism emanating from Pakistani soil are foes that must be overcome and that those plotting attacks on India from Pakistani territory are as much the enemies of Pakistan as they are of India.

18. India remains committed to long-term peace with Pakistan. And I state it unequivocally: there is no Indian threat to Pakistan on any grounds whatsoever. The need is for concerted action against terrorists wherever they operate.

19. Indeed Afghanistan, the newest member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC, provides an example of how much we can achieve if we work together. It represents, for the countries of South Asia, the gateway to Central Asia and beyond, and to West Asia. Historically, it has formed the natural frontier in the north-west of the South Asian landmass. Given its geographic location, Afghanistan has an immense potential to develop as a hub of trade, energy and transport corridors, which would help the long-term sustainability of development efforts in the region. This is something that we would like to see happening, and that is why we were very happy to support the admission of Afghanistan to SAARC. India's solid development partnership and cooperation with Afghanistan is truly appreciated by the Afghan people. Our friendship with Afghanistan is a long-standing one, and our developmental presence in that country is there solely to assist the Afghan government and people in their quest for progress and prosperity.

20. As a significant bilateral donor, India has already spent \$1.2 billion undertaking projects virtually in all parts of Afghanistan, in a wide range of sectors, including hydro-electricity, power transmission lines, road

construction, agriculture and industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting, education and health, fields which have been identified by the Afghan government as priority areas for reconstruction and development. We have lit up Kabul, since the first time Kabul has 24 hours of electricity a day since 1982 is because of Indian engineers. We have welcomed students and civil servants from Afghanistan to our educational and training institutions as part of our contribution towards helping stabilize the country and the region, increase capacity and human resource development and build upon the solid foundation of our historical and civilizational ties.

21. We are currently engaged in the construction of the Salma Dam in Herat, and we are constructing the Afghan Parliament building, a visible and evocative symbol of democracy. Work on these projects is moving briskly, and should be completed by the end of 2011. Our education and training programmes for Afghans are the largest such programmes that India has for any country in the world, and India's is the largest skill and capacity development programme offered to Afghanistan by any country in the world.

22. In all this our endeavour is to help Afghanistan stand on its own feet. We have no other agenda there. Afghanistan should not be seen as a battleground for competing spheres of influence. We have an abiding interest in the stability of Afghanistan, in ensuring social and economic progress for its people, and getting them on the track of self-sustaining growth, and enabling them to take their own decisions without outside interference.

23. The myriad problems that confront the country can only be resolved in a peaceful environment, devoid of violence and terror. The international community needs to come together to overcome this grave challenge. A sense of defeatism has been pervading some sections of international opinion. We feel that needs to be guarded against, because it runs the risk of encouraging insurgent groups into thinking they might actually triumph. We believe, therefore, that Afghanistan needs a long-term commitment, even while remaining mindful of the challenges. The Afghan people have displayed great courage and resilience, and a survival instinct even against the greatest odds. We must do our utmost to support them.

24. There really are only two choices confronting the international community - to invest and endure, or to improve conditions to a point that we can exit. India has already made up its mind - invest and endure is the way forward, because we believe in the cause of peace, democracy and development in Afghanistan. We trust that the friends of Afghanistan will do likewise.

25. Let me now turn to some of our other relationships in our neighbourhood. India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation underpinned by linguistic, cultural and civilizational links, wide-ranging commercial and economic ties, and extensive people-to-people contacts. Few countries have a relationship as wide-ranging and multifaceted as that between India and Nepal. Our bilateral relations have to be based on common economic prosperity. It is in this backdrop that during the visit of PM Madhav Kumar Nepal to India, an economic package for developing a skill base for industrial development and an ambitious programme to upgrade the infrastructure along our borders with Nepal and improve transport connectivity was announced.

26. Increased bilateral trade and investments with Nepal would contribute to economic development and prosperity for both countries. The 1996 Trade Treaty marked a turning point in trade relations between the two countries. It resulted in phenomenal growth of bilateral trade, which witnessed a seven fold increase. Nepal's exports to India increased eleven times and Indian exports to Nepal increased six times. In addition, Indian investments into Nepal increased by seven times. The 2009 Revised Trade Treaty, which was signed in October 2009, has retained the positive features of the previous treaty and built on it to further enhance and expand bilateral trade between the two countries.

27. Nepal is going through a historic transition and India has consistently maintained that the political process - the peace process and the drafting of the new Constitution by a duly elected Constituent Assembly - has to be both Nepali owned and Nepali driven. We are with the people of Nepal in this period of historic transition and in their quest for a multi-party democracy.

28. The developments in our neighbourhood with respect to Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Maldives have been remarkably positive. They

have pointed towards greater understanding, co-operation and partnership rather than towards disagreement, let alone conflict.

29. Staying in the Himalayas, our relations with Bhutan are an outstanding and truly exceptional example of good neighbourly relations and are characterised by profound friendship, mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. 2009 was a momentous year in India-Bhutan relations. It marked the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the visit of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Bhutan in 1958, the coronation of the Fifth King of Bhutan and the 100th anniversary of the Wangchuck dynasty. India welcomed Bhutan's historic transition to democracy. The India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty updated in 2007 not only reflects the contemporary nature of our relationship but also lays the foundation for our future development in the 21st century.

30. India is the largest development partner of Bhutan. It has been providing assistance to Bhutan ever since the latter initiated planned development efforts in the early 1960s. During the recent visit of the King of Bhutan, our Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to the revised target of exporting hydropower from Bhutan to India from 5,000 MW to 10,000 MW by 2020. Hydropower exports to India have already overtaken tourism as the single largest contributor to the impressive recent growth in Bhutan's GDP. From 2006, Bhutan's exports to India have exceeded its imports from India due to growing exports of hydropower. In 2008, exports from India were Rs.1734 crores and constituted 73.8% of Bhutan's total imports. Bhutan's exports to India in 2008 amounted to Rs. 2148 crores and constituted 99.4% of its total exports. India is also committed to the construction of the first rail link between our countries and to assisting Bhutan in Information Technology development and dissemination.

31. The end of the conflict with the LTTE has brought about a greater possibility for peace and stability in Sri Lanka and our neighbourhood. It has presented Sri Lanka with an opportunity to heal the wounds created by decades of protracted conflict, to make a new beginning and to build a better future for its people. It has also opened up greater options for India and Sri Lanka to cooperate bilaterally and enlarge our areas of engagement. India had emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government the importance of focusing on issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconciliation. India is now working actively in assisting in the rehabilitation of the people

of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. We have provided humanitarian relief for the displaced people, agricultural starter packs, shelter material, seven demining teams, and the services of a field hospital which treated more than 50,000 patients.

32. We hope the elections later this month will accelerate the process and reinforce a political consensus that ensures the welfare and wellbeing of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. We are staying engaged with Sri Lanka in the fraternal spirit that characterizes our friendship.

33. The recent elections in Bangladesh and the ushering in of a democratic Government led by the Awami League has opened up a window of opportunity for both sides to address issues of genuine mutual concern in a purposeful and focused manner that builds on our commonalities. It may be a cliché to speak of the multifaceted nature of relations between the two countries and the historical and traditional bonds of friendship we share, but there is no doubt that the cliché is a cliché because it is true. Issues of road and rail connectivity are on the table; trade is being given a new impetus; we fully understand the need to seek a mutually satisfactory solution regarding the sharing of water resources; and both nations are co-operating on combating terrorism. The current visit of Sheikh Hasina will, I am confident, open a new chapter in our engagement by reaffirming and reviving old links and solidifying new areas of cooperation.

34. India welcomed the results of the first multi-party democratic Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Maldives. We are moving to enhance our cooperation in a range of areas, including maritime and coastal security, where we share common concerns. The India - Maldives relationship has been nurtured through regular high level exchanges and by developing mutually identified infrastructure facilities in Maldives through economic and technical assistance provided by India. At the people-to-people level, as the MP from Thiruvananthapuram I am conscious of the close bonds we have to the people of Maldives, many of whom can be seen in the Kerala capital on any given day. We are committed to strengthening and enhancing our bonds of friendship with these close cousins.

35. Our engagement with our neighbours is, as I am sure you realize, multi-pronged. It is at the same time conducted bilaterally, regionally under the ambit of SAARC, and through what one might call sub-regional or even trans-regional mechanisms such as BIMSTEC, which includes some SAARC members and some ASEAN ones, or IOR-ARC, which pulls together 18 countries whose shores are washed by the Indian Ocean, including some South Asian nations and several on other continents. Since I have already touched upon the bilateral relationships, let me delve a little bit now into our cooperation within the framework of SAARC.

36. SAARC is an organization which has been quietly working to touch the lives of the people in South Asia without many of us knowing much about it. I would like to stress that what some have termed the asymmetric participation by India, as SAARC's largest member, has also been the most important factor in strengthening intra-regional cooperation. Not only has our manner of discharging our commitment to this grouping inspired other SAARC Member States to take initiatives on regional projects, but it has helped transform SAARC from a declaratory phase to an implementation phase. India has contributed US \$ 189.89 million for the SAARC Development Fund and enabled its operationalization. Many of you may not know that a world class university is coming up fast very near you as a direct SAARC project -- the South Asia University in South Delhi. India is the largest contributor to the development of this University, chipping in US \$ 229.11 million out of a total cost of US \$ 308.91 million. Within a couple of years, students from India and the SAARC member countries will get a world class education at an affordable cost here in India.

37. With increasing regional engagement on core areas of development, namely in health, education, energy, agriculture and infrastructure, awareness about the effectiveness of SAARC in delivering the fruits of development to South Asians at the grass roots has increased. Consequently, there has been an exponential increase in intra-regional tourism, people-to-people exchanges through cultural and social activities and programmes. These regional activities have enabled a large constituency of South Asians to be connected and benefit from basic infrastructure in health, education, food and infrastructure, hitherto unavailable to them.

38. SAARC's transformation from declarations to actions has also generated interest amongst non-SAARC States, with nine Observers formally expressing their intent to engage with SAARC. Intra-regional cooperation has strengthened physical connectivity, helped overcome the challenges of the global economic crisis and the food crisis, and is encouraging greater cooperation in articulating a common SAARC position at many international forums.

39. I would like to believe that SAARC's evolutionary path towards economic prosperity in South Asia is irreversible. Of course we are all conscious that political setbacks can derail, or slow down, economic progress. But with increasing economic inter-dependence amongst Member States, heading in the future towards a SAARC Customs Union or even a single SAARC currency no longer appears to be completely unrealistic.

40. Winds of change are blowing in South Asia. There is a definite consolidation of democracy in all the countries of the region, every one of which has held elections within the last two years. Some of our neighbours have made significant strides in surmounting internal conflict and others are in the process of doing so. A subcontinent committed to democracy, economic co-operation and improved regional integration is no longer a pipe-dream.

41. I believe that Lal Bahadur Shastriji would have welcomed this development and that he would have shared my enthusiasm at the hopeful prospects for enhanced cooperation in South Asia. He went to Tashkent to strive for a subcontinent not bedevilled by mutual suspicion and distrust. That is the vision and the commitment of the UPA government today. We firmly believe that, if India has to fulfil its potential in the world, we have to live in peace with our neighbours, in mutual security, harmony and cooperation.

42. I have been told that just as Nehruji kept Robert Frost's immortal lines -- 'Miles to go before I sleep' -- on his bedside table, Shastriji kept some lines of Guru Nanak in Gurmukhi on his desk. When translated into English they read: 'O Nanak! Be tiny like the grass, for other plants will wither away, but grass will remain ever green.' These immortal lines epitomize Shastriji's humility of demeanour, his grasp of life's true meaning, and his indomitable spirit. His vision of peace in our region remains alive and evergreen in our hearts.

Thank you and Jai Hind.



AFGHANISTAN**169. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on India's Policy towards Afghanistan.****New Delhi, February 24, 2010.**

The London Conference had three broad agenda items: security; development and governance; and regional cooperation. The Conference was co-hosted by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Over 60 countries, along with representatives of certain international organizations, were invited to the Conference. EAM led the Indian delegation to the Conference.

In the Communiqué issued after the Conference, the international community underlined its support for the Government of Afghanistan and its security, development and governance, and pledged to maintain its long-term commitment to Afghanistan. India's stand was to ensure an emphasis on the international community's long-term engagement in Afghanistan, the central and coordinating role of the UN, a focus on the resolve to combat terrorism, condemnation of terrorist groups, and the importance of the Afghan National Security Forces assuming a leading role in ensuring security. While supporting the Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up the armed struggle, accept the values of democracy, human rights and pluralism as enshrined in the Afghan constitution and do not have ties with terrorist groups, India stressed on the need to ensure that the Afghan led peace and reintegration process should be inclusive and transparent.

The participants in the London Conference, which included major countries and was co-hosted by the United Nations, reiterated their resolve to combat terrorism and condemned in the strongest terms all attacks by the Taliban and their extremist allies. The London Conference did not endorse reintegration with the Taliban as a whole, but welcomed the plans of the Government of Afghanistan to offer an honourable place in society to those willing to renounce violence, participate in the free and open society and respect the principles that are enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, cut ties with Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, and pursue their political goals peacefully.

India is actively engaged in assisting the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in the reconstruction and development of that country as a means to bringing about stability in Afghanistan. As a neighbour of Afghanistan, India cannot remain immune from developments there. It is committed to supporting the Government and the people of Afghanistan as they build a democratic, pluralistic and prosperous country. India believes that in this period of transition in Afghanistan it is imperative to strengthen the Government of Afghanistan and its capacities at various levels. India will continue to consult with countries in the region and beyond in support of peace and stability in Afghanistan. India will continue to press the international community to act effectively to ensure that terrorist and extremist groups targeting Afghanistan from beyond its borders are denied safe havens.



170. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the bomb blasts in Kabul.

New Delhi, February 26, 2010.

I am deeply saddened and grieved at the loss of lives of Indian nationals in the bomb attack in Kabul, which has also claimed the lives of several innocent Afghan civilians. I condemn in the strongest possible terms this senseless act of violence and barbarism which strikes at the core of everything a civilized society holds dear.

The Indians who have lost their lives were on a mission of goodwill and friendship, helping to construct the peaceful, democratic Afghanistan that our Afghan friends desire. I convey my heartfelt condolences to their families and near and dear ones, and assure them that we stand with them in this hour of grief, and will render all possible support to them.



171. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the telephonic call by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

New Delhi, February 27, 2010.

President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan today called the Prime Minister to express his condolences on the loss of Indian lives and injuries sustained by many others in the terrorist attack in Kabul on 26 February 2010. President Karzai promised a full investigation into the attack. The Prime Minister conveyed India's outrage at the incident. While thanking the Government of Afghanistan for the assistance being given, the Prime Minister requested President Karzai to ensure full security for Indian nationals in Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed to stay in touch with each other.



172. Response of Official Spokesperson to a query on reports regarding temporary suspension of functioning of Indian Medical Missions in Afghanistan.

New Delhi, March 6, 2010.

In response to a query regarding reports that after the terrorist attack in Kabul on February 26, the work of the Indian Medical Missions (IMMs) in Afghanistan has been suspended, the Official Spokesperson said that the IMMs in Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif were functioning normally. In the aftermath of the terrorist attack targeting the IMM in Kabul, in which one doctor was killed and others injured, the work of the IMM has been temporarily suspended. The Embassy of India and its other offices in Afghanistan continue to function normally in the face of extremely demanding and difficult circumstances.



173. Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

New Delhi, April 26, 2010.

His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan paid an official visit to India on 26 April 2010 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. During his visit, President Karzai met President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, and held discussions with Prime Minister Singh.

This was President Karzai's first visit to India after his re-election as the President of Afghanistan in 2009. The visit marked the continuation of high level exchanges between the two countries, and was a manifestation of the tradition of regular consultations between India and Afghanistan.

During the discussions between President Karzai and Prime Minister Singh the two sides reiterated their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries, and expressed satisfaction at the progress in their relations. They noted that these relations were rooted in historical and civilisation links, and served not only the interests and welfare of the two countries, but also contributed to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Prime Minister Singh stated that India desired to see a strong, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, at peace. India remained committed to assisting Afghanistan in its development efforts in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Afghanistan. India's development partnership is focussed on areas of infrastructure development, human resource development and capacity building, food assistance and small development projects that bring immediate benefit to the people at the grass-roots level. The two leaders, in particular, took note of the Zaranj-Delaram road project, the Pul-e-Kumri to Kabul transmission line project and scholarship programmes which had brought direct benefit to the Afghan people. They welcomed the progress being made in the construction of the building for the Afghan Parliament. President Karzai expressed appreciation for India's assistance to the reconstruction and development efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan.

President Karzai outlined to Prime Minister Singh recent developments with regard to Afghanistan. Prime Minister Singh lauded the progress that had been made in national reconstruction efforts under President Karzai and the sacrifices made by the people of Afghanistan in their quest for building a democratic and peaceful society.

The two leaders reiterated their conviction that the national rebuilding process in Afghanistan should be led by the people of Afghanistan in keeping with the principles of national sovereignty, independence and non-interference in internal affairs. They expressed their grave concern over the threat posed by terrorism to Afghanistan's national development efforts. They expressed their determination to work with the international community to combat the forces of terrorism which pose a particular threat to the region.

President Karzai conveyed his outrage and deep condolences over the terrorist attacks on Indian nationals in Afghanistan, and assured the Indian side that the Government of Afghanistan is committed to providing full security to them. The Indian side welcomed these assurances.

The two leaders expressed their intention to continue to consult each other with a view to consolidating their partnership and contributing to peace and stability in the region.



174. Statements to the Press by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

New Delhi, April 26, 2010.

Prime Minister: It is a great honour for me to welcome His Excellency President Hamid Karzai to India on his first visit to India after his re-election as President.

I have had extremely productive discussions with President Karzai. We discussed a broad range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. We exchanged views on regional cooperation in the context of forthcoming SAARC Summit and our common vision of freer and more

unfettered regional trade and transit. Greater economic integration has the potential of transforming our region.

India and Afghanistan enjoy a strategic partnership based on unique historical and civilizational bonds and shared goals. I conveyed to President Karzai our deep admiration for his courageous leadership in difficult times, and our support to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they build a strong, peaceful, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. India believes that this process should be led and owned by the Afghan people.

We reviewed the development partnership between our two countries. India remains committed to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan in their efforts towards the reconstruction and development of their country. I conveyed to the President that India is ready to augment its assistance for capacity building and for skills and human resources development to help strengthen public institutions in Afghanistan.

We discussed the issue of terrorism, which threatens our region. President Karzai assured me that the Government of Afghanistan will take all possible measures for the security of Indians in Afghanistan. We were of the view that the attacks of February 26, 2010 in Kabul were the handiwork of those who do not wish to see the emergence of a strong, independent and pluralistic Afghanistan. I conveyed to President Karzai that the perpetrators of such attacks will not succeed in undermining India's commitment to assist the Afghan people.

I look forward to continuing to work together with President Karzai for further enhancing our close cooperation. This is in the interest of our two peoples and peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Thank you.

President of Afghanistan: Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured to be visiting India on my seventh-eighth visit here this time, at the particularly kind invitation of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and I discussed the relation between the two countries in which I expressed at the outset the sympathy and condolence of the Afghan people at the cowardly attacks against Indian reconstruction workers and medical staff and their Embassy in Kabul.

I also expressed to the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh the gratitude of the Afghan people especially, particularly in the past eight years, for the tremendous reconstruction assistance given to the Afghan people by the people of India. Of significance in part there, Ladies and Gentlemen, was the construction of a road from Zaranj to Delaram and the extension of power lines from North to Central Afghanistan and to the Capital of the country. Also very important, for which I repeatedly thanked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, was the granting of scholarships to over 1200 Afghan students, boys and girls, to come and learn in India. India has shown to be a strong partner of Afghanistan, for which, again we express our gratitude.

The Prime Minister and I discussed the situation in Afghanistan, the situation in the region and our common struggle against terrorism and extremism. We discussed the upcoming Afghanistan peace consultative Jirga which will comprise all the people of Afghanistan from all walks of life to advise the Afghan Government on how to move forward towards reintegration and reconciling of those elements of the Taliban and others who have accepted the Afghan Constitution, who are not part of Al Qaeda, and who would not be part of any terrorist network. I have also requested the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh to kindly send representatives to the follow-up of the London Conference which will be held in Kabul, in the name of a Kabul Conference so India can participate once again in Afghanistan's reconstruction and the provision of support to the Afghan people.

We discussed a number of other issues of mutual significance that corresponds to the two countries. I express once again Mr. Prime Minister, my gratitude and thanks to you and to the people of India for all that India has done for Afghanistan in the past eight years, in keeping with the relation of friendship between the two countries, as it ever was in our two histories.

Thank you.



175. Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Afghanistan-India-Pakistan Trialogue organised by Delhi Policy Group.

New Delhi, June 13, 2010.

I am privileged to speak to such an eminent gathering from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan assembled here. I would also like convey my appreciation to Delhi Policy Group and Prof. Radha Kumar for organising this trialogue. I looked at the summarized report of the Trialogue for 2009 and was struck by the forward-looking ideas delineated there.

2. I think it is a truth universally acknowledged that India, Pakistan and Afghanistan share bonds and linkages that transcend the immediacy of the present. Often, we are also treated to the refrain that India-Pakistan issues have impeded the collective progress of the region. There are those who maintain that for peace and stability in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan should resolve all their differences. The complexities in such equations are not resolvable through the application of simple formulae, although it can be conceded that peace between the two largest countries in South Asia would have a salutary impact on the destiny of the entire region. Of course, the issue of peace and stability in Afghanistan needs to be addressed separately and comprehensively and not within the matrix of India-Pakistan relations.

3. I believe that the issue of peace and stability in Afghanistan has facets to it which concern governance, which concern issues of grass-roots level administration and deliverance of public goods like transport, trade, health, education and women's empowerment, the mitigation of the culture of the gun, the eradication of terrorism, the creation of a strong Afghan National Army and Police and, structuring the role of regional countries in ensuring that long term peace and security in Afghanistan cannot be a bridge too far. A good outcome, and the realization of these goals, in Afghanistan can change the current of history in our region.

4. When the searchlight is turned on what we - as India - do in Afghanistan, the vista is clear. India is engaged in developmental and humanitarian work to assist the Afghan people as they build a peaceful, stable, inclusive, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. The landscape of

destruction must change. India neither sees Afghanistan as a battleground for competing national interests nor assistance to Afghan reconstruction and development as a zero sum game. (Indeed, may I venture the proposition that development and security in the entire region of South Asia should not be a zero sum game. We must be creative and flexible in our thinking on such issues). Our \$ 1.3 billion assistance programme is aimed at building infrastructure, capacity building in critical areas of governance, health, education, agriculture etc. and generating employment. We have paid a heavy price in terms of the lives lost of our citizens who work in Afghanistan, as we are targeted by those whose agendas conflict with the emergence of a strong and stable Afghanistan. Last year, over 300,000 Afghans- mainly women and children- trekked long distances to avail of free medical treatment from the Indian Medical Missions in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif. The economy of battle-scarred Nimroz province was transformed with the building of the Zaranj-Delaram highway and the homes of the people of Kabul have been lit after more than a decade by the Pul-e-Khumri transmission line from the Uzbek border. These are by no definition, activities that are inimical to the interest of the people of Afghanistan or its neighbours. We have sought to assist Afghanistan within our means. In fact, the international community as a whole has made great contributions in terms of diplomacy and development, in assisting Afghanistan to stand on its feet. We welcome these efforts and are fully supportive of them.

5. The security of Afghanistan and what happens there impacts us, as a country in the region, as a close neighbor whose ties with the Afghan people stretch into antiquity. A stable and settled Afghanistan, where the rank and file of the Taliban has given up violence against the government, and the people, cut all links with terrorism, subscribe to the values of the Afghan Constitution and its laws, and where development is the hard rationale, is what we seek and quest for. It is important also that for such a structure to be durable and enduring, Afghanistan's neighbours, and regional partners, will need to be in the picture - both by consultation and by adherence to the principle of non-interference in the country's affairs, ensuring that it thrives as a trade and transit hub for the region, and by eradicating transnational terrorism.

6. I will now focus on the dynamics of our relationship with Pakistan, particularly following the meeting of the two Prime Ministers in Thimphu in April. India-Pakistan relations are, by virtue of a complexity that has grown, rather than diminished over the years, literally, a class apart. Theories about why such distances separate us, abound. Geographical contiguity and shared history, ethnic and linguistic affinities, and similar developmental challenges have not induced an inevitable congruity between our interests. That is the tragedy of our relationship. The last sixty years have had more than their share of bitterness, recrimination, mistrust, misunderstanding and miscommunication. There is a trust deficit. Some also refer to a vision deficit, especially since India has over the years sought to spell out a broader vision of our relationship while a similar definition has not been easy for Pakistan to enunciate. Therefore, there is need for articulating a common definition of what kind of relationship we want for the future. The welfare of our millions should be the common denominator of our efforts.

7. So, what has gone wrong so far? While some would trace the current state of India-Pakistan relations to the circumstances that led to the birth of the two countries, others would blame events thereafter, but what is important for us today is to try and assess the reasons underlying the existing state of this relationship and to think afresh on the way forward. It is only through such an analysis that we can overcome the difficulties in our relationship. This is the spirit of Thimphu.

8. And, as we commence this exercise, it is important to reiterate a few points. We seek a stable, peaceful, economically progressing Pakistan. Secondly, we sincerely desire peace with Pakistan. Thirdly, we have to learn to live with the asymmetries in our sizes and capabilities. Such differences of scale should not deter us from working with each other. Pakistan should shed its insecurity on these counts. Fourthly, India is a neighbor which has exhibited true restraint despite misguided and serious provocations. Fifthly, the entry of radical ideology into the domain of religion, and, the consequent implications for peace and security between India and Pakistan, making differences over Kashmir even more difficult, must be prevented. Radical, terrorist forces are also increasingly battling for larger space in a deathly struggle that seeks to overwhelm moderate, democratic forces in Pakistani civil society. The writing on the wall must be seen.

9. There is agreement today on both sides that dialogue is the only way forward. Consequently, our Prime Ministers have charged the Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries with the responsibility of working out the modalities of restoring trust and confidence in the relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern.

10. For bridging what is called the "trust deficit" between the two countries, we are ready to address all issues of mutual concern through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. Let me however, pose a question, here. The progress in our Composite Dialogue especially from 2004-2008, and the frequent references to the deliberations of the back channel during the same period, do not diminish the import of one dilemma. How do we deal with the persistent threat of terrorism? It is a given, that this dialogue can best progress in an atmosphere free from terrorism, which has been the bane of our region. Most terrorist attacks in India and elsewhere have their origin in our region. Every terrorist attack, including the one in Mumbai, hardens Indian public opinion, making our task more difficult. Terrorism as a continuation of war by other means, and the use of terrorist groups selectively, as strategic assets against India, cannot and must not, continue. As an intrinsic part of the long-term vision of relations it desires with India, Pakistan must act effectively against those terrorist groups that seek to nullify and, to destroy the prospects of peace and cooperation between our two countries.

11. We often hear about Pakistan's apprehension about India's conventional defence superiority and growing strategic capabilities after the civil nuclear deal with the United States. Suggestions have been made for a strategic restraint regime in South Asia. I would like to reiterate that India's defence posture and capabilities are not of an offensive nature, and not targeted against any country, including Pakistan. We want to see a peaceful, stable, energy-secure and prosperous Pakistan that acts as a bulwark against terrorism for its own sake and for the good of the region. Asymmetries in size and development, should not prevent us from working together, building complementarities, and realizing a vision of friendly, bilateral relations. In my opinion, there can be no better strategic restraint regime than greater economic and commercial integration; more and more people to people contacts and cultural exchanges, which lead to mutual

understanding of each other's views. Here rests the key to bridging the trust and vision deficit.

12. In recent times, we have also seen unprecedented focus on the "water issue" between India and Pakistan. Breast-beating propaganda and baseless charges alleging stealing of water and illegal construction of dams have been spread and poisoned the atmosphere of our relations further. The myth of water theft does not stand the test of rational scrutiny or reason. India has never sought to deny Pakistan its fair and stipulated share of the Indus waters. We firmly believe that the Indus Water Treaty is an example of mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Pakistan. For fifty years now, it has been a very successful and useful mechanism for discussing water-related issues between the two countries. India has always adhered to its Treaty obligations, even during the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, and will continue to do so. We are committed to resolving whatever differences that exist in this regard under the mechanism that is provided by the Treaty. This apart, as developing countries, India and Pakistan also stand to benefit from consultations in the context of multilateral processes dealing with environmental issues, including water. In future, India could consider, under a suitable bilateral intergovernmental mechanism, co-operation, such as sharing best practices in water utilization and irrigation.

13. India Pakistan relations have been discussed under the Composite Dialogue process. The Composite Dialogue, which was resumed in June 2004, was predicated on the solemn commitment given by Pakistan that it would not allow any territory under its control to be used for terrorism directed against India. Four Rounds of the Composite Dialogue were completed. During the 5th round, the dialogue process was paused after the terrorist attack on Mumbai. We appreciate the relevance and achievements of the Composite Dialogue, particularly in the period 2004-2008. During this phase, all issues of mutual concern, including Jammu & Kashmir, were discussed. Amongst the achievements, we can cite a number of Confidence Building Measures related to peace and security, such as agreements on pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles and reduction of the risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons, hotlines between various officials on both sides; enhanced people to people contacts through bus/truck and train services; revival of the Bilateral Joint

Commission after 16 years; setting up of the Judicial Committee to look into the humanitarian issue of civilian prisoners/fishermen held in each others jails and growth in bilateral trade by 550% between year 2003-04 and 2007-08 from US\$ 344.59 million to US\$ 2.23 billion.

14. On Jammu & Kashmir, progress was made based on the common understanding that boundaries could not be redrawn but we could work towards making them irrelevant; and people on both sides of the LoC should be able to move freely and trade with one another. Towards this goal, a number of cross-LoC CBMs were put in place, which included the opening of five crossing points on the LOC; introduction of triple entry permits; increase in frequency of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote bus services; starting of cross-LOC trade on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes through movement of trucks, etc.

15. On the way forward, we have to build on these achievements. We also have to reaffirm the progress made through complex negotiations and dialogue through patient and unsung effort whether in the composite dialogue or back channel diplomacy, during this period. We must seek creative solutions.

16. India's rise should not be seen in subjective or negative terms by our neighbours. In fact, our fast growing economy and large market should be seen as a growth opportunity: a reliable source for investments, technology and entrepreneurial resources, besides being a rapidly expanding market for our neighbours' exports. Unfortunately, economic and commercial integration within SAARC has been stymied by political considerations at the cost of economic benefits. Intra-SAARC exports are a mere 5% of the total SAARC exports.

17. Pakistan has nothing to fear from Indian commerce and industry. This has been said by its own Panel of Economists, appointed by Pakistan's Planning Commission. The Panel in its report on Medium Term Development Imperatives and Strategy for Pakistan has assessed that bilateral trade between our two countries, can grow from the current around US \$2 billion per annum to a range of \$3 to \$10 billion. The report enumerates several advantages for Pakistan if trade is normalized with India, which includes geographical proximity and cheaper transportation costs. It concludes that shorter distances will render it unnecessary for

Pakistani industry to carry high levels of inventories of raw material. We hope that Pakistan implements the recommendations of its own economists to give India MFN status and shift from a positive list to a negative list regime. Growing economic integration will not only contribute positively to our common developmental imperatives but will also facilitate in building trust and confidence. Moreover, Pakistan could benefit from trade and permitting transit through its territory between India and Afghanistan, thereby creating a win-win situation for all three countries.

18. In conclusion, I would like to echo what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on the 7th June at the Convocation of the Sher-e-Kashmir University in Srinagar:

"Our issues with Pakistan are well known. Good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan are in the interest of both the countries. At the same time they are necessary for peace and harmony, stability and development in our region. The relations between the two countries over the past one and a half years have been under the shadow of the terror attacks in Mumbai on November 26, 2008. As you are aware, I met the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Thimphu last month. Both the countries accepted that there is a trust deficit between us. We also agreed that this distance between the two countries must be reduced.

Prime Minister Gilani Saheb has assured me that Pakistan will not allow its soil to be used for terrorist activities against India. Meaningful talks between the two countries, which can lead to a resolution of old issues, are possible only when Pakistan does not let its territory be used for acts of terror against India.

The destiny of our people is linked to each other. Therefore both the countries should adopt effective ways of co-operation to the benefit of the people of the two countries. A strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan is in the interest of our whole region".

The road ahead is a long and winding one. But as fellow travelers, India and Pakistan must tackle the challenges of this rocky road with the belief that a secure and prosperous future vitally and crucially depends on our ability to do so.



**176. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri
Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation
in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council.**

New York, June 30, 2010.

Please see Document No.654.



**177. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at
the Conference on Afghanistan.**

Kabul, July 20, 2010.

Hon'ble Co-Chairman,

I am privileged to address this august gathering, assembled today at a crucial stage of Afghanistan's contemporary history to demonstrate solidarity with the Government of Afghanistan for its long-term stability and reconstruction. We congratulate the Government of Afghanistan in holding this first-ever International Conference on Afghanistan in Kabul since 2001 with grace and efficiency.

India and Afghanistan are historic friends. Our two countries enjoy a relationship based on history, civilization, trade and cultural exchanges and shared values and interests stretching back thousands of years. India is committed to the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan underpinned by democracy and cohesive pluralism and free from external interference. India has contributed to these goals through our Development Partnership which is implemented entirely in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan Government and people. Our Assistance programmes are spread all over Afghanistan and cover all sectors of development: humanitarian, infrastructural, institution and capacity building, small-scale quick gestation projects, and agriculture. The ultimate aim of our assistance is to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan state and people to stand on their own feet in the areas of governance

and services for the Afghan people. This Conference, with Afghan Government's determination to take full responsibility for Afghanistan's own development, security and governance, and the international community's willingness to realign international assistance in accordance with Afghan priorities and action plans, is a big step in that direction.

Afghanistan's stability and economic development depend a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Afghanistan's greatest economic potential perhaps resides in its immense potential as a trade, transport and energy hub, and as a bridge linking Central, West, South Asia and the Gulf. Its prosperity also depends on the consumer market of nearly 1.5 billion people in the South-Asian sub-continent. The recent reports of Afghanistan's great mineral wealth also open up possibilities for mining and investment. But for Afghanistan to realize its full potential in these areas, Afghanistan's neighbours need to come together to forge greater regional cooperation and facilitate trade and transit. Growing economic inter-dependence will also help in weaning disaffected youth away from insurgency and militancy and in creating a zone of co-prosperity in the region. We support the wishes of the Government of Afghanistan to take the lead in this direction.

India also supports Afghanistan's efforts towards peace and reintegration. But, for such an effort to succeed, it must be fully Afghan-led and Afghan-owned and carry all sections of Afghanistan's population together as well as abide by the redlines agreed to at the London Conference, i.e., giving up violence, cutting off all links with terrorism - whether jihadi or state-sponsored - and accepting the democratic and pluralistic values of the Afghan Constitution, including women's rights. The international community must learn lessons from past experiences at negotiating with fundamentalist and extremist organizations and ensure that any peace process is conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner. Adequate capacity of the Afghan security forces and other Afghan institutions is a sine qua non for protecting Afghanistan's sovereignty, plurality and democracy. Gains of the last nine years stand to be squandered if this aspect does not receive the attention that it deserves as the international community ponders its next steps regarding Afghanistan. The international community should

also ensure that there is no selectivity in dealing with terrorism. Terrorism cannot be compartmentalised. As President Karzai said today, it is the vicious common enemy we face. Today, one cannot distinguish between Al Qaeda and plethora of terrorist organisations which have imbibed the goals and techniques of Al Qaeda. It is, therefore, essential to ensure that support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorist organisations from outside Afghanistan are ended forthwith.

Hon'ble Co-Chairman,

The determination exhibited by the Afghan Government to take charge of its own destiny and future for Afghan ownership and leadership and the solidarity demonstrated by the international community in supporting this process politically, economically and in the sphere of security, augurs well for the future. My country reiterates its commitment to stability, development and prosperity of the Afghan people and looks forward to working together closely with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in realising these objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chairman for your patient hearing.



178. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate.

New Delhi, August 8, 2010.

Please see Document No.230.



179. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul.

New Delhi, August 24, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon.

Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul arrived this morning in New Delhi for the first standalone official visit at the invitation of his counterpart External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. Foreign Minister Rassoul is no stranger to India. As the National Security Advisor earlier, he had been to India. But as the Foreign Minister this is his first visit except that in April 2010 he did transit through New Delhi on his way to Thimphu for the SAARC Summit. EAM and Foreign Minister Rassoul have met several times including on the 20th of July when EAM had gone to Kabul for the Kabul Conference.

Briefly, the programme. The Foreign Minister arrived at noon today. He would be meeting with the National Security Advisor. He will be calling on the Prime Minister. He would hold delegation-level talks with the External Affairs Minister. He would have a number of other engagements. He leaves for Kabul on Thursday, 26th of August.

He would be assisted by Ambassador Tarzi of Afghanistan, DG Foreign Affairs Farman, and other officials. EAM would be assisted by the Foreign Secretary, our Ambassador in Kabul, Joint Secretary (PAI) Mr. Yash Sinha, and other officials.

You are aware of our very close and historical relationship with Afghanistan which both sides have nurtured over the centuries. People in both countries have strong bonds of affinity and friendship which have remained unaffected by political vicissitudes. India and Afghanistan are committed to deepen and strengthen our strategic partnership and the multifaceted ties which are not only of mutual interest but have been a factor for peace, stability and progress in the region.

In 2007, during the SAARC Summit in New Delhi, Afghanistan became a member of SAARC. It has also been a practice for both sides to have regular consultations at high levels to review and give our ties greater momentum.

President Karzai after his re-election was on an official visit to New Delhi on the 26th of April, 2010. He has been to India several times. He and Prime Minister have also been meeting on the sidelines of international conferences. Similarly our Foreign Ministers, our National Security Advisors, our Foreign Secretaries, other leaders, officials have been engaging each other regularly.

You are aware, but let me also highlight, that since the Bonn Conference in 2001, in accordance with the wishes, preferences and priorities of the Government and people of Afghanistan, India has been extending unstinted support for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. We are already the sixth largest donor. Our bilateral assistance is close to 1.3 billion dollars. Our projects, which I think an important feature, reach out to the common man in all parts of Afghanistan.

Broadly, the Indian assistance can be divided into four segments. One is humanitarian, in which I would include medical assistance and food assistance. You are aware that the Indian Medical Missions have been doing very well in Afghanistan. Last year, in 2009, they treated more than 310,000 people, mostly women and children, free of cost.

We have been contributing to development of infrastructure including the 218 kilometre Zaranj-Delaram Road that was jointly inaugurated by President Karzai and the External Affairs Minister in January, 2009. The Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul transmission line was inaugurated by President Karzai in May 2009. Presently the Salma Dam in Herat, and the Parliament in Kabul are under construction.

Another unique feature of our assistance has been the small development projects which we have been undertaking. These are quick-gestation, social projects which are identified and executed by local officials across Afghanistan. Some 50 of them have already been undertaken. A similar number are in the pipeline.

We are playing an important role in capacity-building. Presently, 1350 scholarships, 675 each by ICCR and under the ITEC programme, are being made available annually in different disciplines to Afghanistan for capacity-building.

Post London Conference, given the fact that the agricultural and related sectors are very important to Afghanistan, India has decided for a period of five years, to provide 100 fellowships annually to enable Afghans to pursue Masters and Ph.D. programmes and to 200 fresh graduates for Degree programmes.

As significantly, despite the heinous attacks by forces inimical to India-Afghanistan friendship on our Embassy in Kabul in July 2008 and again in October 2009 and on Indian interests in February 2010, India remains committed to assisting the people and Government of Afghanistan, in their quest for a peaceful, pluralistic, democratic, and prosperous Afghanistan. This approach of India, this assistance of India that is being provided in Afghanistan, is positively reflected in a number of opinion polls conducted by independent agencies where the people of Afghanistan have spoken in very warm terms about what India has been doing.

This is the background in which the visit of Foreign Minister Rassoul is taking place. 2010 has seen a number of fast-paced developments aimed at bringing about peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, including the London Conference in January, the Peace Jirga held in Kabul in June, and the Kabul Conference for which the External Affairs Minister had gone in July. Also on the 18 September, elections for the 249 member Parliament are scheduled to take place.

These are some of the important elements that I wanted to flag.. During the visit the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan would hold extensive discussions with External Affairs Minister on bilateral matters and other issues of common interest.

Thank you.



180. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Zalmi Rassoul.

New Delhi, August 25, 2010.

His Excellency, Dr. Zalmi Rassoul, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is currently on a visit to India at the invitation of Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, Republic of India. His visit is part of the regular high-level interaction between the two sides, and reflects the importance given by both India and Afghanistan to their strategic and developmental partnership.

2. During the visit, the Afghan Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and had meetings with the Minister of External Affairs and the National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon on a range of bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest.

3. Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes to President Hamid Karzai and other leaders of Afghanistan. He expressed India's strong support for the Government and people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation. The Afghan Foreign Minister conveyed Afghanistan's deep appreciation for the important and constructive role being played by India in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

4. Dr. Zalmi Rassoul thanked Minister of External Affairs for his participation in the Kabul International Conference on July 20, 2010. Minister of External Affairs congratulated Afghanistan on successfully hosting this very important Conference, and expressed the support of the Government of India for the outcomes of the Kabul Conference.

5. The two Ministers shared their vision of Afghanistan as a hub linking Central and South Asia through easier trade and transit links and people-to-people exchanges. They agreed that terrorism is the main threat undermining peace and stability in the region and reiterated their resolve to effectively combating and defeating it. They also emphasised the need to ensure that terrorist and extremist groups targeting Afghanistan and other countries in the region are denied safe havens and sanctuaries.

6. The two Ministers emphasized the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan, based on symbiotic historical and cultural ties, and common interests and values. India conveyed its desire to see a strong,

stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan and reiterated its commitment to assisting Afghanistan in its development efforts in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Afghanistan.

7. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the frequent and substantive consultations between the two sides. They underlined the need for an early operationalization of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council to widen and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

8. The Ministers reaffirmed the determination of the two governments to strengthen their rich, multi-dimensional and long-term strategic partnership, in the common interests of the people of the two countries and the region as a whole.



**181. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation
in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council.**

New York, September 29, 2010.

Please see Document No.677.



**182. Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of
Parliament, on the situation in Afghanistan at the UNGA.**

New York, Novemebr 4, 2010.

Please see Document No.732.



**183. Statement by Minister of State Shrimati Preeti Kaur
at the Afghanistan International Investment Conference.**

Dubai, November 30, 2010.

H.E. Dr Zalmay Rassoul, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I would like to thank the Governments of the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, for inviting India to this important conference. I, and my entire delegation, express our appreciation for the warm and generous hospitality that has been extended to us, and for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference.

Excellencies, over the past ten years, the brave people of Afghanistan have fought hard to emerge from a troubled phase of their history. Their determination and fortitude, despite continuing military and social strife, have been exemplary and inspiring. Events such as the present Conference are as much opportunities for the international community to salute the Afghan spirit, as occasions to reiterate our commitment towards peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.

It was in acknowledgment of this enduring spirit of the Afghan people that the international community came together, nearly a decade back, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in rebuilding their glorious nation. This united effort has led to significant achievements, both in terms of institutional development and infrastructural reconstruction, and the leadership of Afghanistan deserves our appreciation for their hard-fought accomplishments and successes. The contribution of the international community has been critical to these successes.

Excellencies, the people of India have also contributed generously to this international effort, willingly sharing the fruits of their own development experience with their Afghan brothers and sisters. India's development partnership with Afghanistan, which covers the entire country and straddles all sectors of development, aims to build indigenous Afghan capacities and institutions for an effective state system that is able to deliver goods

and services required by the Afghan people. Our scholarships programme for Afghan students, training courses aimed at skill development and the new programmes on capacity building in the agricultural sector announced by India during the London Conference reaffirm our renewed focus on capacity building and human resource development in Afghanistan. India has also underlined its strong support and commitment to the National Institutional Building Project (NIBP) which aims at promoting and supporting Afghan leadership in the area of governance and development.

The Indian contribution to Afghan reconstruction and development has continued, and even expanded, despite repeated and targeted attacks against Indian individuals and interests in Afghanistan. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment and determination of the Government of India to continue to partner the people of Afghanistan in developing capacity and infrastructure in their country.

Excellencies, we must acknowledge that the commitment of the international community towards Afghanistan can not, in perpetuity, continue to remain an assistance-based relationship. It is now time for the international community to see how we can enable Afghanistan to tap into the native genius of its own people, and to forge and strengthen the normal economic, cultural and civil-society energies that bind nations together and provide sustainable bases for their stability and prosperity. In this context, the present event presents a timely and valuable opportunity for us to reflect on the steps and measures needed to improve the investment climate of Afghanistan.

Excellencies, the weight of history suggests that the economic future of Afghanistan is inextricably tied to that of the South Asian and Central Asian regions. Afghanistan has always been a land bridge between the Indian sub-continent, the Central Asian countries and Iran. Centuries of civilisational, economic, social and cultural bonds tie Afghanistan to this part of the world. Over these centuries, the armies, preachers and trade caravans of the world have continually been drawn to Afghanistan, since it provided a door into the fertile plains of the Indus and Ganges, and to the vast economic opportunities represented by the Indian sub-continent. These very same economic opportunities, which have long been a magnet for the external world, today present the most viable strategy for the development of Afghanistan, and imply that such a strategy must inevitably be focussed on South and Central Asia. Ours is an economically vibrant neighbourhood that not only provides a fast-growing market of over 1.5

billion people, but can also be a source of all the technologies and competencies that Afghanistan needs to develop its own industrial, agricultural and service capacities. More relevantly, it offers these investments and technologies from a familiar socio-cultural context, which can facilitate their quicker absorption and adoption in Afghanistan's economic structure. No serious strategy for Afghanistan's development can afford to ignore this fundamental regional reality.

India is fully committed to unleashing and developing the economic complementarities that bind the nations of South Asia together, for the common benefit of all our peoples. This commitment has been repeatedly exemplified by the bold and asymmetrical initiatives India has taken under the SAARC forum. Afghanistan, like the other countries of the region, will benefit substantially from the ongoing efforts under the SAARC banner, to improve connectivity and to augment trade flows within South Asia.

Excellencies, Indian industry is keenly aware of the economic complementarities that exist between Afghanistan and India, and is eager to expand its presence in all sectors of the Afghan economy. Needless to say, collaborations between Indian and Afghan economic actors can contribute significantly to developing the industrial capacity of Afghanistan, not only in the three key areas being considered by this Conference, but across the entire gamut of primary, secondary and tertiary economic activities. Such collaborations would also decrease unemployment among the Afghan workforce and infuse Afghan industry with technologies and management practices that have already proven successful in the region. In view of the above, the Government of India would actively welcome such investments by Indian companies in Afghanistan. However, overcoming the challenges of insecurity in Afghanistan require serious and sustained efforts not only by the Afghan leadership, but also a sincere commitment by external powers to abjure the temptation to foster and sponsor disruptive forces within Afghanistan.

I would like to end, Excellencies, by once again congratulating the two host nations for organising this timely and useful forum, and by renewing the best wishes of the Indian Government and people for lasting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.



**184. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the UN on the situation
in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council.**

New York, December 22, 2010.

Please see Document No.750.



BANGLADESH

**185. Statement by Foreign Secretary on the visit of
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.**

New Delhi, January 10, 2010.

Her Excellency Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina is arriving in Delhi tonight on a State visit. During her visit, apart from her call on Hon'ble President of India, she will be meeting with Prime Minister who will also host a Banquet in her honour. She will be conferred the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2009 on the 12th January at the Rashtrapathi Bhawan. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh will also be addressing a business event organized by our apex Business Chambers. She will be visiting Ajmer on the 13th January and leave for Dhaka the same day.

The visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh promises to be a path-breaking one and gives both countries a historic opportunity to build a new and forward looking relationship. India is committed to working with the Government of Bangladesh to build on our historical and traditionally close links and open new vistas in our bilateral relations.

India remains committed to provide substantial assistance to Bangladesh to become a major partner in its economic development. We are addressing an entire range of developmental issues of direct interest to Bangladesh including railway infrastructure, transportation, dredging, power grid interconnectivity, human resource development and investment and trade.

Bangladesh has welcomed our decision to provide it transit facilities to Nepal and Bhutan. We seek to revive those physical and emotional links which remained disrupted since independence. We will also seek their understanding and cooperation on our security and connectivity needs.

Five agreements would also be signed during the visit including on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illegal Drug trafficking, Power Cooperation and a Cultural Exchange Programme.

We are confident that this visit would serve to underline that strong India-Bangladesh Relations are vital, not for both our countries but for the entire region and international community.

Thank you.



186. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Banquet hosted in honour of Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

New Delhi, January 11, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you and your distinguished delegation to India. We are delighted that the first State visit of the new year is by a valued friend and close neighbour of India's.

Excellency,

You are no stranger to India. Your life and struggles are a source of inspiration not only to the people of Bangladesh but to many around the world who cherish democracy, freedom and independence. We admire your courage and conviction, and your unwavering belief in the principles you uphold, for which you have personally sacrificed so much.

Your Excellency, you lead a country with strong democratic and cultural traditions. Bangladesh has led the way in South Asia in important areas of

human development. We meet today as two vibrant and equal democracies that share common values and common goals.

The bonds between us are rich and suffused with history. There is very little that divides us. There is much that unites us. The links between us extend to every aspect of human life, be it social, economic, cultural, intellectual or political.

Excellency,

Relations with Bangladesh are of the highest priority for India. India stands ready to be a full and equal partner in the realisation of your vision of social change and economic development for Bangladesh.

India seeks to build a new future with Bangladesh. The time has come to chart a new path. We are ready to pursue a bold vision for our relations, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Our two peoples want peace, security and prosperity. We should move forward to achieve these common goals for ourselves and for all the people of South Asia.

Your visit will open a new chapter in our relations. We have finalised several initiatives to build a true partnership of friendship and cooperation. We have agreed on the importance of showing sensitivity to each other's concerns. We have agreed to cooperate in meeting the common challenges of climate change, and assuring food, water and energy security to our peoples.

Excellency,

India and Bangladesh are fortunate to have produced some of the finest writers, scholars and artists. The works of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam have inspired generations of people. This is a unique asset which binds our people, and which we must preserve.

Before I conclude, allow me to extend my heartiest felicitations to you on the conferment of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2009, which you richly deserve.

I wish you, your family and the distinguished members of your delegation a very pleasant stay in India.

Thank you.



187. Joint Communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit to India of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.**New Delhi, January 12, 2010.**

Reaffirming the shared history, traditional links and the desire of the leaders of the two countries to launch a new phase in their bilateral relations, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina is paying a state visit to India from 10-13 January, 2010 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Apart from attending the official programme in New Delhi, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will also visit Ajmer Sharif.

2. The Bangladesh Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 11 January 2010. She called on President of India Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

3. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, Railway Minister Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

4. Reflecting the friendly relations existing between the two neighbouring countries, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in her capacity as President of the Awami League and the Awami League-led Mohajote government also called on Smt Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance. She also met with former Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral. The meetings and exchanges were marked by great warmth and cordiality on both sides.

5. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh paid tribute and respect to the memories of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi at Rajghat, Shantivana, Shaktisthal and Virbhumi respectively.

6. During the visit, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2009 at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

7. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India on January 11, 2010, which was followed by delegation level talks. The talks were marked by great warmth, deep understanding and a spirit of close friendship between the two sides. Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh hosted a banquet in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her accompanying delegation.

8. On the Bangladesh side, assisting the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the talks were: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen, MP, Minister of Water Resources; Dr. Dipu Moni MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Advisers to the Prime Minister Mr. H.T. Imam, Mr. Mashiur Rahman and Mr. Gowher Rizvi; High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Mr. Tariq A. Karim and other senior officials of the Bangladesh Government.

9. On the Indian side, assisting the Prime Minister of India were: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister; Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister; Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister; Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Minister of Railways; Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce; Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs; Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser; Shri T.K.A Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and other senior officials of the Indian Government.

10. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her party's impressive electoral victory in the general elections held in December 2008 and lauded the people of Bangladesh for their abiding faith in democracy, which eventually paved the way for return of multi-party democracy in Bangladesh. Both leaders agreed that the recent elections in both countries presented them with a historic opportunity to write a new chapter in their relationship.

11. The Bangladesh Prime Minister recalled the shared bonds of history, culture and aspirations that bind Bangladesh and India, and paid tribute to the sacred memory of the lives sacrificed for the freedom and independence of the two countries. She called for rededicating efforts to establish a society free from ignorance, fear and want.

12. Both the Prime Ministers agreed on a vision for the future in the pursuit of the common good-bilaterally, regionally and globally. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to work together to solve all issues through cooperation and mutual understanding. They also shared their outlook on the strengthening and reform of multilateral institutions in which developing countries have an effective voice and participation.

13. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of India recognized that peace and stability in the region is necessary for development and well-being of the people of their respective countries. In this context, they emphasized the importance of close cooperation between India and Bangladesh and the need to effectively harness their respective resources for the good of the peoples of the two countries.

14. 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, which would include cooperation in water resources, power, transportation and connectivity, tourism and education. They agreed on the need to operationalize the various areas of cooperation at the earliest.

15. Both Prime Ministers agreed to consider strengthening diplomatic and consular presence in each other's countries.

16. Both Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to democracy, pluralism and rule of law. They expressed satisfaction that the people of both countries have rejected violence, extremism and terrorism and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and development. In this quest, the two leaders resolved to work together to strengthen the forces of democracy and moderation.

17. Both Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They noted that security remained a priority for both countries, as terrorists, insurgents and criminals respect no boundaries. They underscored the need for both countries to actively cooperate on security issues. Both 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 domestic or foreign terrorist/militant and insurgent organizations and their operatives.

18. Welcoming the Home Secretary level talks held in New Delhi in December 2009, the two Prime Ministers directed their respective Ministries and agencies to cooperate closely and implement all decisions taken during the talks. While recognizing the need to check cross border crimes, both Prime Ministers agreed that the respective border guarding forces exercise restraint and underscored the importance of regular meetings between

the border guarding forces to curtail illegal cross border activities and prevent loss of lives.

19. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh thanked the Prime Minister of India for facilitating the provision of electricity in Dahagram-Angarpota and invited India to construct a flyover across Tin Bigha Corridor for exclusive Indian use, as agreed earlier.

20. Both Prime Ministers agreed to comprehensively address all outstanding land boundary issues keeping in view the spirit of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement. In this context, they agreed to convene the Joint Boundary Working Group to take this process forward.

21. Both Prime Ministers agreed on the need to amicably demarcate the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh. They noted the initiation of proceedings under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and, in this context, welcomed the visit of a delegation from Bangladesh to India.

22. It was agreed that Ashuganj in Bangladesh and Silghat in India shall be declared ports of call. The IWTT Protocol shall be amended through exchange of letters. A joint team will assess the improvement of infrastructure and the cost for one-time or longer term transportation of ODCs (Over Dimensional Cargo) from Ashuganj. India will make the necessary investment. Both Governments agreed to expedite implementation. Contractors from both countries shall be eligible for the work.

23. It was agreed that Bangladesh will allow use of Mongla and Chittagong sea ports for movement of goods to and from India through road and rail. Bangladesh also conveyed their intention to give Nepal and Bhutan access to Mongla and Chittagong ports.

24. It was agreed that the construction of the proposed Akhaura - Agartala railway link be financed by grant from India. A joint team of the railway authorities of the two countries will identify the alignment for connectivity.

25. They welcomed the starting of "Maitree Express" between Kolkata and Dhaka and called for resumption of road and rail links between the two countries.

26. The Prime Ministers agreed that Rohanpur-Singabad broad gauge railway link would be available for transit to Nepal. Bangladesh informed of their intention to convert Radhikapur - Birol railway line into broad gauge and requested for railway transit link to Bhutan as well.

27. Recognizing the sufferings of the people of both sides in the face of scarcity of lean season flows of the Teesta River, the Prime Ministers expressed that the discussions on the sharing of the Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh should be concluded expeditiously. The two Prime Ministers directed their respective Water Resources Ministers to convene the Ministerial-level meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission in this quarter of 2010. The Joint Rivers Commission will also discuss issues relating to Feni, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.

28. They also agreed that the following actions be taken:

- a. Dredging of Ichhamati; and
- b. River protection at Mahananda, Karatoa, Nagar, Kulik, Atrai, Dharla, and Feni

29. The Prime Minister of India agreed to support implementation of strategy of Government of Bangladesh to dredge rivers for flood control, navigation and access to ports. In this context, India agreed to provide, inter alia, dredgers to Bangladesh on an urgent basis. Bangladesh indicated the need for 9 (nine) dredgers.

30. The Prime Minister of India reiterated the assurance that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact Bangladesh.

31. The Prime Minister of India agreed to supply to Bangladesh 250 MW electricity from its grid. In this context, both Prime Ministers emphasized the need to expedite inter-grid connectivity. They also agreed that the two countries shall cooperate in development and exchange of electricity, including generation from renewable sources, and may set up joint projects or corporate entities for that purpose.

32. With a view to encouraging imports from Bangladesh, both countries agreed to address removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and port restrictions and facilitate movement of containerized cargo by rail and water.

In this context, Bangladesh welcomed India's initiative to provide duty-free access to SAARC LDCs to the Indian market. Bangladesh also welcomed the reduction of the number of items from India's negative list that were of direct interest to Bangladesh and requested for further reduction in the list.

33. The Prime Minister of India agreed to support the upgradation of the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute with a view to building capacity on certification.

34. The Prime Ministers agreed that investments, including joint investment and joint ventures, shall be encouraged by both countries. They agreed that the participation of the private sector in both countries will give an added fillip to economic engagement between the two countries.

35. The Prime Ministers agreed to operationalize land customs stations at Sabroom-Ramgarh and Demagiri-Thegamukh, including putting in place necessary infrastructure and issue necessary notifications. Further, with respect to existing land custom stations, it was agreed to take measures for strengthening infrastructure.

36. It was agreed that border haats shall be established on a pilot basis at selected areas, including on the Meghalaya border, to allow trade in specified produces and products and in accordance with the regulations agreed and notified by both Governments.

37. It was agreed that trucks for movement from Bhutan and Nepal be allowed to enter about 200 meters into Zero Point at Banglabandh at Banglabandh-Phulbari land customs station. Necessary arrangements shall be mutually agreed and put in place by both countries.

38. The Prime Minister of India announced a line of credit of US\$ 1 billion for a range of projects, including railway infrastructure, supply of BG locomotives and passenger coaches, rehabilitation of Saidpur workshop, procurement of buses including articulate buses and dredging projects.

39. Bangladesh requested for assistance to construct road infrastructure in Dhaka, including flyovers. India agreed to consider this request.

40. Recalling the shared legacy of the great poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore, the Prime Ministers agreed to oversee the joint celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in 2011 in a manner befitting his vision and spirit.

41. Government of India would offer Bangladesh 300 scholarships annually for a period of five years for study and training in Universities and training institutions in India, covering a wide range of disciplines as may be required by scholars and persons in government employment. The number may be increased through mutual consultation.

42. Both Prime Ministers underscored the role of SAARC in promoting regional cooperation. Both leaders agreed to work together in making SAARC a purposeful organization oriented towards implementation, which can revitalize the region through positive measures, concerted action and mutually reinforcing cooperation.

43. Both leaders welcomed the various steps taken to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC. In this context, Bangladesh requested India to support its aspiration to host the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka. India agreed to give the request due consideration.

44. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the initiatives taken at the Climate Change Summit at Copenhagen in December 2009. They underlined 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, and underscored the importance of its full, effective and sustained implementation, giving due consideration to the needs of those which are most vulnerable, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Africa.

45. Both leaders recognized that the eradication of poverty and ensuring food security were great challenges of the century. They agreed that the international community should initiate a fully coordinated response and address these issues in a comprehensive manner, from short to medium and long term. They also recognized the need to give added focus on rural development policies, transfer and diffusion of technology and development, in particular to enhance agricultural productivity.

46. The Prime Ministers underscored the importance of an effective multilateral system, centered 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, particularly with

regard to its working method. They also advocated involvement of smaller countries in the reform process.

47. Responding to the Prime Minister of India, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh conveyed her country's support in principle for India's candidature for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as and when the reform of the UN Security Council is achieved. Bangladesh conveyed its support to the Indian Candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the term 2011-2012. India also conveyed its support to the Bangladesh's candidature for a non-permanent seat in UNSC for the term 2016-2017.

48. The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing in their presence of the following accords:

- a. Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters
- b. Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons
- c. Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking
- d. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Power Sector
- e. Cultural Exchange Programme

The Prime Ministers also expressed the desire that Line of Credit and the comprehensive framework of cooperation for development be operationalized at the earliest.

49. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh thanked the Prime Minister of India and the Indian Government and people for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to her and the members of her delegation during their stay in India.

50. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, on behalf of herself, her Government and the people of Bangladesh, extended her warm invitation to the Prime Minister of India and Mrs. Manmohan Singh to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The Prime Minister of India thanked the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and accepted the invitation with great pleasure. The dates for the visit would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.



188. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh while presenting Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development - 2009 to Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

New Delhi, January 12, 2010.

"It is a great privilege for me to be present on the occasion of the award of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development to Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Smt. Indira Gandhi was not only a great national leader but also a great internationalist. She spent her lifetime championing the cause of developing countries and fighting for justice and equality in international affairs. She had a deeply held belief in India's destiny and her place in the world.

Yet no cause was dearer to Indiraji than the emergence of a strong and prosperous South Asia on the world scene. She was an ardent advocate of peace and development in the region. Her empathy and unwavering support for justice and what is right defined her attitude to the people of Bangladesh.

It is therefore befitting that this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is being awarded to an outstanding political figure of South Asia. Prime Minister Hasina has worked tirelessly through her political career for the welfare and socio-economic development of the people of Bangladesh; but she has been an equally tireless proponent of regional peace, security and progress.

Ever since her return to Bangladesh in 1981, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has played a catalytic role in the emergence of Bangladesh as a dynamic and strong nation. Her journey has not been smooth, yet every challenge has spurred her on to even greater heights. She has earned the love and affection of the people of Bangladesh for her selfless service to a great nation and its great people.

Bangladesh's return to democracy owes a great deal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's courage, sacrifice and unshakeable belief in the will of

the people. As a democracy ourselves, we know that it is a form of governance which is not easy. It requires constant nurturing. It needs wisdom and forbearance. It requires the capacity to manage differences and the willingness to respect them. By championing the cause of democracy and pluralism, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given the people of Bangladesh the means to realize their true potential and strengthen peace and harmony in the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led her Party, the Awami League, to a resounding victory in the parliamentary elections in 2008. This is her second term as Prime Minister. In the short period that she has been in office, she has already outlined an ambitious vision for her country and for her people. Her "Vision 2021" seeks to transform Bangladesh by reducing poverty, ensuring access to basic needs and undertaking developmental activities in the agricultural and rural sectors.

As part of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has paid particular attention to building on Bangladesh's success in removing gender disparity in enrollment of boys and girls in primary and secondary schools. She herself manifests the emancipation of women in Bangladesh and their determination to be equal partners in shaping their country's future.

One of the Prime Minister's primary concerns has been food security. She has sought a global agreement for development of agriculture, and attainment of food self-sufficiency in developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries. She has spoken passionately on behalf of developing countries threatened by climate change and worked to build global consensus on the need to tackle this problem.

Bangladesh has earned international recognition for its successful efforts at improving the social indicators of development and empowering the poor through a mix of well targeted policy initiatives.

Today, Bangladesh's voice is heard with respect in international forums. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, and I quote: "At present we are witnessing a rapidly changing world whether be it in the form of climate change,

economic turmoil, or terrorism. It is crystal clear to those who wish to open their eyes that we all belong to a global village where we must live and work together. Indeed, our lives and our world are intertwined. I, therefore, call upon all to discard short-sighted discords, and adopt a common resolve in facing today's grim challenges".

This grand vision of international cooperation would have been very dear to Indiraji's heart and she would have heartily endorsed the honour being conferred today on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Today we honour not just a great daughter of Bangladesh but a distinguished world leader. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on receiving this prestigious award. I reiterate our commitment to work together with the Government and people of Bangladesh to shape a brighter future for our people and to enhance their common prosperity and development."



189. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the India-Bangladesh 37th Joint Rivers Commission.

New Delhi, March 19, 2010.

The 37th India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission met in New Delhi on 18-19 March, 2010. The Indian side was led by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources and the Bangladesh side was led by H.E. Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources.

The Bangladesh Minister of Water Resources called on Prime Minister, Finance Minister and External Affairs Minister. The Minister for Water Resources of India hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.

The meeting between the two Ministers of Water Resources was held in an atmosphere of great warmth and cordiality. Both leaders recalled the historic visit of H.E. Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in January, 2010 and expressed their resolve to carry forward the discussions on all water

related issues, as mandated by the two Prime Ministers in the Joint Communique issued after the visit. The discussions were comprehensive in nature and included issues relating to water sharing of Teesta river and other common rivers, drinking water supply and minor lift irrigation schemes on rivers Feni and Muhuri, implementation of 1996 Ganga Waters Treaty, bank protection and embankment repair works, cooperation in flood forecasting and warning arrangements, cooperation in flood management measures including dredging of Ichhamati river, Tipaimukh Dam Project and river inter-linking project in India.

On the question of sharing of Teesta waters, India presented a draft Statement on Principles of Sharing of Teesta Waters during dry season. Both sides agreed to mandate the respective Secretaries of Water Resources to examine the drafts presented by both sides towards an expeditious conclusion of an interim agreement on Teesta. This is a significant movement forward on this issue.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the bank protection and embankments repair works being undertaken by mutual agreement on several sites in both countries. In addition to the 66 sites already agreed, both sides finalized 12 new Indian sites and 22 new Bangladesh sites. They also expressed satisfaction at the on-going dredging activities on the Ichhamati river. Bangladesh agreed to India withdrawing 1.82 cusec of water from Feni river for drinking water supply schemes.

In order to give Bangladesh more lead time for advance warning of floods, as a special gesture, Indian side agreed to provide flood data to enhance the lead time to more than 57 hours. The Bangladesh side thanked India for this gesture.

India also expressed satisfaction at the working of the 1996 Ganga Waters Treaty as well as the joint monitoring mechanism set up under this Treaty.

On the Tipaimukh Dam Project, the Indian side reiterated its commitment that it would not take steps that would adversely impact on Bangladesh. The Bangladesh side appreciated India's reassurance. India also conveyed its earlier stand that it would not take any unilateral decisions on its proposed river inter-linking project that might affect Bangladesh side.



190. Remarks by Finance Minister to media on the occasion of the signing of US\$ One Billion Line of Credit Agreement between EXIM Bank and Government of Bangladesh.

Dhaka, August 7, 2010.

It is always a pleasure to be in Dhaka. I bring you warm greetings from the people and the Government of India.

2. We have had a landmark visit to India of H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January, 2010. The Joint communiqué issued during the visit is comprehensive, forward-looking and path-breaking. We are firmly committed to implementing the vision, which the two leaders have set out for India-Bangladesh relations.

3. The historic bonds between India and Bangladesh run deep and are nurtured by fraternal, linguistic and cultural ties. The peoples of our two countries desire closer ties and interaction in all spheres. To realise their hopes, it is incumbent on us to open new vistas and widen further our multi-dimensional ties.

4. I congratulate and laud H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her steadfast pursuit of democracy, social justice and greater economic development for Bangladesh and to promote peace and understanding in the region. We are committed to assisting each other in addressing their priorities for development and in their immediate requirements for people of both the countries. It is in that spirit that we have just agreed to export of 3 lakh tones of rice and 2 lakh tones of wheat, in spite of a ban in India on exports of these essential commodities.

5. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, we have embarked on several new initiatives. India has readily provided transit for Bangladesh to Nepal and Bhutan. We will soon have in place arrangements to allow trucks from Nepal to enter the Bangladesh side of the land custom station and Banglabanda. We have also agreed to contribute to alleviating your power requirements and to undertake joint ventures to build thermal power plants. These are significant developments.

6. We have agreed to revive Land Customs Stations along the Tripura and Mizoram border, build a bridge over river Feni at Sabroom-Ramgarh and strengthen other border infrastructure. We have already identified two

areas on the Meghalaya border to set up Border Haats. We have trained your experts and will send ours this month to assist in upgrading the Standards and Certification procedures. After a gap of several years, the Joint Rivers Commission was convened as agreed in March this year and both sides have already exchanged drafts on Teesta water sharing. Works on 50 river embankments on both sides have started. The electrification cables for Dahagram and Angarpota have been laid. Both countries need to ensure that we remain focused on implementing these initiatives. It is a matter of satisfaction that we have made significant strides in the path of their realisation, given the fact that many of them require longer gestation period for implementation.

7. Security cooperation is an area which has engaged the attention of both our countries, given our common desire to root out the forces of extremism and terrorism from our midst. Insurgents and insurgent groups have the potential to affect our relations. We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to tackle this menace and we will continue to be closely engaged.

8. I am indeed delighted to witness the signing of the Agreement on Line of Credit between Government of Bangladesh and EXIM Bank of India. The US\$ One Billion Line of Credit is the largest ever given by India to any country. The terms of this Line of Credit are extremely favourable. I am confident. That this Line of Credit will be the stepping stone for a shared destiny and will transform our bilateral engagement. India will do whatever possible to assist Bangladesh to implement the various projects envisaged under this Line of Credit, including in the areas of railway infrastructure, supply of coaches, locomotives, busses and dredging.

9. India and Bangladesh are both developing countries aiming to achieve a higher trajectory of growth. It is by coming together that we can realise this objective and we need to encourage collaborative ventures and investments be it in the private or public sector.

10. I have just met with H.E. Mr. Abdul Maal Abdul Muhith, Finance Minister and H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister. I shall soon be calling on H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and very much look forward to meeting her.

11. I thank you for your presence.



191. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 4th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group.

New Delhi, November 11, 2010.

The 4th India-Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) Meeting was held in New Delhi on November 10-11, 2010. The Indian delegation was led by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Joint Secretary (BSM), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of the Republic of India and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary (Political), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

2. The JBWG was set up in December 2000 to resolve matters relating to the demarcation of the undemarcated boundary between India and Bangladesh and other outstanding issues pertaining to the territories in Adverse Possession (AP), Enclaves and also erection of permanent boundary pillars where necessary on the demarcated boundary. The Group first met in July 2001 and has held three earlier meetings.

3. In January 2010, during the visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India, both the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh agreed to comprehensively address all outstanding issues keeping in view the spirit of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). They had also agreed to convene the JBWG to take the process forward.

4. The 4th meeting of JBWG discussed all outstanding issues pertaining to the land boundary in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, with a view to arriving at a comprehensive solution.

5. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the recent electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota of Bangladesh.

6. With a view to implementing the decision to allow 24-hour unfettered access through Tin Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh nationals, both sides agreed to put in place all necessary arrangements, including infrastructure and security, expeditiously.

7. Both sides agreed to work constructively towards resolving differences to demarcate the land boundary in all three undemarcated segments i.e. Daikhata-56, Lathitilla-Dumabari and Muhuri River (Belonia).

8. Both sides recalled the observations made during joint visits to enclaves and Adverse Possessions in May 2007 and agreed that the issues of Enclaves and APs should be addressed in a pragmatic manner.

9. Both sides expressed satisfaction that mutually reconciled list of enclaves have already been prepared and signed. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India. Both sides agreed to jointly take steps necessary to facilitate the process of exchange of these enclaves to their respective countries.

10. As regards territories under Adverse Possession, both sides agreed that there was a need to find pragmatic solution to the issue keeping in mind the spirit of Land Boundary Agreement and also in the light of ground realities. With a view to facilitating a solution, they agreed to jointly assess the areas in the lines of the joint exercise undertaken in 1996-97. As a part of this understanding, both sides agreed to take up the APLs along Meghalaya - Bangladesh Border on a priority basis. They reaffirmed that pending resolution of outstanding boundary issues, there should be no disturbance of the status quo and peaceful conditions shall be maintained in the border regions as stipulated in Article 3 of LBA. Both sides welcomed the understanding and cooperation between BSF and BDR on maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas, especially in APLs, until the outstanding issues are resolved.

11. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress made during the JBWG meeting and described it an important and positive step towards resolving all the outstanding boundary issues. They agreed to meet in Dhaka at a mutually convenient time. The Bangladesh delegation thanked Government of India for the warm hospitality.



BHUTAN**192. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on "Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan for the 16th SAARC Summit".****New Delhi, May 3, 2010.**

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh returned from Bhutan on 30th April where he participated in the 16th SAARC Summit. This was a historic summit as it marked the 25th anniversary of the Organization. This was also the first gathering of the SAARC leaders in Bhutan.

As Honourable members are aware, we have a historically close relationship with Bhutan. We would like to compliment the Royal Government of Bhutan and its enlightened leadership on the excellent manner in which they organized the Summit, and ensured productive outcomes.

Prime Minister had very fruitful discussions with Prime Minister Jigmi Thinley and an audience with Their Majesties the King of Bhutan and the Fourth King of Bhutan. These discussions have reinforced my conviction that India-Bhutan relations remain strong, deep-rooted and steeped in mutual trust and understanding. Prime Minister and Prime Minister Thinley launched two new large hydropower projects as part of our commitment to jointly develop 10,000 MWs of hydro-power capacity in Bhutan by the year 2020. They also laid the foundation stone of the Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences and initiated an e-governance and IT project in Bhutan.

At the SAARC Summit, Prime Minister recalled what Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said at the first SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 1985, that the establishment of the organization was an act of faith. The Summit provided an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved in these two and half decades, what more needs to be done, and on the kind of a South Asia we wish to create for our present and future generations.

Prime Minister stressed that regional cooperation should enable freer movement of people, of ideas, and of goods and services. It is not sufficient to merely conclude agreements and conventions. The challenge before

us is to translate these agreements into practical activities and programmes, which touch the lives of our people. Prime Minister emphasized the need for greater regional cooperation in areas such as agriculture, forestry, education, healthcare, women's empowerment, skill development and technological innovations. The Summit concluded an Agreement on Trade in Services.

The 21st century cannot be an Asian century unless South Asia marches together. Prime Minister shared our vision of a prosperous and vibrant South Asia playing its rightful role in shaping the global discourse on issues facing the world. There was a convergence of views on the need to transform SAARC into a truly action-oriented, people-centric and dynamic regional organization. There was unanimous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The theme of the Summit was "Climate Change". The leaders of the SAARC countries exchanged views on deepening regional cooperation for tackling the effects of global warming in our region, and how we can benefit from each other's experiences and strengths. A Summit Declaration on Climate Change as well as a Convention on Cooperation on Environment was concluded.

There was widespread appreciation for India's initiatives and role in contributing to the region's stability and prosperity. We will continue to persevere in our efforts to create a climate of constructive cooperation in South Asia based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

Prime Minister had the opportunity of having bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Maldives and Sri Lanka, and the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. There was a common desire among all our neighbours to further strengthen their relations with India.

During Prime Minister's meeting with President Nasheed of Maldives, the two sides reviewed our close and friendly relations, based on mutual trust and understanding and shared interests. Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to deepen our partnership with Maldives across all areas.

President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka informed Prime Minister of their efforts for political reconciliation and for bringing lasting peace in the country. Prime Minister congratulated the President on the recent election victory

in Presidential and Parliamentary elections, and reiterated India's commitment to assist Sri Lanka in its relief and rehabilitation efforts, and to strengthen our bilateral relations in diverse areas.

With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Prime Minister reaffirmed our commitment to expeditiously implement the various decisions taken during her landmark visit to India in January 2010.

Prime Minister conveyed to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, India's support for the ongoing efforts of the people of Nepal for the consolidation of multi-party democracy in Nepal. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress made in our cooperation since the visits of Prime Minister Nepal to India in August 2009 and the President of Nepal in February 2010.

Prime Minister had a cordial and frank discussion with Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan. He told him that if the trust deficit between India and Pakistan can be eliminated all issues can be resolved through dialogue. Good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan were in the interest of both our countries as well as in the interest of the peace, stability and development in the region. He reiterated our serious concerns on terrorism emanating from Pakistan, and urged the Pakistani Prime Minister to expedite action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack. He was assured that Pakistan was serious about bringing these perpetrators to book. The Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries have been entrusted with the responsibility to work out mechanisms on how the trust deficit can be removed.

President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan visited India on April 26-27, 2010, before proceeding to Thimphu for the SAARC Summit. Prime Minister met President Karzai and discussed a broad range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries. Prime Minister reiterated our commitment to assist the Government and people of Afghanistan in their efforts towards the reconstruction and development of their country.



NEPAL**193. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Kathmandu.****Kathmandu, January 15, 2010.**

I am very happy to be in your beautiful country. This is my first visit to Nepal since assuming the charge of my Ministry and I look forward to fruitful and meaningful interactions with the leaders and decision-makers of Nepal.

India and Nepal share a unique relationship that is rooted in shared civilizational links and close people-to-people contacts. Our close relations with Nepal encompass a broad spectrum including, trade, commerce, investment, water resources, security, power, education, human resource development, medical just to name a few. I am confident that my visit would help further strengthen and expand our bilateral relations and open more avenues for cooperation for mutual benefit. I am delighted to see Madam Sujata Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal again.

Thank you.

**194. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the banquet hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Ms. Sujata Koirala.****Kathmandu, January 15, 2010.**

Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala,

Distinguished guests,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation in your beautiful country. The extraordinary warmth with which we have been received reflects the close bonds between our two countries.

Excellency,

As close neighbours, India and Nepal, share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation underpinned by language, cultural and civilisational links, wide-ranging commercial and economic ties and intimate people-to-people contacts. Few countries have a relationship as extensive and multifaceted as India and Nepal. Yet there is much untapped potential for mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries in areas like hydropower, tourism, agriculture and trade, just to name a few areas. We would be happy to work closely with Nepal to further expand and strengthen our bilateral relations for mutual benefit.

Our open border has sustained and promoted close cooperation between our two countries. But it has also presented challenges to our common security and safety. We look forward to working closely with you to address these effectively.

Excellency,

India was the first country to welcome the restoration of democracy in Nepal. We look forward to the early conclusion of the peace process and the drafting of the new Constitution to make Nepal a multi-party and inclusive democracy, in keeping with the wishes of its people. We believe that a peaceful, democratic, stable and prosperous Nepal is also in our interest.

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I reiterate our commitment to working together with the Government and the friendly people of Nepal in this period of your historic transition. We stand ready to help Nepal in any manner it would like us to.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in a toast to:

- The health and happiness of our host, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Sujata Koirala.
- The progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Nepal, and
- Everlasting and ever-growing friendship between India and Nepal.



195. Statement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on meeting between External Affairs Minister and Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dhal 'Prachanda'.

Kathmandu, January 16, 2010.

In response to a question, the official spokesperson said that 'as part of his meetings with senior political leaders of Nepal, the External Affairs Minister met the Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal [Maoist] Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' this evening in Kathmandu. During their meeting EAM stressed the importance of rebuilding consensus among political parties in Nepal to conclude the peace process and to draft the new Constitution within the stipulated timeframe. He urged that the Unified Communist Party of Nepal [Maoist] should fulfill their peace process commitments, which would enable Nepal to complete its historic transition to a multi-party and inclusive democracy.

EAM also conveyed his deep disappointment at the baseless attacks on India by the Maoist leadership which vitiate the age-old and time-tested friendly relations between India and Nepal and the people of the two countries. He emphasized that such baseless propaganda has a negative impact on Indian public opinion.



196. Joint Press Statement on the Official Visit of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to Nepal.

Kathmandu, January 17, 2010.

The Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna paid an official visit to Nepal from January 15 - 17, 2010 at the invitation of Hon'ble Ms. Sujata Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

2. During his visit, the Minister of External Affairs of India called on Rt. Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal and Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal. He conveyed to them the greetings

of the Indian leadership and reiterated that India attaches the highest priority to its relations with Nepal. The Minister of External Affairs said that a warm welcome awaits the President of Nepal during his forthcoming State Visit to India. The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed his deep appreciation for India's consistent support and assistance to Nepal and at the progress made on the decisions taken during his visit to India in August 2009. He reiterated his invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Nepal at an early date.

3. The Minister of External Affairs of India called on Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Subas Chandra Nembang, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly and held an interactive discussion with Parliamentarians representing the different political parties in the Constituent Assembly. He also met senior political leaders representing various political parties of Nepal.

4. During his visit the Minister of External Affairs of India held official talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal on all aspects of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal hosted a banquet in honour of the Minister of External Affairs of India.

5. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal extended a warm welcome to the Minister of External Affairs of India. The two Ministers warmly recalled their previous meetings and expressed their satisfaction regarding the age-old, multifaceted relations that exist between Nepal and India and agreed to expand these further. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth.

6. The two Ministers recalled the official visit of Rt. Hon. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal to India in August 2009. The two Ministers reiterated the importance of regular high level bilateral interactions in imparting further impetus to the relationship between the two countries.

7. The two Ministers reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during the official visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal to India from 18 - 22 August 2009. They noted with satisfaction that several key decisions had been implemented, inter alia:

- i. The Civil Aviation talks were held on 8-9 September 2009, between the Civil Aviation Secretaries of India and Nepal in which both the sides agreed for the expansion of the air services between the two countries.
 - ii. The revised Trade Treaty and Agreement on Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade were signed by the Commerce Ministers of India and Nepal in Kathmandu on 27 October 2009. These will create new opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and commercial relations.
 - iii. The meeting of Home Secretaries of the two countries in Kathmandu on 6 - 7 November, 2009 which agreed on further steps to enhance cooperation to address matters of mutual interest including shared security concerns.
 - iv. The Joint Committee on Water Resources at the Secretary-level met in Pokhara on 20-22 November 2009 and discussed all aspects of bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources for the mutual benefit of both the countries. The meeting also finalized the Terms of Reference for the Pancheshwar Development Authority.
 - v. The 7th Meeting of Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues held in Kathmandu on 4 - 7 December 2009 reviewed all aspects of India-Nepal cooperation on defence matters.
 - vi. In response to the request from the Nepalese side, teams of experts from India have visited Nepal to study the National Museum and Bagmati civilization projects and their reports have been presented.
8. Both Ministers agreed that the recent meetings of the bilateral institutional mechanisms had reinvigorated the bilateral relationship in key areas. The two Ministers agreed that all decisions taken in the framework of these mechanisms should be implemented in a timely manner. They also decided that the other institutional mechanisms should meet as soon as possible.

9. The Government of Nepal expressed its gratitude for the continued assistance from Government of India for development of infrastructure in Nepal. An MoU for construction of Terai roads with Indian assistance at an estimated cost of IRs. 805 Crores was signed by the Minister of External Affairs of India and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal.

10. The two sides expressed satisfaction at bilateral cooperation for human resources development in Nepal. An MoU for construction of a Science Learning Centre with Government of India assistance of IRs 16.6 Crores was signed by the Foreign Secretary of India, the Finance Secretary of Government of Nepal and the Vice-Chancellor of National Academy of Science & Technology.

11. At the request of the Government of Nepal, the Government of India has agreed to provide technical assistance for establishment of a Central Depository System (CDS) in Nepal for development of financial markets in Nepal. An MoU between Nepal Stock Exchange Limited (NEPSE) and Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSIL), India was signed to implement the project at an estimated cost of IRs. 9.2 Crores.

12. As part of India's continued assistance for growth and development in Nepal at grassroots level, MoUs for electrification of five different VDCs in Nepal at a total cost of IRs. 6.3 Crores were signed.

13. Both Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote bilateral cooperation in the hydro-power sector so as to create a win-win situation for the mutual benefit of both countries.

14. The two Ministers discussed security concerns of their respective countries and agreed that terrorism and extremism were a threat to both countries. They agreed to cooperate closely to end this menace. The two Ministers also discussed ways to enhance bilateral security cooperation to control cross border crimes such as smuggling of fake Indian currency, human trafficking and arms smuggling. The Minister of External Affairs of India conveyed the assurance that India was willing to provide all possible assistance to Nepalese security agencies as per

the request of the Government of Nepal. The two Ministers agreed to expedite the finalization of MoU for the construction of the Nepal Police Academy at Panauti with Government of India assistance.

15. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal reiterated that the Government of Nepal will not allow Nepalese territory to be used for any activity against India. Both sides agreed to take all necessary action to preserve law and order and maintain peace and tranquility along the India-Nepal border.

16. The two Ministers directed the Foreign Secretaries to discuss and review the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with a view to further strengthen bilateral relations.

17. The Indian side reiterated its commitment to assist Nepal for strengthening peace, stability and democratic institutions and for economic development of Nepal.

18. The two Ministers expressed satisfaction at the growing commercial relations between the two countries and agreed on the need for early conclusion of the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

19. The Minister of External Affairs of India pointed out that concerns remain about the business environment in Nepal affecting Indian investment and joint ventures. He requested that these issues be addressed urgently and effectively. The Nepalese side reiterated the commitment of the Government of Nepal to take necessary measures for the promotion of an investor-friendly business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal.

20. The Minister of External Affairs of India visited the sacred Pashupatinath Temple. He met with the Indian priests who represent an age-old religious and cultural tradition that links the Nepalese and Indian peoples.



197. Speech by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the Nepalese President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

New Delhi, February 16, 2010.

Your Excellency Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to warmly welcome Your Excellency, the first President of Nepal, to India.

Since time immemorial, the peoples of our two countries have shared the legacy of history, geography and civilization. Innumerable threads of myths and legends, cultures and customs, languages and literatures, triumphs and tribulations, aspirations and goals - in short, threads weaving the entire tapestry of life - have bonded our peoples together. It is a relationship which is unique and special in every sense.

Excellency,

You are no stranger to India. Your links with India go back to the days of your medical education in Kolkata and Chandigarh. We are very proud to see you guide the destiny of your country, and are honoured that you have chosen India, for your first visit abroad as the President of Nepal. Your visit is a testimony to the close bonds between our two countries and peoples.

Over the years, India has transformed itself into one of the leading economies of the world. Our economic growth has opened exciting opportunities not just for our people, but also for co-operation and collaboration with other nations. India has been sharing its resources, infrastructure and institutional capabilities with countries in the region. There is much scope for further promoting and expanding bilateral cooperation with Nepal in hydropower, tourism and agriculture, to name a few sectors that hold much untapped potential. We believe that Nepal's peace, progress and prosperity is not only beneficial for its people, but also for India and our region.

Excellency,

Driven and supported by the indomitable courage, determination and wisdom of its people, Nepal has crossed several important milestones on its journey to a stable and inclusive multi-party democracy. We hope that the remaining tasks would be completed expeditiously, so that the new constitution of Nepal is adopted. It would be a glorious and historic moment for the people of Nepal. We eagerly look forward to rejoicing with Nepal, when the new era dawns on your beautiful country.

Excellency,

As the first President of Nepal, you shoulder immense responsibilities, especially during this period of transition. Right from your days as a student leader, you have cherished democracy and valued freedom of choice. You have stood for the establishment of multi-party democracy and for the well being of the Nepalese people. Your sagacity and wisdom will be called upon on numerous occasions, in the months ahead, to guide the democratic institutions of Nepal. We are confident that, in the years to come, you will look back with satisfaction and cherish the historic role that you played in your country's destiny.

Excellency,

Before I conclude, I would like to say that India attaches the highest priority to its relations and cooperation with Nepal. It would render all possible support for economic development and peace in Nepal, in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Nepal.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to:-

- the health and happiness of His Excellency Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal,
- the peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Nepal, and;
- the everlasting and ever growing friendship between India and Nepal.



PAKISTAN**198. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on exchange of lists of Nuclear Installations by India and Pakistan.****New Delhi, January 1, 2010.**

India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan.

The Agreement, which was signed on 31 December 1988 and entered into force on 27 January 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries are informed 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 nineteenth consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 01, 1992.



199. Response of Official Spokesperson on comments made by the so-called Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan.

New Delhi, January 1, 2010.

In response to a question on certain remarks by the so-called Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan the Official Spokesperson said,

"We have seen media reports regarding remarks of the so-called Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan in which he said that Gilgit-Baltistan had become the 'fifth province' of Pakistan and henceforth had no connection to Kashmir.

The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession to India in 1947. Any action to alter the status of any part of the territory under the illegal occupation of Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever, and is completely unacceptable.

Pakistan's actions regarding Gilgit-Baltistan in the past few months cannot camouflage its illegal occupation of part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, nor can they hide the denial of basic rights to the people in that part for the past six decades."



Last September, India had lodged a protest with Pakistan over its package for the Northern Areas through the "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order, 2009." Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner was then summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and handed over the diplomatic letter of protest. In a statement last September, the Ministry emphasised that the "entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947. The so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order, 2009' was yet another cosmetic exercise intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation." Pakistan, as usual, reacting to the Indian statement, rejected it.

200. Excerpts relevant to Pakistan from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao under the programme 'Devil's Advocate' at the CNN-IBN TV with Karan Thapar.

New Delhi, January 17, 2010.

Interviewer (Mr. Karan Thapar): Hello and welcome to Devil's Advocate and the first television interview with the new Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary, let us start with Pakistan. Two fidayeen attacks in Kashmir within 24 hours; rocket attacks at Attari and Poonch; frequent firing across the international border; and all of this within the space of a week. How do you view these developments?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): With great concern, Karan. Terrorism, and the whole phenomenon of cross-border terrorism, as it affects us today has not diminished in any manner. All the events you have seen over the last few days basically point to the basic and undeniable fact that the infrastructure of terrorism which operates out of Pakistan and territory under Pakistan control has not been dismantled and it continues to be directed against the Indian people. It affects ordinary people. Terrorism affects people like you and me.

Interviewer: The recent terrorist attack at Lal Chowk in Srinagar was clearly masterminded by handlers in Pakistan. Do you have any idea who they are? Are they the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen as the press suggests? Or could they be the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba who are responsible for 26/11 in Mumbai?

Foreign Secretary: All I would like to say, Karan, is that whichever group they may belong to they are essentially part of the same species. These are terrorism-spewing, violence-generating people who have an agenda, an agenda of violence and mayhem to pursue.

Interviewer: And these are clearly, therefore, people operating out of Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary: Obviously.

Interviewer: Do you believe that they have some form of assistance or support from the Pakistani establishment or state?

Foreign Secretary: Let me put it this way. I think the experience over the last two decades would make it very clear to us that this has been an instrument of state policy which has been pursued by agencies within Pakistan.

Interviewer: And that is clearly the case in what happened in Kashmir the other day as well.

Foreign Secretary: We have very little or no evidence to suggest otherwise.

Interviewer: The telephone intercepts have the Pakistani handlers making it absolutely clear that they are seeking to revive violence and militancy in Kashmir. This happened days after President Zardari committed his own Government to fulfilling his father-in-law Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's pledge for a thousand-year war to liberate Kashmir. Are the two linked?

Foreign Secretary: Militancy and violence in Kashmir is a longstanding phenomenon. We have seen it happen over and over again for many many years now. And this has been accompanied by rhetoric, rhetoric directed against India, all forms and means of propaganda that comes across from the Pakistan side. So, rhetoric, militancy and violence, together they make a very combustible combination.

Interviewer: And President Zardari's rhetoric is a facilitating or encouraging factor behind the sort of terrorism we have witnessed.

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that rhetoric hardly helps the situation. It poisons peoples' minds.

Interviewer: And clearly President Zardari's rhetoric has been unhelpful, has been poisonous.

Foreign Secretary: Rhetoric is always unhelpful in situations such as these.

Interviewer: Many analysts believe that as President Obama's Af-Pak strategy starts to put pressure on the Taliban and Al Qaeda in the West, they will seek to deflect attention by carrying out terrorist attacks on India in the East. Is that now starting to happen?

Foreign Secretary: The Af-Pak strategy announced by President Obama in December, the details of it that is, is directed against terrorism in our

region. It seeks to eliminate the sources of terrorism in Afghanistan. It is also focussed on the sources of terrorism which operate out of areas contiguous to Afghanistan. Having said that, I would also say that the United States has been sensitised to our concerns about terrorism that operates from areas contiguous to our border with Pakistan, against our people. And I believe the US is sensitive to these concerns.

Interviewer: Absolutely. But let us leave the US sensitivity aside. We can come to that later. Do you also think that as US pressure on the Taliban and Al Qaeda increases they might be tempted to deflect attention by carrying out terrorist attacks on India in the East?

Foreign Secretary: Karan, I would respond to that by saying that eternal vigilance is the price that we have to pay in all these situations, and we have to be constantly alert to this possibility.

Interviewer: Let us broaden our discussion a little. Amidst persistent political turmoil and relentless terror, how worried are you about the internal political situation in Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: Terrorism and violence within Pakistan, and you have seen a rise in levels of both terrorism and violence within Pakistan, clearly reverberate beyond Pakistan's borders. We have said over and over again that we would like a secure, a stable, a peaceful Pakistan. Obviously violence and terrorism in Pakistan and manifestations of what you referred to as instability, concern all of us.

Interviewer: So, as Pakistan begins to appear to collapse under its internal problems, India becomes threatened as well.

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to make any prognosis on that. That is really not a part of my brief. But, as I said, obviously we are close neighbours of Pakistan.

Interviewer: And we are affected.

Foreign Secretary: We would naturally be concerned about instability or rise in levels of terrorism and increased violence within that country.

Interviewer: In November in Washington the Prime Minister said I quote, "I do not know who to deal with in Pakistan". This was in the interview he

gave CNN. Does this mean that you do not believe that President Zardari's civilian Government are the right people to talk to?

Foreign Secretary: We deal with the Government of Pakistan. Obviously we have a diplomatic relationship with Pakistan. We are in touch with representatives of the Pakistan Government. For whatever reason, over and over again we are in contact. There are issues, humanitarian issues that exist between the two countries. So, that relationship continues to be transacted. The levels of dialogue obviously are much diminished after the Mumbai attacks.

Interviewer: Before I come to the question of dialogue and the level of dialogue, how stable do you think President Zardari is?

Foreign Secretary: Again, I do not want to pronounce a judgment on the stability or otherwise of the leadership in Pakistan. We, as I said, would advocate and have advocated always the need for a stable, secure, a peaceful Pakistan because that helps the Pakistan people, it helps relations with India, it helps the neighbourhood.

Interviewer: The press, both in the West and in India, are beginning to speculate about possibility of another military takeover in Pakistan. Does the Government of India believe that that now looks more likely than it did, say, earlier on?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that we consistently and closely monitor developments in Pakistan. It is our neighbour. It is a country that is next door to us. And as I said, events, developments in Pakistan are of relevance to the entire region. And obviously the growth of civil society, the strengthening of democratic institutions in Pakistan is good for our future.

Interviewer: So, clearly India would not favour a military takeover. You would not welcome one.

Foreign Secretary: Really, to speak out on Pakistan's internal affairs I think would not be advisable.

Interviewer: On the other hand, the Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi has said that it is unfortunate there is no dialogue between Delhi and Islamabad. Given that India at Sharm el-Sheikh committed itself to action on terrorism should not be linked to the Composite Dialogue process,

and secondly that dialogue is the only way forward, is there a possibility that in this New Year 2010 we could see the resumption of dialogue?

Foreign Secretary: Dialogue between India and Pakistan is obviously the way forward for normalisation of relations and to resolve outstanding issues between the two countries. We in India have never turned our back on dialogue with Pakistan. But let me also add that terrorism is a standalone phenomenon, and terrorism affects the climate of dialogue. It affects the progress of this dialogue. And when Pakistan refers to the need to resume Composite Dialogue, we say you have to create the right atmosphere for that dialogue to move forward.

Interviewer: Can I put this to you? How much credit do you give Islamabad for the fact that there has been no major terrorist attack or strike since 26/11?

Foreign Secretary: I think it is too early to give credit or otherwise to Pakistan for what has or has not happened. Terrorism directed against India continues from territory under Pakistan control and from Pakistan. Look at what has been happening in Srinagar over the last few weeks. Look at the incidents of infiltration that have gone up despite the fact that this is cold weather. In winter traditionally we have not had so many incidents of infiltration, but those continue. They clearly point to the continuation of efforts directed against our territory, directed in order to foment violence in Kashmir and terrorist incidents.

Interviewer: So, clearly Pakistan needs to do more before India is convinced that it is effectively responding to the terror India faces which emanates out of Pakistani soil.

Foreign Secretary: Karan, let me say Pakistan can do more.

Interviewer: And you are waiting for that before any talks resume.

Foreign Secretary: We wait and we hope Pakistan can do more.

Interviewer: What about the opinion expressed by some analysts that if India were to resume the dialogue process, it might strengthen Islamabad's hand in delivering on terror?

Foreign Secretary: I know the school of thought and it I think has gained some currency in Pakistan in recent months. But let us look at it this

way. Terrorism is not a tap you turn on and off because of the absence of or prevalence of dialogue. Dialogue does not flow from the barrel of the gun, Karan.

Interviewer: There is another problem which seems to be also occurring which is that the Indian Government's refusal to talk seems to have hardened attitudes in Pakistan. The popular mood has turned to resentment. Some even say there is a simmering anger towards India. Does that worry you?

Foreign Secretary: It is a matter of concern that the people of Pakistan are being fed with slanted and biased accounts of what India's attitude may be. India's attitude is for dialogue and to promote a peaceful resolution of problems with Pakistan. But, Karan, for all of us who have grown up against the background of what has happened in this relationship, I think there is a sense of déjà vu. And I feel a sense of sadness also that people, ordinary people in Pakistan, are being misled by propaganda of this sort.

Interviewer: So, your position remains that we want further proof of Pakistan's action on terror before the dialogue process resumes.

Foreign Secretary: As I said, Pakistan can do much more to deliver on this subject.

Interviewer: And must do much more.

Foreign Secretary: And must do much more.

* * * *

Interviewer: Let us turn briefly to the United States of America. You mentioned America in Part-I. I want to pick up on something that you spoke about. As the Obama Administration's Af-Pak strategy begins to work, now it is clear to everyone that its success is critically dependent upon the cooperation President Obama gets from Pakistan. Does that mean that there could be a time when President Obama becomes sensitive to Pakistan's view that the terror India faces is linked to Kashmir? Does that possibility worry you?

Foreign Secretary: I am not worried about that because the United States is fully sensitised to our concerns on these issues. They consulted us closely

in the run up to the Af-Pak strategy's formulation and we continue to remain in close touch with our American interlocutors on this. America is well aware of India's approach to these issues, our concerns about terrorism emanating from Pakistan, our desire to see a secure and stable Afghanistan; and that will involve tackling the sources of terrorism in our region. And America understands that Pakistan continues to provide safe haven to a number of terrorists operating in our region.

Interviewer: I suppose the key issue here is the following. Is President Obama looking to play a more assertive role in sorting out Kashmir and India would be willing to accept it?

Foreign Secretary: Karan, President Obama and the American Administration have told us over and over again that they have no desire to play a mediatory role on issues concerning India and Pakistan.

Interviewer: Even though he says different things in the letters he sends to President Zardari in November, just before his December Af-Pak speech; even though in his original Af-Pak speech of March he spoke about constructive diplomacy? Despite those contradictory statements or commitments, you still believe that he does not want to play a role?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe there is contradiction here. The relationship between India and the United States is a strategic, global partnership. There is confidence, there is trust in this communication that India and the United States have. And the United States is well aware of our position on this.

Interviewer: My last question to you. Is there a danger that India and Pakistan could be re-hyphenated either because of the way the Obama Administration views South Asia or because of the way events are playing out?

Foreign Secretary: Karan, the logic of the relationship and the logic of the times defies your assessment. There is no question of this relationship being re-hyphenated, as you say. Our relationship with the United States is a mature relationship. It is one of the defining partnerships of the times as President Obama said so eloquently during our Prime Minister's visit.

*

*

*

*



201. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Participation of Pakistani Cricketers in Indian Premier League Cricket, 2010.

New Delhi, January 21, 2010.

Government has seen reports* attributing the absence of Pakistani cricketers from IPL 2010, to be held in India, to apprehension about the players getting necessary Indian visas. Such apprehension is completely misplaced.

Seventeen Pakistani cricketers were issued requisite Indian visas at very short notice in December 2009 and January 2010 to participate in IPL 2010. Two visas were issued in Islamabad, while three were issued in Wellington (New Zealand) and twelve in Sydney (Australia), where the concerned Pakistani cricketers had applied while touring New Zealand and Australia, respectively. Based on a request from the Pakistan Cricket Board to High Commission of India in Islamabad, the Ministry of External Affairs facilitated necessary clearances from other Ministries of the Government of India.

Cricketers from Pakistan had participated in the first edition of IPL in 2008 but not in the second edition in 2009, which was held in South Africa. One Pakistani cricketer participated in the Champions League T20 tournament held in India in October 2009. The participation or absence of Pakistani cricketers in a commercial event of the nature of IPL is, thus, a matter not within the purview of the Government.

Blaming the Government for the absence of Pakistani players from the next edition of IPL is unfortunate. Pakistan should introspect on the reasons which have put a strain on relations between India and Pakistan, and have adversely impacted on peace, stability and prosperity in the region.



* The reports came in the wake of IPL teams failing to pick up even a single Pakistani player in the auction held for the players for the League.

202. Response of Official Spokesperson to a query regarding recent ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

New Delhi, January 22, 2010.

Responding to a query regarding recent increase in incidents of ceasefire violations by Pakistan, including at the International Border, the Official Spokesperson said that the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan was called to the Ministry of External Affairs today and a strong protest was conveyed over incidents of grave and unprovoked firing across the International Border by Pakistan, including the firing of rockets in the Amritsar Sector of the International Border in the night of January 8-9, 2010. Government has asked Pakistan to take all necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents.



203. Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media on board his special flight on way to New Delhi from Riyadh.

March 1, 2010.

Please see Document No.389.



204. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Reports relating to unresolved humanitarian issues between India and Pakistan pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody.

New Delhi, March 6, 2010.

We have seen reports in the Pakistani media on unresolved humanitarian issues between India and Pakistan pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody. India had requested Pakistan in January this year, and again during the talks between Foreign Secretaries last month, to convey dates for the next meeting of India-Pakistan Judicial Committee, which is to be held in Pakistan. This proposal was made so that these humanitarian issues are addressed expeditiously. Pakistan's response is still awaited. After the release of 100 Indian fishermen by Pakistan in December 2009, there are more than 550 Indian fishermen and 400 Indian fishing boats in Pakistan's custody, besides 220 Indian prisoners.



205. Response of Official Spokesperson to a reported statement on Hafiz Saeed.

New Delhi, March 7, 2010.

In response to queries regarding a reported statement by the Pakistan Foreign Minister that India has not demanded the arrest of Hafiz Saeed and that the issue did not even figure in the recently concluded Foreign Secretary- level talks with Pakistan, the Official Spokesperson, while expressing surprise, stated that India has been demanding action against Saeed, one of the masterminds of the Mumbai terrorist attack, since the barbaric and dastardly attack took place.

A dossier containing a compilation of evidence on the involvement of Hafiz Saeed in the terrorist attack was handed over to Pakistan on August 21,

2009 and his name featured prominently in yet another dossier handed over to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary during the talks on February 25, 2010. Saeed's activities including his recent vitriolic and venomous statements aimed at fomenting further acts of terrorism against India and the unhindered public space and freedom he enjoys in Pakistan was raised strongly by India during the Foreign Secretary-level talks.



206. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs condemning the terrorist attacks in Lahore on March 12, 2010 and rejecting Pakistan's allegation of Indian hand in these attacks.

New Delhi, March 13, 2010.

Government of India unequivocally condemns the series of bomb blasts in Lahore* on March 12, 2010 which claimed the lives of scores of people, including innocent civilians, and injured many more, among them women and children. Our condolences go out to the families of those killed by these acts of terrorism.

At the same time, Government is deeply disappointed by statements emanating from Pakistan alleging an Indian hand in yesterday's attacks in Lahore, and other terrorist acts and disturbances elsewhere in Pakistan. We categorically reject, once again, the allegations of India's involvement in such acts or activities. Government has reiterated on several occasions, and at the highest level, that India has no interest in destabilizing Pakistan.

It is unfortunate that by repeating such unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations, officials in responsible positions in the Government of Pakistan put a strain on our bilateral relationship, instead of concentrating on dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism directed against India and adversely impacting on Pakistan itself.



* In a Taliban terrorist attack in Lahore on March 12, (with two near-simultaneous suicide attacks) targeting the Army in the cantonment area, 45 people were killed including 10 soldiers, and injuring 100 others. In the second major attack in the city within a week, the bombers, who were on foot, hit vehicles of the Garrison Security Force patrolling the cantonment.

207. Speech by High Commissioner of India in Pakistan Sharat Sabharwal at the function organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations and Pakistan-India Citizens Friendship Forum on the question of Indus Waters.

Karachi, April 3, 2010.

Global water resources, taken for granted by mankind, are getting increasingly scarce and coming under added stress because of growing population. Water supplies are getting adversely affected by factors such as climate change. Because water is a precious resource, its depletion is a matter of serious concern and arouses public anxiety. But precisely because water is precious, public discourse on its growing scarcity ought to be well informed, so that it leads us to the right approach in ensuring the water security of our own and coming generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the issue of water sharing that arose between our countries in 1947, was settled with the coming into force of The Indus Waters Treaty in 1960. This treaty was the result of 8 years of painstaking negotiations carried out by India and Pakistan with the good offices of the World Bank. The Treaty was voluntarily accepted by the two sides as fair and equitable. The thoroughness with which it deals with various aspects of water sharing is a testimony to the hard work put in by the negotiators of both sides to produce an enduring framework. It laid down the rights and obligations of both sides in relation to the use of waters of the Indus system of rivers. It also laid down a framework for resolution, in a co-operative spirit, of the questions, differences or disputes that might arise in implementation of the Treaty, through bilateral means or use, if necessary, of the services of a neutral expert or a Court of Arbitration.

Those who question the fairness of the Indus Waters Treaty to Pakistan need to note that it assigned 80% share of water of the Indus system of rivers to Pakistan. The Treaty gave the use of Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas and Ravi) - with a mean flow of 33 MAF - to India, while giving the use of the Western Rivers, viz. Indus, Jhelum and Chenab - with a mean flow of 136 MAF - to Pakistan. Since Pakistan was dependent on water supplies from the Eastern Rivers until the 15th of August 1947, India also agreed to

pay a sum of 62 million Pounds Sterling to Pakistan to build replacement canals from the Western Rivers and other sources. These were clearly not the gestures of an upper riparian bent upon depriving the lower riparian of water, as is alleged by some today. The Treaty also permitted limited use of water of Western Rivers by India as follows: -

- a) Domestic use: - This includes use for drinking, washing, bathing and sanitation etc.
- b) Non consumptive use: - This covers any control or use of water for navigation, floating of timber or other property, flood control and fishing etc.
- c) Agricultural use: - India can draw water from the Western Rivers in terms of maximum permissible Irrigated Crop Area. The total area permitted to be irrigated by India is 1.34 million acres.
- d) Generation of Hydroelectric Power :- India can use water from the Western Rivers for run -of- the river hydroelectric projects as well as for hydroelectric projects incorporated in a storage work, but only to the extent permitted in the provisions regulating storage of water by India from the Western Rivers.
- e) Storage of water by India on the Western Rivers: - The Indus Waters Treaty allows India storage capacity on Western Rivers to the tune of 3.6 MAF, in addition to the storage that already existed on these rivers before the coming into force of the Treaty. Out of this, 1.25 MAF is general storage. The remaining quantity is split between 1.6 MAF for generation of hydroelectricity and 0.75 MAF for flood control. In terms of rivers, 0.4 MAF storage is allowed on the Indus, 1.5 on Jhelum and 1.7 on Chenab.

This limited use of water from Western Rivers by India is subject to the conditions laid down in the Treaty to protect the interests of both countries. However, India is yet to use fully its entitlement to the waters of Western Rivers. As against its storage entitlement of 3.6 MAF, India has built no storage so far. Out of the area of 1.34 million acres, permitted for irrigation, we are currently irrigating only 0.792 million acres. We have exploited only a fraction of the hydroelectric potential available to us on these rivers. Out

of a total potential of 18,653 MW, projects worth 2324 MW have been commissioned and those for 659 MW are under construction. In any case, even after India starts using its full entitlement of water from the Western Rivers under the Treaty, it will amount to no more than 3% of the mean flow in these rivers.

In order to ensure that implementation of the Treaty received constant attention, a Permanent Indus Commission was created, with a senior and widely experienced Commissioner for Indus Waters from each side. The Commission is charged with the responsibility to establish and maintain co-operative arrangements for implementation of the Treaty, to promote co-operation between the Parties in the development of the waters of the Rivers and to settle promptly any questions arising between the Parties. Each Commissioner for Indus Waters serves as a regular channel of communication in all matters relating to implementation of the Treaty. The Commission undertakes a general tour of inspection of the rivers once in five years and special tours in the interim. The Commission meets regularly at least once a year and in the interim as required. It has so far undertaken a total of 111 tours, both in India and Pakistan, and has held 104 meetings. The Commission has shown tremendous potential in ensuring smooth functioning of the Treaty. In the 50 years of the Treaty, only once was an issue, viz. Baglihar, referred to a neutral expert. We believe that the potential of the Permanent Indus Commission can and ought to be used more effectively. In fact, we could even have the Commission sit in the nature of a consultative dispute avoidance body and take the views of experts - national and international - with a view to bringing up-to-date technology to the notice of the Commission to help it reach correct and acceptable solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, public discourse in Pakistan has of late increasingly focused on certain alleged acts of omission and commission on the part of India as being responsible for water scarcity in Pakistan. "Water issue" between India and Pakistan is spoken of as an issue whose resolution is essential to build peace between our two countries. Preposterous and completely unwarranted allegations of "stealing water" and waging a "water war" are being made against India. It is alleged that we are hindering water flows into Pakistan and developing the infrastructure to stop and divert these flows to serve our own needs. Such accusations bear no relation

whatsoever to the reality on the ground. The fact is that India has been scrupulously providing Pakistan its share of water in keeping with the Indus Waters Treaty. We have never hindered water flows to which Pakistan is entitled, not even during the wars of 1965 and 1971 as well as other periods of tense relations and we have no intention of doing so. Those, who allege that India is acquiring the capacity to withhold Pakistan's share of water, completely ignore the fact that this would require a storage and diversion canals network on a large scale. Such a network simply does not exist and figures nowhere in our plans.

I shall now deal with the apprehensions, misconceptions, misinformation and allegations pertaining to India that characterize the debate on water scarcity in Pakistan.

The Indus Waters Treaty does not require India to deliver any stipulated quantities of water to Pakistan in the Western Rivers. Instead, it requires us to let flow to Pakistan the water available in these rivers, excluding the limited use permitted to India by the Treaty, for which we do not need prior agreement of Pakistan. Reduced flows into Pakistan from time to time are not the result of violation of Indus Waters Treaty by India or any action on our part to divert such flows or to use more than our assigned share of water from Western Rivers. Water flows in rivers depend, inter alia, on melting of snow and quantum of rainfall. India itself suffered serious draught conditions in 2009, with around 250 districts bearing the brunt of draught. Rainfall during the monsoon season was 20% less than normal countrywide, with many states in the North experiencing a much higher percentage of shortfall. Even winter rains have fallen far short of normal. The quantum of water flow in Western Rivers, as indeed in any other river, varies from year to year, dipping in certain years and recovering in some subsequent years. Permit me to illustrate this point by using the flows data in respect of the three rivers.

Let us start with the river Chenab by using the average flows data for the month of September over a period of ten years since 1999 at six recording points, beginning deep on the Indian side at Udaipur and moving westwards to Marala, where Chenab enters Pakistan. The flows (Discharge in Cusecs) are as follows:-

Year	Above Marala	Akhnoor	Salal	Dham kund	Premnagar	Udaipur
2008	22991	18453	17306	18001	15611	8271
2007	32568	28765	27250	28653	22686	10195
2006	68901	55345	41943	37548	27285	11149
2005	43157	32364	30079	34597	31006	10358
2004	31978	25492	24955	31115	24450	11500
2003	45062	31690	30127	37558	27920	11484
2002	36954	24123	23864	26056	20446	10720
2001	29027	21798	20696	24171	20248	10624
2000	37583	29280	29650	34363	26232	12265
1999	48242	33004	35349	46498	33258	14313

It will be seen from the above table that increase or decrease of flows at Marala is reflected in the flows at all the points on the Indian side. This shows that when Pakistan receives reduced flows, it is because of reduced flows available on the Indian side and not because of any diversion of water by India. Increased or reduced flows at Udaipur get reflected at all the subsequent points. This point is also illustrated by the following table of the annual flow in Chenab (MAF) from 1997-98 to 2008-09:-

97-98	98-99	99-00	2000-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	
Merala	27.41	26.57	22.80	18.72	19.96	25.39	24.96	21.81	22.22*	28.18	19.32	19.65
Akhnoor +Jammu Tawi	23.60	20.72	18.08	15.70	16.42	19.20	21.06	17.96	22.13	24.24	17.83	18.03

*Does not include data for June, 2005.

The above table shows that decrease of flow entering Pakistan is accompanied by corresponding shortage in India.

The following table illustrates flows in Jhelum (MAF) at Uri during the period 1997 to 2009:-

1997	98	99	2000	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	
June-December	3.78	2.89	1.35	1.99	1.32	1.85	2.95	1.59	3.31	3.08	2.13	2.51	2.45
Annual	8.29	5.03	3.07	3.24	4.32	6.37	5.63	4.98	6.31	6.25	4.49	5.67	---

The annual flow in Jhelum at Uri, which was 8.29 MAF in 1997, dipped to as low as 3.07 MAF in 1999, but has subsequently recovered to register figures of 6.37 MAF in 2002, 6.31 MAF in 2005 and 5.67 MAF in 2008. The June to December flow in Jhelum at Uri shows the same pattern.

Combined annual flows (MAF) for January-December period in Indus at Nimoo and Chutak for the years 2001 to 2009 are no exception to the above trend as will be seen in the following table:-

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
6.00	8.96	11.30	6.51	9.41	10.58	8.41	9.95	9.93

It will be seen from the above table that the combined flows rose from 6 MAF in 2001 to 11.30 MAF in 2003, only to dip to 6.51 MAF in 2004. The flows have been steadier in recent years, registering 9.41 MAF in 2005, 10.58 MAF in 2006, 8.41 in 2007, 9.95 in 2008 and 9.93 MAF in 2009.

The data that I have provided in respect of flows in all the three Western Rivers clearly demonstrates that these flows have followed a curve moving up and down, depending upon climatic factors from year to year, rather than showing progressive decline, which would be the case if there were any truth in the allegations of India building infrastructure to progressively deprive Pakistan of its share of water.

A complaint has often been made that India has not been providing data of water flows regularly. In accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty, India and Pakistan exchange daily data on about 600 Gauge and Discharge sites on a monthly basis. India has been fulfilling its obligation in providing this data. However, if for some reason, data for particular points is not available, it is so indicated and such information, when received, is provided as supplementary data. I am told that this practice is followed by both sides. India has also supplied in the past, as a gesture of goodwill, data on

floods to enable Pakistan take timely action for preventing damage as a result of floods.

One also hears the accusation that India is building hundreds of dams/ hydroelectric projects to deny Pakistan its share of water. This does not correspond to the reality on the ground. There are no quantitative limits on the hydroelectricity that India can produce using the Western Rivers. There is also no limit to the number of run-of- the river projects that India can build. However, India has so far undertaken a limited number of projects. We have provided information to Pakistan, as per the Treaty, in respect of 33 projects. Out of these, 14 are in operation, 13 are under construction, 2 are still at the proposal stage, 3 have been dropped or deferred and work on one project stands suspended. Out of these 33 projects, as many as 20 have a capacity of 10 MW or less. Projects identified for implementation in the coming years number 22. This certainly does not make for hundreds of dams/ hydroelectric projects.

The Indus Waters Treaty requires India to provide certain specified technical information to Pakistan at least six months before the commencement of construction of river works for a hydroelectric or storage project (the period is two months for a Small Plant), in order to enable Pakistan to satisfy itself that the design of a plant conforms to the provisions of the Treaty. If Pakistan raises any objection, it has to be resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. India has been meeting its obligation to provide the specified information as necessary. In all the cases in the past, India has responded to all queries from Pakistan about such projects, even if these were not strictly in keeping with the Treaty, in order to address Pakistan's concerns. This has resulted in endless delays and cost overruns. The Tulbul Navigation project is a case in point. India provided information to Pakistan on this project as a matter of goodwill. As a further gesture of goodwill, works on the project were unilaterally stopped by India in October, 1986 and remain suspended to this day. However, infinite queries from Pakistan could amount to a virtual veto on Indian projects. This is not the intention of the Treaty in requiring India to provide information in advance of the river works. India is within its rights to proceed with the construction of a plant at the end of the period of advance notice, even if Pakistan raises objections, subject to any subsequent changes in design or any other consequences that may flow from resolution of the matter under Article IX of the Treaty.

India had communicated information concerning Baglihar project on Chenab to Pakistan as early as in 1992. Pakistan's objections were referred to a neutral expert in 2005 at the request of Pakistan. The expert upheld India's design approach and suggested only minor changes in the scope of construction. Pakistan subsequently objected to the initial filling of the Baglihar reservoir. However, this was done by us in keeping with the Treaty provisions. In fact, the Pakistan Indus Commissioner was invited to India at his request in July, 2008 to be briefed about the procedure of initial filling. The actual filling was done in August the same year within the time window specified in the Treaty.

The Kishanganga hydroelectric project on a tributary of river Jhelum has also been objected to by Pakistan, inter alia, on the ground that Pakistan has existing uses on the waters of Kishanganga (Neelum). The matter has been under discussion since 2004. However, details of the claimed existing uses are yet to be substantiated. We believe that the matter should be resolved at the Commission level, keeping in mind the provisions of the Treaty and the findings of the neutral expert in the Baglihar case. In August 2009, we also informed Pakistan that in case technical experts were unable to resolve the issue, efforts could be made to take it up at government level.

Ladies and Gentlemen, India has all along adhered to the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty and will continue to do so. However, it is natural for questions and issues to arise in the course of implementation of any treaty. We believe that the Permanent Indus Commission is the best forum to resolve all such matters. However, for any issues that cannot be resolved in the Commission, Article IX of the Treaty provides a mechanism for settlement of differences and disputes, which can be resorted to by the aggrieved party. Since the Indus Waters Treaty provides an elaborate framework for distribution of water and resolving any questions, differences or disputes, we fail to understand attempts by some quarters in Pakistan to inflame public passions on the subject. Angry statements targeting India can neither increase the quantity of available water, nor can such statements become a substitute for the mechanism in the Treaty to resolve differences regarding its implementation. Concerns have also been expressed about some Indian projects on Western Rivers from the environmental point of view. I would like to assure you that we have strict

norms for such projects under our Environmental Protection Act and Forests Protection Act. These norms include Catchment Area Treatment Plans and Compensatory afforestation.

We have often heard the bizarre allegation that India wants to deprive Pakistan of water to dry up its canals and drains etc, which besides serving as irrigation channels, can also serve as defensive features in times of war. The Chenab Canal network is mentioned in particular in this connection. There is no truth in this allegation. It is clear from what I have mentioned so far that India has not taken any action to deprive Pakistan of its share of water and consequently to dry up its canals.

Another piece of misinformation being spread by certain circles is that a dam/hydroelectric project is being built by the Government of Afghanistan on the Kabul River with India's assistance and this would adversely affect the flows of this river to Pakistan. I would like to inform you that there is no truth in this allegation. Those who make it ought to know that a dam or hydroelectric project is not something that can be built surreptitiously. It is highly undesirable to mislead people by making such baseless allegations on issues, which are easily verifiable on the ground.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the issue of water scarcity in Pakistan cannot be analyzed fully without looking at the picture in the large part of the Indus basin - around 65% - that lies in Pakistan's territory or territory controlled by Pakistan. A preponderant portion of the water of the Western Rivers flowing through Pakistan is generated in the catchment area within Pakistan or territory under Pakistan's control. This share of water is completely controlled by Pakistan. Therefore, it is difficult to understand the excessive and, in many cases, exclusive focus of the public discourse on water scarcity in Pakistan on flows from India. Moreover, as water gets increasingly scarce, the issues of water management and avoidance of wastage of water assume greater significance.

The per capita availability of water in Pakistan is reported to be around 1400 cubic meters or even less. Speaking of the availability and use of water in Pakistan, the Pakistan Water Sector Strategy issued by the Ministry of Water and Power, Government of Pakistan, in 2002 stated the following: "The Indus River and its tributaries on average bring about 152 million acre feet of water annually. This includes 143 MAF from the three Western

rivers and 8.4 MAF from the Eastern Rivers. Most of the inflow, about 104 MAF, is diverted for irrigation, with 38 MAF flowing to the sea and about 10 MAF consumed by system losses." The same report stated that out of the 38 MAF flowing to the sea, 93.7% flow is during the Kharif season and for several months during winter, there is no flow to the sea. The report further stated that a part of this water could be effectively used for supplementing the irrigation water, hydropower generation and meeting the agreed environmental needs through storage in multipurpose reservoirs which could carry water over the winter season to ensure a good start to the Kharif cropping season. These statements do not signal shortage of water, but the urgent need for a closer look at the management of available water resources.

According to the report "Pakistan's Water Economy" issued by the World Bank in 2005, salinity also remains a major problem in Pakistan. According to the same report, much of the water infrastructure in Pakistan is in a state of disrepair. Water loss between canal heads and farms is reported to be significant, as high as 30%. The report further states that Pakistan has only 150 cubic meters water storage capacity per capita as against 5000 cubic meters in the US and Australia and 2200 cubic meters in China. Pakistan can store barely 30 days of water in the Indus basin. The report points out that "Relative to other arid countries, Pakistan has very little storage capacity. If no new storage is built, canal diversions will remain stagnant at about 104 MAF and the shortfall will increase by about 12% over the next decade." The Pakistan Water Strategy calculates that Pakistan needs to raise storage capacity by 18 MAF (6 MAF for replacement of storage lost to siltation and 12 MAF of new storage) by 2025 in order to meet the projected water requirements of 134 MAF. Water productivity in Pakistan also remains low. According to the above report, crop yields, both per hectare and per cubic meter of water, are much lower than international benchmarks. Improved irrigation efficiency, through techniques such as sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation, is the answer to this problem. India has nothing to do with these issues of water management that are internal to Pakistan, but which nevertheless ought to be integral to any discourse on water scarcity. Only Pakistan can seek solutions to these matters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Indus Waters Treaty is an example of mutually beneficial co-operation between India and Pakistan for the last 50 years. It has withstood the test of time. Article VII of the Treaty, which deals with future co-operation, recognizes the common interest of both sides in the optimum development of the rivers and lists out the avenues of future co-operation. We need to adhere to the spirit of co-operation, inherent in the Treaty, in ensuring its implementation and to identify further areas of co-operation within its framework. Let me end with the hope that the Indus Waters Treaty, which has completed its first fifty years successfully, will continue to guide us on water sharing in the future.



208. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's meeting with the U. S. President Barack Obama.

Washington (D. C.), 11 April, 2010.

Please see Document No.566



209. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's visit to Thimphu for SAARC Summit.

New Delhi, April 22, 2010.

* * * *

Question: Has a meeting been set up between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani Prime Minister? If so, what is the agenda?

Foreign Secretary: The answer is no. As of now, there is no such meeting.

* * * *

Question: Madam has there been any request from the Pakistani side for a bilateral with Dr. Manmohan Singh in Bhutan? Also, could you tell us a little bit more about Mr. Karzai's visit? Is it something that was planned at the last minute or was this on the cards for some time?

Foreign Secretary: President Karzai is transiting through New Delhi. We thought it would be an excellent opportunity to request him to stay in New Delhi for the 26th and to have discussions on issues of mutual interest concerning the region as also our very strong and friendly development partnership, our time-tested relationship with Afghanistan. As far as the other question you asked, there has been no request from Pakistan for such a meeting, as I said, as of now.

Question: I wanted to ask you about the Pakistan meeting. Should we rule it out or is there a possibility?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe in making forecasts about whether a meeting will take place or not. I would say that you should wait and let us see how the situation develops.

Question: Madam, the US Ambassador said a couple of days ago that the US is looking for new ways to partner with India in Afghanistan. Has there been any concrete proposal in that respect? You are not saying that a meeting has been set up between Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers. But what is the message as of now on the talks front? How are you looking at this likely visit?

Foreign Secretary: You are asking me if I have a message?

Question: What is the message to Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: If there is a message I would not be talking about it in this forum. In any case since you have asked me that, I have always said, and you are aware of the Government's position, that dialogue represents a concrete method to move forward in our relationship. That has always been our position. That was the approach we took during the recent Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan. There has been no change in that position. As for the subject of Afghanistan and our discussions with the United States on the issue, let me say that the situation in our region, the relations that the United States has with Afghanistan, the relations that

India has with Afghanistan, of course do figure in these discussions. I think you are aware, when I addressed the media in Washington the other day, we spoke about how President Obama had expressed his deep appreciation for our role in Afghanistan and the development activities that we have carried forward there, and how we have helped stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. So, we constantly exchange ideas on this issue. This is a subject that remains under discussion with the Government of the United States and indeed with all our other friends and partners.

Question: Madam, last time when the Indian Prime Minister and Pakistan Prime Minister came face to face in Washington, a newspaper carried a headline, "Hands met but hearts did not." Do you think that when they come face to face again there will be any change of hearts this time?

Foreign Secretary: I do not really want to forecast what is going to happen. But let me say that dialogue is always useful. It helps clear the atmosphere and especially between neighbours, such as India and Pakistan. Dialogue is really the way forward.

Question: At the February 25 Foreign Secretary level talks you said that situation was not ripe yet for resuming Composite Dialogue. The talks ended with the two sides agreeing to remain in touch. My question is, is the situation ripe now? Secondly, have you been in touch with your counterpart following February 25 in the last one month or so? And has Pakistan got back to India on those dossiers?

Foreign Secretary: Pakistan has not got back to us on those dossiers that we handed over during the February 25 meeting. No, I have not heard from the Pakistan Foreign Secretary after we met on February 25. Is the situation ripe for the resumption of composite dialogue? The situation has not really changed in that regard because we need action in terms of movement on the Mumbai terror trials that are taking place in Pakistan. The levels of infiltration have been a cause for concern in the last few months. The infrastructure, the activities of terrorist groups on territory controlled by Pakistan is still a cause for serious concern.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



210. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Press Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagements at Thimphu.

Thimphu, April 29, 2010.

* * * *

After the Retreat that Prime Minister attended with the other Heads of State and Government, the bilateral meeting between our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan was held at Bhutan House. Prime Minister and Prime Minister Gilani had very good talks. They discussed all issues in a free and frank manner. They agreed that India-Pakistan cooperation is vital, if the people of South Asia are to realize their destiny and if SAARC is to become an effective and powerful instrument of regional cooperation. They agreed that relations between the two countries should be normalized, and channels of contact should work effectively to enlarge the constituency of peace in both countries.

Prime Minister emphasized to Prime Minister Gilani the various issues that cause concern to India, issues relating to terrorism, the rise in infiltration, and the slow progress in the trial of the Mumbai perpetrators. He told Prime Minister Gilani that India is willing to discuss all issues of concern with Pakistan and to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue, but that the issue of terrorism is holding back progress.

Prime Minister Gilani on his part shared his perceptions on these issues in a candid manner. He said Pakistan is serious about prosecuting the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks and that all efforts were being made to bring the trial of these individuals to a speedy conclusion. Prime Minister Gilani said that Pakistan would not allow Pakistan territory to be used for terrorist activity directed against India.

The meeting was an exercise in mutual comprehension because there is a lack of mutual trust in the relationship impeding the process of normalization. The two sides have agreed on the need to assess the reasons underlying the current state of relations, or current state of affairs of the relationship and to think afresh on the way forward.

They have agreed that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries will be charged with the responsibility of working out the modalities of restoring trust and confidence in the relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern. Thank you.

Question: The statement that you have just read out seems to indicate that there has been a decision to move forward and reopen some channels of communication but not maybe a full Composite Dialogue process. How would you categorize what you are saying that the Foreign Secretaries and Foreign Ministers are now to be charged with taking this forward? What would you call this process now?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think we have to get stuck with nomenclature here. I think what you have to focus on is the fact that both sides are agreed that dialogue is the only way forward, that it is essential to open channels of communication, that there is a need to restore trust and build mutual confidence and that we should discuss all issues of mutual concern.

Question: When you say that we are ready to think afresh, could it lead to Composite Dialogue in times to come? And, was the case of Hafiz Saeed specifically taken up?

Foreign Secretary: Prime Minister did mention our very deep and continuing concerns about Hafiz Saeed, the fact that he has been allowed to go free and engage in language and in communications that are certainly not conducive to building an atmosphere of peace and stability. Yes, we did mention it. And I believe our concerns were registered with the Pakistan side. They did mention that they have some difficulties as far as their judicial system is concerned about tackling such issues. We expressed the hope that their laws to deal with such issues could be strengthened in times to come. As I said in my answer in response to Maya's question, we are not getting stuck with nomenclature here. I am not going to answer that question in the way you have framed it. I said both sides have agreed that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries will take this process forward now, this process of trying to build more trust and confidence in the relationship and to address all issues of concern, thereby ensuring better communication between the two countries.

Question: After Sharm el-Sheikh there was a dialogue between the two prime ministers. Now when is the next meeting? Have any modalities been settled about it?

Foreign Secretary: No modalities have been worked out about it. Let me put it this way. The two sides have agreed to meet as soon as possible. We have not yet fixed a date. Obviously it would be unrealistic for me to tell you here and now that we fixed a date. The Prime Ministers have just met. But the instructions of the Prime Ministers are that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries should meet as soon as possible.

Question: Post-Sharm el-Sheikh there was this entire debate that there was a de-linking from terror as far as talks were concerned but we do seem to have gone back to the old position when we asked Pakistan to act especially on terrorism and track down terrorists. Could you throw some light on that? Secondly, were water disputes and the issue of Kasab brought up by the Pakistani side?

Foreign Secretary: The focus is on charting a course forward. That definitely I think is the message from today's meeting. So, the searchlight is really on the future, not on the past. Our concerns about terrorism remain very much on the agenda. Prime Minister was very clear that public opinion in India particularly is most concerned about this issue, the issue of the terror machine that operates from Pakistan and that it would be essential for Pakistan to address this issue comprehensively. I believe that Prime Minister Gilani understood the concerns that we expressed in this regard. For instance, on the Mumbai trials he said that their intention is to complete the trial as soon as possible to see that the perpetrators are brought to effective justice. When I say issues of concern will be discussed between the two countries, obviously they will encompass all issues of mutual concern.

Question: What about the water issue?

Foreign Secretary: I have answered that question. All issues of mutual concern would be focused on in the dialogue.

Question: But did the Pakistan Prime Minister raise this issue in particular?

Foreign Secretary: No, the idea was on the renewal of dialogue to understand the state of affairs in the relationship, what is it that is holding both sides back at the moment, how do we address the state of affairs? So, I think there was a lot of soul-searching here. I think you must regard this meeting in that light, a meeting that resulted in an understanding between the two sides that we should honestly attempt now to take this process forward because it is good for our two countries, it is good for the region, and it is good for the destiny of our two peoples.

*

*

*

*

Question: Madam, I was wondering what has really changed during the last two years? Pakistan has not given any assurance about attacking the terror and the same assurances came today. What has really changed the Government's mind to reopen the dialogue process?

Foreign Secretary: It is not just a question of one-side agreeing to reopen the dialogue process. I think there was a certain, shall I say, confluence of thought here of basically both sides agreeing that dialogue is the only way forward and that we must attempt to take this process forward, that we should discuss all issues of concern, we should try and understand what are the problems that affect the relationship, and that eventual normalization of relations is good for the people of the two countries and good for the growth of our economies. For instance, one terrorist attack sets back economic well-being by so many percentage points. So, I think both sides want to focus on development, want to focus on taking their economies forward, and improving the living standards of their people in generally bringing peace to the region.

Question: Madam, did the Pakistani side raise the issue of Baluchistan?

Foreign Secretary: The issue was not raised specifically. To the best of my knowledge it was not raised. On this issue, the Pakistan side is well aware of the fact that India does not seek to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, in the affairs of its neighbours, and Pakistan is our neighbour, and there has been no evidence at all to suggest that there has been any interference by us in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

Question: Madam, you said there was a lot of soul-searching.

Foreign Secretary: Well, that is my phrase.

Question: Okay. My question is about terrorism. Did the Pakistan Prime Minister give a commitment to our Prime Minister that there would be no use of Pakistani territory. Anyway, you did say something to this effect that any commitments on the end of terrorism vis-a-vis India? Do you think that there is any linkage between the end of terrorism and the beginning of dialogue?

Foreign Secretary: Prime Minister was very emphatic in mentioning that Pakistan has to act on the issue of terrorism, that the terror machine, as he termed it, that operates from Pakistan needs to be controlled, needs to be eliminated. That was very clearly said. Prime Minister Gilani on his part said that Pakistan was equally seized of these concerns, that terrorism has affected Pakistan's well-being also, and that they want to address this issue comprehensively and effectively.

Question: Madam, before this bilateral meeting, the Pakistan Foreign Office had said that Sharm el-Sheikh should be the foundation of whatever future dialogue takes place. Did any such matter come up at this meeting? Is that a position that can ever be acceptable to India?

Foreign Secretary: No, the issue did not come up.

Question: From your briefing we understand that the resumption of the dialogue between India and Pakistan is the biggest outcome of this meeting today.

Foreign Secretary: Dialogue was never broken off. From our side when did we ever say that dialogue was closed? When the Foreign Secretaries met in February we said at that time also that dialogue was the only way forward.

Question: I should say Composite Dialogue. How is it different from the Composite Dialogue? What would you be doing?

Foreign Secretary: I really do not want to get into that kind of debate. I think it does the relationship no good to get stuck with names like that. I think the idea is to discuss all issues of concern. I am not going to get

stuck with nomenclature, I said that very clearly. So, you are not going to get an answer from me on that.

Question: How long the two prime ministers talked one-to-one? Did the question of Kasab come up? There was a talk of handing over Kasab to Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: One-to-one meeting was for more than an hour. As far as the issue of Kasab is concerned, I was not present during the one-to-one discussion, let me say. I am not able to tell you whether that issue was discussed during the one-to-one meeting.

Question: You have just said that both sides have agreed to mutually get down analyzing why things have gone wrong between the two countries. Why this sudden realization? Do you think you want to disown the past and all the rhetoric that you have been engaging in about terror from Pak? What is the reason for this sudden change in attitude?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think literal interpretations can help this relationship. I do not believe the past can be abandoned. I do not believe in any relationship you forget the past and then build anew. You have to understand from the past and then build the future accordingly. I think that was what came through.

Question: Madam, there is frustration among the other countries that SAARC Summit has always been overshadowed by the bilateral problems between India and Pakistan. Apart from the bilateral issues, what is your view in terms of trade in services bringing about more economic cooperation between SAARC countries?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say to you that India attaches the utmost importance to its participation in SAARC, to the strengthening of regional cooperation within SAARC, to speed up the process of implementation of the various understandings and the projects that we have agreed to implement within the ambit of SAARC. And that came through very clearly in our meetings at the Standing Committee of the Foreign Secretaries, at the Council of Ministers, and at the Summit meeting yesterday. SAARC at 25 years, the Silver Jubilee 16th SAARC Summit I think focused on these issues very effectively. Of course, bilateral meetings are always

held on the sidelines of such summit meetings. The relationship between India and Pakistan I think receives the focus of all South Asian neighbours also. So, I know that there is a lot of interest when India and Pakistan meet. But I do not think the word overshadow should be used in this context. I think that SAARC, its cooperation among all eight neighbours in South Asia, has a vision for the future. In fact, the Vision Statement that the Summit Declaration hopes to speak of, you will see it once it is released, talks about a number of ideas that we could institutionalize to take this common vision of SAARC forward. Trade in services helps us to build more cooperation in the hospitality industry, in civil aviation, in health, in education. So, again it is a visible sign of SAARC coming of age, the new maturity in our cooperation.

Question: Just to go back to what you were saying that you do not want to get bogged down by nomenclature and that India and Pakistan will discuss all issues of concern, apart from terrorism what are the other issues of concern?

Foreign Secretary: Maya, I need not educate you on the relationship. You know exactly what is meant by that. So, I am not going into details, but all issues of concern.

Question: Okay. Just an aside. On the Madhuri Gupta case there is plenty of attention in Delhi. I am sure you all have been following the developments on that. Your reaction please?

Foreign Secretary: Our Minister of State for External Affairs has made a statement in Parliament today on the subject. I would ask you to refer to that.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



211. Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on his telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

New Delhi, May 11, 2010.

I had a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, my esteemed friend, Mr. S.M.Qureshi. This was a follow-up of the meeting of our two Prime Ministers in Thimphu where it was decided that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries will work out the methodology as to how the dialogue between the two countries can be carried on so that all outstanding issues between our two countries could be discussed in an atmosphere of mutual trust and mutual respect.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan has invited me to go to Islamabad on the 15th of July. So, I am planning to visit Islamabad for my talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Qureshi and I am looking forward to these talks. Let us hope that these talks will be helpful in bringing our two countries closer together, bringing our two countries the cordiality that all of us desire. And let us hope that our effort will be fruitful.



212. Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna with Raj Chengappa, Editor-in-Chief of the daily *The Tribune* published from Chandigarh.

New Delhi, May 20, 2010.

Mr. Raj Chengappa, Editor-in-Chief (RC): India has now agreed to hold talks at the ministerial level and you plan to go to Islamabad in July? What has changed in recent months that prompted this decision?

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): During the recent SAARC Summit at Thimphu, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had free and frank discussions. They felt the only way forward to settle all outstanding concerns between our two countries was to get back to the negotiating table.

RC: But what made India change its position?

EAM: Well, when Mumbai was attacked, we had to respond to the popular sentiment, which was also the government's sentiment. We wanted to tell Pakistan that the conspiracy for the attack was hatched in Pakistan, was executed by Pakistanis and we had clinching evidence which we provided to them to prove our point of view.. So we had to call off the composite dialogue. The government felt that under the circumstances, it was neither desirable nor acceptable for it to talk to Pakistan. Now, a year has passed and we know that Pakistan has certain difficulties internally. About Mumbai attacks, they have arrested a few persons and their trial is going on. There are many more from our list who are absconding.

RC: What is Pakistan's explanation for not moving fast enough to take action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks?

EAM: The argument put to us by Pakistan was that the executive does not have any control over the judicial process. We understand and respect that. Even in India, we cannot tell the courts what to do. And we have known that the judiciary in Pakistan has been fiercely independent in recent times.

RC: Was that the main reason?

EAM: We also thought of alternatives. What were the alternatives open to India? Shall we wage a war, a limited war, localised war or go after those suspected of the Mumbai attacks? Then it would become a full-scale war. What will then happen to the subcontinent? Let us remember that we are two nuclear powers and this fact heavily weighed on Dr Manmohan Singh's mind. So when the two leaders met in Thimphu, the tone and tenor of Pakistan created enough confidence in us. That they are serious and they do have difficulties. So we felt it was necessary for us to resume the talks. We thought political-level talks were more effective, productive and convincing than the talks at the bureaucratic levels.

RC: India doesn't seem to have defined the parameters of the talks?

EAM: The parameters of the talk are very clear and obvious. There is total distrust between our two countries. We won't trust them, they won't trust us. So the question arose as to what we can do to eliminate this distrust.

That is the reason why Dr Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Gilani said that we need to attack the trust deficit and they mandated that the Foreign Ministers would address this distrust, work out how to reduce it and eliminate it. And my attempt to go to Islamabad on July 15 is to make an effort to eliminate this trust deficit.

RC: Wouldn't India be diluting the terror issue by agreeing to talks with Pakistan?

EAM: No, terror will continue to be the core issue for us even when I go to Islamabad. I will be talking to Foreign Minister Qureshi on terror, on terror instrumentalities and how those terror instrumentalities are operating from the soil of Pakistan. But at the same time, Pakistan also says they are afflicted by terror. The Taliban and other terrorist outfits are active even in Pakistan against the establishment. So, that has to be factored while making an assessment of the impact of terror on India and Pakistan.

RC: Do you see the Pakistan government making sincere efforts to dismantle the terror apparatus and cut off establishment links?

EAM: In the light of the terror attacks they have been experiencing in their own country they are in a position to assess what terror is all about. Terrorists can strike any country anywhere and they can do it at will. That is what they have proved in Rawalpindi. That is what they have proved in Swat and various other areas. So I am sure, Pakistan would be looking at terror perhaps in the same prism with which India views it in.

RC: But Pakistan is yet to prosecute Hafiz Sayeed?

EAM: We have been telling them that we have given you enough evidence to prosecute Hafiz Sayeed who is the mastermind behind the Mumbai attacks. We have the evidence and that evidence is provable in a court of law; so I think they should proceed against him. To that their answer is that they took Hafiz Sayeed in custody and tried him twice. But both the times it was the court of law which let him out of custody. But we still insist that Hafiz Sayeed is the brain behind the Mumbai attacks and he has to be brought to justice.

RC: Would your talks include ways to tackle the Kashmir issue?

EAM: Well, I will not certainly at this point of time go into the details as to how we are going to solve the Kashmir problem. The Kashmir problem has been marooning us for so long and it will rather be too simplistic on my part as Foreign Minister to say that we are going to solve the Kashmir problem. But our efforts will certainly be to eliminate the prevailing distrust. The central theme of my visit to Pakistan is to make an effort to eliminate the distrust among us. I think if we succeed, something would have been achieved.

RC: So are we willing to talk on all aspects of the Kashmir issue?

EAM: We have said that we are going to discuss every issue which can be raised by Pakistan and which can be raised by India.

RC: The former Pakistan foreign minister K.M. Kasuri claims that India and Pakistan were close to a solution on Kashmir when Musharraf was in power. Is that true?

EAM: During the Shimla talks, it was said that something was clinched but early that morning it did not materialise. So there are so many ifs and buts, turns and roundabouts. I will certainly not like to dwell on that.

RC: What will be our thrust on Kashmir? We had talked of making borders irrelevant.

EAM: With reference to Kashmir, India's position is very clear. We do not have to repeat our stand which is that it belongs to the Indian Union and that the Pakistan is in illegal possession of certain parts of Jammu and Kashmir, which really belong to India according to the Constitution. That is our stated position.

RC: But we have been talking to Pakistan about making the borders softer. Is that something we would still pursue?

EAM: I am going to Islamabad in about a month's time so it is rather delicate to spell it out.

RC: Are you planning to discuss Siachen?

EAM: It is too early in the day for us to be looking at tension points. It will be on the table if Pakistan raises it.

RC: Pakistan has been saying that water too is becoming a contentious issue?

EAM: Well, we have the Indus Water Treaty and the Indus Water Commission. The experts met recently in Delhi. If Pakistan has any concerns, those can always be referred to the Commission or to the committee of experts. So that is why we have said that on water, or anything else, we are willing to talk. According to me, with reference to water issues, there is already a mechanism which is in place and this can always be applied.

RC: Pakistan had talked about India's involvement in Balochistan. Is that still in an issue?

EAM: I do not think Balochistan is an issue any more. They have not given us any proof about India's involvement in Balochistan. In the absence of proof, it would not be fair to accuse India. The Indian Government's position is that we will not interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

RC: The Opposition especially the BJP charges your government of going soft on Pakistan and says you are willing compromise India's national interests in doing so?

EAM: Safeguarding India's national interest, safeguarding India's security, safeguarding India's sovereignty is supreme in our minds. It is beyond any compromise and I do not think that anybody could make that kind of a charge against us. But at the same time, we would like to have friendly relations with our neighbours. This is our twin approach towards Pakistan. One is that India's national interest will be intact and secondly we would have friendly and cordial relations with Pakistan and with all the neighbours of India.

RC: The BJP president in an interview to The Tribune said India should not be talking to Pakistan. What is your reaction?

EAM: I think when NDA was in power they did talk to Pakistan and they took a lot more days talking to Pakistan than we have done in the six years of UPA rule. So they need to look at it from the larger perspective of our neighbourhood. The larger perspective is how long are we going to keep on fighting? I think we will have to talk to Pakistan and come to an understanding with them because that will be in our interest and that will be in their interest and in the interest of all our neighbours as well.



213. Reaction of the Government of India to comments made by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at its 37th Foreign Ministers Meeting.

New Delhi, May 26, 2010.

We note with regret that the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers has once again chosen to comment upon Jammu and Kashmir and India's internal affairs in the Resolutions adopted by the Organisation of Islamic Conferences Foreign Ministers at then 37th session held at Dushanbe during May 18-20, 2010. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning India's internal affairs. We reject all such references/resolutions.



214. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Terrorist Attacks in Lahore on May 28, 2010.

New Delhi, May 28, 2010.

Government strongly condemns the terrorist attacks* in Lahore that have claimed the lives of scores of innocent people and injured many more. Our condolences go out to the families of those killed by these acts of terrorism.



* The Spokesperson was referring to terrorist attacks on two Ahmadis mosques in which eighty people were killed and 70 injured in Lahore during Friday prayers. Armed with grenades, the gunmen held people hostage in the mosques for nearly three hours before security personnel managed to take control of the besieged premises

215. Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Afghanistan-India-Pakistan Triologue organised by Delhi Policy Group.

New Delhi, June 13, 2010.

Please see Document No.175.



216. Response of Official Spokesperson on nomination of two arbitrators by India in respect of Kishenganga Hydro-electric Project.

New Delhi, June 16, 2010.

In response to a question, the official Spokesperson stated that on May 18, 2010, Government of Pakistan has instituted arbitration proceedings on the Kishenganga Hydro-electric Project, being constructed on the River Kishenganga, in Jammu & Kashmir, in terms of paragraph 2 (b) and paragraph 6 of Annexure G to the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, by appointing H.E. Mr. Bruno Simma, Judge of the International Court of Justice and Mr. Jan Paulsson, an international legal consultant, as its arbitrators for the 7-member Court of Arbitration, which is being set up in accordance with the Treaty.

As per the Treaty provision, Government of India has conveyed to Pakistan today, the names of the following as its two arbitrators:

- i) H.E. Mr. Peter Tomka, Vice President of the International Court of Justice.
- ii) Professor Lucius Caflisch, an international Legal expert of repute and Member of the International Law Commission.

Furthermore, Government of India has also invited Government of Pakistan for consultations regarding the appointment of three umpires, including a Chairman of the Court of Arbitration, by mutual agreement.



217. Statement by Official Spokesperson on handing over information to Pakistan on Mumbai Terror Attacks.**New Delhi, June 18, 2010.**

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson stated that the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan was called in this afternoon and handed over a set of responses to the 6 dossiers received from Pakistan on April 25, 2010 on the Mumbai terror attacks.

**218. Extract* relevant to Pakistan from the Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary and Secretary (West) on the Prime Minister's visit to Canada.****New Delhi, June 22, 2010.**

* * * * *

Question: Just a clarification on the civil nuclear energy cooperation. Will this agreement pave way for Canadian nuclear companies setting up nuclear reactors in India or supplying nuclear fuel to India? Also, since Canada is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, will the Prime Minister raise the issue of Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation?

Secretary (West): As far as the Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation issue is concerned I think Foreign Secretary may like to say something. To answer the earlier part of your question, yes I think the agreement does cover the supplies of uranium and natural resources. As far as cooperation is concerned, I think that would be decided by the concerned authorities here which is the Department of Atomic Energy.

Foreign Secretary: I had anticipated that you would ask this question. As you are aware, we have been following reports about the supply of two additional nuclear power reactors by China to Pakistan. Now there are

* For full text of the Briefing please see Document No.555.

reports that all of us have seen, which mention also the issue of the supply of these reactors in the context of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines. As you know, India is not a member of the NSG. But we are monitoring the debate and the developments in this regard as they relate to this subject of supply of nuclear reactors by China to Pakistan.

* * * *

Question: Madam, you are going to Pakistan tomorrow. India and Pakistan have exchanged 19 dossiers so far after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks but the investigations there seem to be tardy. How hopeful are you that with the visit of the Home Minister things will move forward? Do you think that it is time for Pakistan to take some credible action to actually prosecute the 26/11 perpetrators?

Foreign Secretary: We have always emphasised the need for credible action on the part of Pakistan, in regard to the evidence that we have provided on the Mumbai terror attacks, the additional information that has been provided over the last few months. We have underlined the need for Pakistan to take this evidence seriously, to take it onboard and to take substantive action in response to what we have conveyed to them. Obviously, this issue will form a part of our discussions with the Pakistan Government during the forthcoming visit. I will be meeting with my Pakistani counterpart Mr. Salman Bashir in Islamabad day after tomorrow. Also, our Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, who is going to Islamabad for the SAARC Interior Ministers meeting, will have a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Rehman Malik. Obviously, our core concerns about this issue will be conveyed and will be discussed.

As far as the firing, it is extremely unfortunate. Over the last few months we have pointed and we have conveyed to Pakistan our concerns about the rise in infiltration, about the ceasefire violations, and the fact that such incidents which have been provoked for no reason at all do not contribute to a positive atmosphere between India and Pakistan.



219. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at press conference in Islamabad.

Islamabad, June 24, 2010.

Foreign Secretary of India (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you very much, Foreign Secretary Bashir and a good afternoon to all of you.

I am very happy to be here in Islamabad. I would like to thank Foreign Secretary Bashir and his colleagues for the warmth of their hospitality and the friendly reception that we have received during our stay here in Islamabad. I would like to add my words to those of Mr. Bashir. He described our discussions as cordial and constructive and I would fully endorse that. I think our discussions have been not just exploratory; we have sought to understand each other's position. We have a forward-looking orientation and vision as far as this relationship is concerned.

We have taken inspiration from the meeting between our two Prime Minister's at Thimphu which has really paved the way for these discussions today as we prepare for the visit next month of the External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna to Islamabad for discussions with His Excellency Foreign Minister Qureshi of Pakistan.

During our discussions here today we have reflected on the modalities for restoring trust and confidence so that we are able to pave the way for a comprehensive, sustained and meaningful dialogue on all issues of mutual interest and concern. We are agreed that dialogue is the best way forward. I also had the privilege of calling on Foreign Minister Qureshi and listening to his very constructive and profoundly meaningful views on our bilateral ties and the strengthening of the relations between India and Pakistan.

I believe that the destiny of our two peoples is linked to each other. As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said very recently, our two countries should adopt effective ways of cooperation to the benefit of the people of both countries. I believe that the people are the lifeblood of any relationship, and that is the way we look at the discussions, at the dialogue between our two Foreign Ministries.

Let me add that I have always looked forward to my discussions with Foreign Secretary Bashir. I have admired his professionalism and his deep understanding of many issues that concern our bilateral relations. Today we were able to cover a range of such issues in a sense to prepare for the meeting between our two Foreign Ministers here in this city in July.

I think we owe it to our peoples to chart a course forward as far as the normalization of our relations is concerned, to narrow differences and to embark upon collaborative engagement. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson of India (Shri Vishnu Prakash): With the permission of my colleague, there will be two questions on each side. The first question goes to India.

Question: Ma'am, my first question to you is cross border terrorism continues to be the core issue for India. Did India set any goal post and any standards that Pakistan must do to stop cross border terrorism, to crack down on Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and other such terrorist groups or, is it still an open-ended requests?

Foreign Secretary of India: Smita, let me say that when I said we discussed all outstanding issues that are relevant to the relationship obviously our core concerns about terrorism were also articulated. Prime Minister Gilani had assured our Prime Minister, when they met in Thimphu, that Pakistan will not allow its soil to be used for terrorist activities against India. We believe that is an important commitment. What we also believe is that we should jointly work together towards our goal of resolution of outstanding issues and also to deal with the dangers, with the threat, with the evils of terrorism. I believe we must work together to deal with that threat, and we must deny terrorist elements any opportunity to derail the process of improvement of relations between our two countries.

Question: Madam, welcome to Pakistan. My question to you is that what is worrying India from having Composite Dialogue between our two countries? Is it that India is not interested in the nomenclature of the Composite Dialogue or India does not want to have to structured dialogue with Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary of India: I think you have to focus on the fact that dialogue is the best option that exists for the improvement of relations and deepening of understanding between our two countries. It is not an issue of the nomenclature that we attach to this dialogue. We used the adjectives 'serious', 'sustained', and 'comprehensive' when we talked about the dialogue that we are seeking to re-engage in between our two countries. So, I think the focus, the orientation must be to the fact that dialogue is resuming between the two countries; that we are re-engaging with each other; that we are looking at the current climate of relations; we are trying to understand and comprehend why there is a trust deficit between the two countries; how we bridge it. India has talked about its concerns about terrorism. My colleague Mr. Bashir listened to what I had to say. And then we discussed how best we can handle these situations. I think you must understand the total picture that now is trying to be put into place by the two countries; look forward to the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers here in July. So, there is a whole chapter that we are seeking to put in place as far as this relationship is concerned.

Question: I would like to ask both of you if you have agreed on some concrete programme for returning to peace talks and what were the proposals that were discussed?

Foreign Secretary of India: I think at the expense of repeating myself I would just like to say that we are looking at the future of this relationship, that India and Pakistan together must be the arbiters of the destiny of their peoples. We would like a stable, a prosperous, a peaceful Pakistan. Pakistan is in many senses our closest neighbour. The people of the two countries, I believe there is a constituency for peace in both countries. And that is really the spirit that informs this dialogue. I think we should avoid stock phrases like roadmaps and agendas and what topics we have discussed. The vision that is taking this relationship forward, a vision that looks at the last sixty years, understands the difficulties that have torn us apart, that have kept us apart; and to draw the right conclusions and the right lessons from those experiences, and to say that for the future we must think of how better to cooperate, how better to resolve our differences, understand that this is going to be a protracted process, it is going to take time, but there are many doables and achievables that we can think of in the interregnum, but certainly

be informed by this vision of a peaceful relationship for the future between our two countries, and which can best be achieved through dialogue, a serious, comprehensive, and sustained dialogue.

Question: How do you propose to insulate this process that has begun from any Mumbai-like attacks if it happens again? Has any kind of mechanism been considered to sustain dialogue as such?

Foreign Secretary of India: That will be the subject of ongoing discussion between the two sides. We referred to strengthening and solidifying our cooperation and our dialogue to deal with terrorism. Our Home Minister is expected here tomorrow. He will hold discussions with the Interior Minister of Pakistan. So, all this will provide us with opportunities to focus on this issue.



220. Response of Official Spokesperson to terrorist attack in Lahore.

New Delhi, July 2, 2010.

In response to a question on the terrorist attack in Lahore, the Official Spokesperson said:

Government strongly condemns the terrorist attacks on Data Darbar in Lahore and expresses sympathies to the families of the bereaved.



At least 41 people were killed and nearly 175 injured in the suicide bomb attack on the Data Darbar complex in Lahore. The bombings at the shrine of the Persian Sufi saint Hazrat Syed Ali bin Usman Hajweri are being seen as not just an attack on a crowded place but an assault on the tolerant Sufi tradition.

221. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Pakistan for bilateral talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister.

Islamabad, July 14, 2010.

Friends,

I am very pleased to be in Pakistan on the invitation of my distinguished colleague, H.E. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan. This is an important visit as it marks the beginning of a new journey in our efforts to build a peaceful, friendly and cooperative relationship between our two countries.

I bring with me the warm greetings of the people and Government of India for the well being of the people and Government of Pakistan. I would also like to convey our best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous and stable Pakistan.

During my stay in Islamabad, I, along with my delegation, am looking forward to my meetings with Foreign Minister Qureshi and his delegation. We hope to discuss all issues of mutual interest and concern that can contribute to restoring trust and building confidence in our bilateral relationship. I also look forward to receiving feedback on the issues raised by our Home Minister during his visit to Pakistan last month on our core concern of terrorism, particularly in the light of the discussions our Home Minister had in Pakistan in the context of the interrogation of David Coleman Headley regarding the Mumbai terrorist attack. India is committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan through a peaceful dialogue and negotiations, based on mutual trust and confidence.

I am also honoured by having the opportunity of calling on their Excellencies the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan.

I am carrying with me a message of peace and friendship from the people of India and we hope to undertake this voyage of peace, however long and arduous, jointly with the Government and people of Pakistan.

Thank you !



222. Opening Statements by Pakistan Foreign Minister and External Affairs Minister S.M.Krishna at the Joint Press Interaction.

Islamabad, July 15, 2010.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan (Mr. S.M. Qureshi): Ladies and Gentlemen, my apologies to keep you waiting. It took much longer than anticipated. Obviously, we were meeting after a long interval. There was so much to discuss. Mr. Krishna, the External Affairs Minister, and myself, we had a very frank, candid and honest discussion on where we stand, how we look at our bilateral relations, and how do we move forward.

Pakistan has always wanted friendly, cooperative, and good neighbourly relations with India. We have started a process to achieve this objective. Both sides recognize that process had made incremental progress. We had made substantive progress in a number of areas as well. Both sides at the leadership level in Thimphu, Bhutan, agreed that dialogue is the only way forward and is the most preferred way forward.

The two Foreign Ministers were given the task to sit and discuss ways and means to restore confidence and bridge the trust deficit. Today we have had an extended meeting looking at various options, looking at various steps that would build and restore confidence, that would bridge trust deficit.

If our objective is good neighbourly relations, friendly, cooperative relations, the question is, how can we achieve this if we are not engaging? We cannot achieve this objective while remaining disengaged. And that is why the two Prime Ministers felt the necessity to resume the dialogue process.

If we want to move forward, the question is how do we move forward without addressing issues of mutual concern? And there are many issues of mutual concern. Let me point out terrorism is an issue of mutual concern. Today India and Pakistan both are victims of terrorism. How do we face this challenge? We have come to the conclusion that the

best way to deal with this challenge is to recognize this as a common enemy and adopt a common approach vis-à-vis this menace. I explained to the Foreign Minister the change in mood within Pakistan, the steps Pakistan has undertaken to deal with this menace, and the law enforcement operations under way in Pakistan.

We also discussed how we can hasten the trial process which is under way. We recognize and accept that the meeting of the Home Minister and the Interior Minister was encouraging. We are of the view that the meeting between the Foreign Secretaries was very useful to lay the foundations for a sustained, meaningful, result-oriented dialogue.

Pakistan would take the leads provided by the Home Minister very seriously because we want to move on. Resolution of outstanding issues is important. Today there are issues which are of significance to India. And progress vis-à-vis the Mumbai trial, cooperation in overcoming the challenge of terrorism is important and has taken a very prominent role. One recognizes that. But there are issues that are of core importance to Pakistan. They should be addressed and we have to discuss them. We have agreed on the need to discuss them, to make the process meaningful.

In our discussions we were very frank and we had a discussion on all the issues that are of importance whether it is terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir, the recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachen. How there are opportunities of economic cooperation, and how through economic integration we can uplift the quality of the ordinary citizens of South Asia, how people-to-people contacts will facilitate and create an enabling environment to sustain the dialogue, all these issues were discussed in a very open, in a very frank, and in a very candid manner.

We have made progress on certain Kashmir-related CBMs. We have discussed how useful they have been and how we can build on what we have achieved in the past, whether it is cross-LoC trade or travel. We have talked about the fact that we can reach an amicable resolution of the Sir Creek issue. And Pakistan has asked for the Indian proposal that was made verbally to be sent to us in writing.

We have also discussed how we can take steps that will improve, help many people like prisoners, like fishermen. But we feel we have to look

at the larger picture and all issues have to be dealt in tandem. We have to respect the Indian point of view and they have to understand Pakistan's point of view, and collectively we have to move on.

So, today's prolonged discussions were useful in creating an understanding how to move forward. We have agreed that this process is valuable, and we will continue to meet in the future as well. We also feel that the progress made through a concerted effort in the last four years should not come to naught and we should build on it. So, to that extent I would say this was a useful meeting; it was a useful engagement; and we have agreed to continue this engagement in the days to come.

Thank you.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Excellency, Foreign Minister Qureshi, ladies and gentlemen, I would join the distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan in profusely apologizing to all of you for making you wait for a long time. The nature of these discussions that we had had was such that it could not be concluded on time. In the meanwhile, I had the honor of calling on the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and also the Prime Minister of this country. As a result of these engagements, we were delayed.

Let me start by thanking Foreign Minister Qureshi for the remarks he just now made. The sentiments that he has expressed about good neighborly relationship between our two countries, that's what we have been striving for the last so many years. At times, we have succeeded, at times we have not been able to make for the kind of progress that we expected, we thought we would. Foreign Minister Qureshi and I along with our delegations have had cordial and useful exchange of views on all issues concerning our relationship. We reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence in keeping with the mandate given to both of us by the respective Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan during their meeting in Thimphu. This was to pave the way for a serious, comprehensive and sustained dialogue thereon, on issues of mutual interest and concern.

I think our talks have enabled us to develop better understanding. We are starting on this journey cognizant of the complexities in our relationship, the challenges that lie ahead and the promise that a good neighborly relationship between our two countries holds for our peoples. India is committed to being a sincere partner in our efforts to establish peaceful and cooperative relations between our two countries. I would also like to reiterate that India desires a peaceful stable and prosperous Pakistan. We wish the people of Pakistan well. Our Prime Minister has ambition of prosperity in south Asia in which all countries of the region grow together in a cooperative mode.

I have conveyed to the distinguished Foreign Minister Qureshi that effective action against terrorism directed against India and all out effort by Pakistan to fulfill the commitment given by His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Thimphu, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism against India would go a long way in building trust and confidence. I am indeed please that Foreign Minister Mr. Qureshi has assured me that the Government of Pakistan will do everything in its power to fulfill this commitment. In this context Foreign Minister Mr. Qureshi has also assured me that the investigation in the Mumbai terrorist attack case, taking into account the additional information coming out the recent interrogation of David Coleman Headley and provided by our Home Minister during his visit to Pakistan last month, could be pursued rigorously to unravel the full conspiracy and bring all the perpetrators of that horrific crime to justice.

He has also further told me that steps are being taken to speed up the ongoing trial by the seven accused under detention. In addition to the above, FM Qureshi and I discussed a number of other bilateral issues. The bottom line is that it was good and constructive discussion. I look forward to my continued discussion on this issue and other issues and I have invited FM Qureshi to visit India, and I would look forward to welcome him to India in the near future.

FM Qureshi and the government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan have showed enormous goodwill towards Indian and the Indian

delegation. I am indeed grateful and I would like to thank Foreign Minister Qureshi from the core of my heart for the excellent arrangements he has made to take care of the Indian delegation and let me conclude by wishing government of Pakistan, Foreign Minister Qureshi and the people of Pakistan God's peace and prosperity, may we continue to be good neighbors and with this I would like to conclude and offer my thanks to Foreign Minister Qureshi.



223. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to CNN IBN TV.

New Delhi, July 16, 2010.

CNN-IBN: Qureshi saying even as our External Affairs Minister was on Pakistani soil been seen as an insult to India and not just minister. What is your reaction to that?

Nirupama Rao: This (Friday) morning's appearance by Foreign Minister Qureshi came some what as a surprise. Obviously in our view there was no reason for that follow up comment.

CNN-IBN: Do you think that under this kind of political pressure the dialogue process can still go on?

Nirupama Rao: I definitely am of the view that the dialogue process must go on and by no means would I define yesterday's (Thursday) meeting as having ended in a collapse. Well in the discussions we did talk of specifics. It is just that we did not announce anything and I want to be frank that there was a hiatus in expectations from both sides and we had a very clear set of do-ables that we thought we would discuss with Pakistan. The Pakistanis came to this with a slightly different expectation. I think the aim on their side was to see the entire spectrum of dialogue restored.

CNN-IBN: External Affairs Minister was clear when he reached Pakistan as to what kind of assurances Pakistan could give on Mumbai attacks. Did you come up with any assurance?

Nirupama Rao: Pakistan did tell us that they were looking into evidence and they would come out with the result. They told us that they wanted the trial to proceed fast. One can only hope that they will deliver on the assurances.

CNN-IBN: Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said after the meeting that the ball is now in India's court. What does that mean?

Nirupama Rao: As far as we are concerned we are very clear as to how this process should move forward. We had concrete ideas and we have conveyed it to the Pakistani side. So I think it is for Pakistan really to introspect.

(Foreign Secretary also gave similar interviews to other news TV channels. Document Nos.224, 225, 226 and 227)



224. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with NDTV.

New Delhi, July 16, 2010.

[**Barkha Dutt:** With so much controversy surrounding the India Pakistan meeting of the two foreign ministers...the meeting of SM Krishna and Shah Mehmood Qureshi... where does this leave the peace process. India at this point said that the attempt is to bridge the trust deficit but has this now become a deficit of trust.]

(Joining us now on NDTV is Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.)

Thank you for your time ma'am.

When you look at the perception in the media on both sides that the talks, in a sense, have collapsed...the talks are in tatters and that it was unprecedented acrimony. Would you agree that the talks did not all go the way you had hoped?

Nirupama Rao: Well Barkha, I would by no means say that the talks collapsed. I think what happened yesterday was we were able to have a very, I must say, protracted discussion on various ideas that could take the dialogue forward. There was a hiatus, if I may say so, in expectations because I believe that the Pakistan side had certain ideas about the re-engagement that were not completely acceptable.

Barkha Dutt: I wanted to ask you that one of the central controversies has been the fact that when Shah Mehmood Qureshi, in response to a question on Hafiz Saeed, compared this to draw some sort of equivalence with G K Pillai's remarks* on the ISI's role in 26/11. Questions are being raised as to why our Foreign Minister at that time did not rebut the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Why did he not Ms Rao?

* The irritant appeared to have been Home Secretary G.K. Pillai's remarks that the Inter-Services Intelligence had coordinated the Mumbai terror attacks. Asked why Jamaat-ud-Dawah chief Hafiz Saeed was not being reined in by Pakistan from making anti-India speeches, Mr. Qureshi retorted: "I agree that both sides need to create an enabling environment and not let the climate of engagement be vitiated by negative propaganda. But, I want to know to what extent did the Indian Home Secretary's statement on the eve of the dialogue help? We are both of the opinion that it was uncalled for."

Nirupama Rao: Well Barkha, the External Affairs Minister said very clearly on record today (Friday) that there was no question on any comparison between Hafiz Saeed and the disclosures made by the Home Secretary on the David Coleman Headley's investigation. And at no point, may I add categorically, during the discussion held yesterday (on Thursday) did the External Affairs Minister in any sense express agreement with the point of view of Mr. Qureshi on the remarks of the Home Secretary.

Barkha Dutt: Can I then clarify Ms. Rao that although Mr. Qureshi claimed that both Foreign Ministers were in agreement that the Home Secretary's remarks were ill-timed...no such indication was in fact given by the Indian delegations to the Pakistani delegation in the course of the talks. Is that correct?

Nirupama Rao: Yes, absolutely. No such indication.

Barkha Dutt: Ms. Rao was it then considered a choice by the Foreign Minister to not rebut Mr. Qureshi in public when those remarks were made?

Nirupama Rao: Well, I think if you were there at the press conference at the Pakistan Foreign Ministry...there were a huge number of journalists...the pell mell of questions and you know the to and fro... the queries that were raised, the answers from the Foreign Ministers...it may have just happened at that stage the External Affairs Minister did not react. But by no means can you draw the conclusion from that, that External Affairs Minister SM Krishna was in any way in agreement with the remarks of Mr. Qureshi.

Barkha Dutt: Ms Rao did it handicap the Indian side, the timing of the Home Secretary's remarks?

Nirupama Rao: Well, I think one has to be very clear about our sights here. We have a dialogue that we are seeking to restore with Pakistan but we also have very real core concerns about terrorism and about the trauma of Mumbai, the aftermath of Mumbai and the action that Pakistan needs to take on the basis of very credible evidence on the involvement of Pakistani agencies, Pakistani nationals in the Mumbai attacks. So the Home Secretary was perfectly within his rights to draw attention to this.

Nirupama Rao: Well Barkha, about the involvement of the state and the non-state agencies in the whole business of terror unleashed in India by Pakistan, this disclosure about the involvement of ISI is not new to India.

India has all along maintained that when it comes to the terror machine that unfortunately continues to exist in Pakistan...that there are serious introspections that are required by Pakistan into why terror has been used as an instrument in policy against India...and that involves both state and non-state actors ...I am constrained to say that there are state and non-state actors and Pakistan needs to undergo that whole process of...I believe of catharsis when it comes to understanding why terror is now threatening the very fabric of Pakistan itself.

Barkha Dutt: Mr. Qureshi also suggested this morning that the Foreign Minister did not have the mandate to take his own decisions and that he was on phone to New Delhi throughout...something that Mr Krishna then went on to deny. Are you concerned as the highest ranking diplomat of India at the tone and tenor of the remarks of the foreign Minister of Pakistan?

Nirupama Rao: Well definitely the tone and tenure of those remarks have not contributed...let me say...to a positive atmosphere between India and Pakistan and I believe those were remarks that could have been avoided.

Barkha Dutt: Where do these talks leave India and Pakistan at the present moment? How would you describe it? You said in the beginning that the talks have not collapsed. What would be your choice of words to describe what has happened in the last 24 hours?

Nirupama Rao: Well I think we went through a very serious discussion yesterday. It was by no means a futile exercise. We have several pointers before us as far as the future is concerned. We have exchanged ideas. We have by no means come to a conclusion which would suggest that the way forward is blocked in any way. And as I said and as our Foreign Minister said, Mr. Qureshi is due to come to India in the later in the year. In the interregnum there is time enough for us and I believe particularly for Pakistan to reflect on the process...the modalities carrying it forward and to understand that the reduction of the trust deficit and the building of confidence are itself catalysts to take this dialogue forward. And that is why we need to undertake graduated steps when it comes to the resumption of dialogue.

Barkha Dutt: Would you concede Ms Rao that the core issue right now is the difference in perception on what the framework of dialogue should be...India pushing for terrorism only agenda and Pakistan wanting a more formal resumption of the composite dialogue and how do you bridge this gap?

Nirupama Rao: Well there is a gap in perception, I have to be honest and admit that. But these are not unbridgeable divides between India and Pakistan. On a number of ideas that we exchanged yesterday we were in agreement...in agreement about how to build confidence and trust. On certain other ideas I think much more time and ground will needed to be covered before we can say we are ready to start dialogue in those particular areas. But let me say that in most of the sectors that we talked about yesterday...the sectors for resumption of dialogue...we were in agreement.

Barkha Dutt: Would you say you are disappointed today? Do you come back from Pakistan disappointed?

Nirupama Rao: Well, I would say that I would have hoped that we would've had a more positive outcome to our discussions yesterday. But I think in diplomacy, as in life, disappointments such as these need to be surmounted because as neighbors India and Pakistan will have to deal with each other. We don't have the luxury of maintaining irresolvable distances between our two countries.

(Foreign Secretary also gave similar interviews to other news TV channels. Document Nos.223,225,226 and 227)



225. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the TV channel 'Times Now'.

New Delhi, July 16, 2010.

Times Now: The BJP has called on the government to call off the dialogue with Pakistan. Is there any merit in this demand? Or do you see it as a knee jerk reaction from the Opposition based on one irresponsible comment from the Pakistanis?

Nirupama Rao: Well I think dialogue with Pakistan is essential and continues to be the best option to engage Pakistan. We are neighbours and that goes without saying, everybody knows that and the issue of engagement with Pakistan in the context of discussing the very issues that divide us is essential. That is the way it has been all over the world and India and Pakistan are no exception.

Times Now: So you are completely ruling out the option?

Nirupama Rao: I don't believe that as I said we should abandon the course of dialogue with Pakistan.

Times Now: BJP is disappointed with India's response. Is India going to seek an official apology from Pakistan over Qureshi's remarks?

Nirupama Rao: Well I think it is for Pakistan to reflect and introspect very deeply on the remarks that they made. They were certainly unfortunate and misplaced. They were not in good diplomatic taste and I think it is for Pakistan to really understand that such remarks do not contribute to the building of trust and confidence between our two countries. I think the ball is in Pakistan's court.

Times Now: It is being said that External Affairs Minister SM Krishna's mandate was weak and it was shrunk during the talks leading to confusion. Is this true that calls were made to Mr. Krishna during the talks?

Nirupama Rao: I categorically reject that sort of description. By no means was our mandate restricted, by no means was it weak, by no means was it diluted. It was a very clear and a very well defined and a

precise mandate. And we didn't need to stray from it in any manner because it was so clearly defined.

Times Now: What's the next step Ms Rao? Where does India go from here?

Nirupama Rao: Well we have to see how the Pakistanis respond to ideas that we have put forward. I will be frank in saying that there was a hiatus in expectations. We had very precise as I said were very clearly defined ideas on how to take this dialogue forward. We had had the opportunity to discuss this with Pakistan over the last few months so we clearly knew where we were going. I think in Pakistan's case the idea or the perspective was to resume dialogue across all fronts. But obviously the process of building trust, the enhancement of confidence has to proceed before you can resume dialogue in all the areas in which Pakistan and India were engaged in years before. But a positive thing that has emerged out of what we discussed with Pakistan yesterday was the affirmation by Foreign Minister Qureshi that Pakistan stood by the achievements made in the bilateral dialogue between our two countries in the period between 2004 and 2008.

Times Now: SM Krishna is in Afghanistan tomorrow. So will Mr. Qureshi be there. Is there any possibility of the two meeting and talking?

Nirupama Rao: I presume you are referring to the Kabul conference which will take place on the 20th of this month. Both Foreign Minister Krishna and Foreign Minister Qureshi will be attending this conference. I don't believe there will be any bilateral meeting during the conference because the way it is structured and the business that has to be transacted at that conference is not going to leave much time for bilateral meetings to begin with and secondly they have just met in Islamabad.

(Foreign Secretary also gave similar interviews to other news TV channels. Document Nos. 223,224,226 and 227)



226. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to 'Headlines Today' TV Channel.

New Delhi, July 18, 2010.

Interviewer: We have India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao with us today. Welcome to Headlines Today, Madam.

Madam, what went wrong in the Indo-Pak talks? I believe everything was going according to the script. You had also agreed to announce a series of CBMs. Then suddenly I think Pakistan made a u-turn. What really went wrong? What was the sticking point?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): I would not put it in such black and white terms. In a relationship as complex as this, success is the way you define a term. And if you can see the fact that after a long interregnum where we did not have any dialogue or discussions, the fact that we have resumed these meetings and we are beginning to discuss the possibilities of resumption of dialogue in a number of areas, I think that itself is a measure of progress.

Interviewer: But aren't you disappointed that you have come back without, because some of those CBMs that you were discussing on humanitarian measures, on cross LoC trade and all would have benefited the people of both sides?

Foreign Secretary: It is not as if measures have thrown out of the window. The fact is that these measures, the suggestions that we made are very much on the table, and the Pakistan side is aware of it. And never at any moment did we say that we were going to walk away from the talks and the suggestions we had made no longer were on the table. So, they are very much there and they are for Pakistan to consider. We have a very open, constructive approach to this dialogue. We are very conscious of the goals that we wish to achieve. Let me add that our core concern about terrorism remains very very central to this discussion. By no means has that focus been diluted either.

Interviewer: But has that been addressed? Are you confident that Pakistan will take action against 26/11 perpetrators; they will expedite the case?

Foreign Secretary: One hopes that Pakistan will take action against the perpetrators of 26/11. And even during the meetings that we had during our recent visit to Islamabad, all the dignitaries and leaders that our External Affairs Minister met reassured him that Pakistan was serious about taking action on the issue of bringing the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to justice. Now, one can only hope that Pakistan delivers on those assurances but what they told us during these talks, including the Interior Minister Mr. Rahman Mallik whom our Minister met during our meetings with Prime Minister Gilani and President Zardari, assured him that Pakistan intended to deliver on the evidence that we had given to them and that they would get back to us.

Interviewer: There is a sense here that the hardliners in the Pakistani establishment, that is the Pakistani Army, is behind the derailing of whatever agreement that you were supposed to have. What is your sense? Do you think that there are some people within Pakistan who felt that timeline was essential, that India must go ahead with what they wanted to announce, the complete calendar of the Composite Dialogue process?

Foreign Secretary: As I said at the outset, we are fully clear-eyed and clear-headed about the fact that there are lots of complexities in this dialogue as we move forward. I do not think at any moment we felt that the going was not going to be difficult. I think from what you saw during this latest round of discussions it is very clear that some more time will be needed for this process to pick up the momentum that we would like to see in place, especially because the reduction of the trust deficit and building of confidence requires us to start with doable steps, graduated steps. And that has been our approach. From the Pakistan side I think their levels of ambition seemed to be a little higher, if I may put it diplomatically. There I think there is a hiatus. Our level of ambition is lofty. I would say it is very lofty because we have this vision of a fully normalized relationship between our two countries. But we understand that the path to the summit has to be a protracted one because we have many obstacles to clear as we go along.

Interviewer: But who are these ambitious people on Pakistan side who actually made sure that they had a u-turn of sorts because you had agreed certain things with the Pakistan Foreign Secretary when you had gone there? Obviously they were well aware of what are the proposals that you were carrying to Islamabad.

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to theorize about who those people were and I do not think it would be professional on my part to do that. Of course we all understand the nature of internal politics in Pakistan. I do not need to go into details, I am sure you are as well informed as I am.

Interviewer: Yes. What next from here? Do you think that the peace process has suffered a bit? Are you disappointed? Where do we go next?

Foreign Secretary: I think we have come away with the sober realization that there is a lot of work that we both sides will have to do to take this process forward. Our Minister, External Affairs Minister Krishna, has conveyed to Foreign Minister Qureshi that we are ready to take this dialogue forward. So, our willingness, the political will that we have indicated remains very much central to this process. And, as I said, the process of how this moves forward in a sense will be catalysed by Pakistan delivering on the Mumbai terror trial. That will be a very prime catalyst.

Interviewer: So, that will be the barometer for you to judge Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: That is a very significant barometer but simultaneous or concomitant with that we are prepared to take graduated steps to build trust and to build confidence relating to humanitarian issues, issues that concern people on both sides because there are people. As I have said before, the people of India and Pakistan are the lifeblood of this relationship. I think the people must be allowed to come into communication more with each other. That is really the process of building confidence and trust.

Interviewer: But are you disappointed that the trust deficit sort of has widened a bit by all the rhetoric that has gone on? The Pakistani Foreign Minister made some uncharitable remarks about the External Affairs Minister. So, don't you feel disappointed a bit?

Foreign Secretary: I, like you, we are both Indian and we belong to a very mature democracy. We are proud of that. We look at transacting relations with our neighbours in a very mature and balanced way. And that is the approach that India brings to these talks. I do not want to comment or pontificate on Pakistan's attitude. That is for Pakistan to introspect about. And I hope they will turn the searchlight inwards on themselves and understand where the problems lie.

Interviewer: So, are you also willing to unilaterally announce some of those proposals that you discussed on humanitarian issues? As you said, it is for the larger benefit of the people which India has done in the past?

Foreign Secretary: Pakistan is aware of what we are ready to offer. I think in diplomacy once the offer is made to the other side it is for that side to respond.

Interviewer: Foreign Secretary, thank you very much for talking to Headlines Today.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you.

(Foreign Secretary also gave similar interviews to other news TV channels. Document Nos.223,224,225 and 227)



227. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by 'News X' TV Channel.

New Delhi, July 18, 2010.

Interviewer: We are here for a very quick interview with Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao. Without wasting any time let me start with the questions.

Is it true that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan has sent a message to Mr. Krishna for a meeting on Afghanistan?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): I will not be able to give you any details on that at the moment. Our Minister, as you know, is away in Bangalore, he is not in Delhi. Both Ministers will be in Kabul for the Kabul Conference on the 20th of this month. As is normal at such conferences, there will be many opportunities for the dignitaries and for the leaders of delegations attending the Conference to have meetings, as it always happens on the sidelines of such conferences. So, we will have to see how this works out. But yes, it is true that both Ministers will be in Kabul on that day.

Interviewer: So, it is another opportunity.

Foreign Secretary: If it does happen, yes it is another opportunity.

Interviewer: But considering what Mr. Qureshi has been saying and what he said during the joint interaction with the media and more so the next day, wasn't it an attempt by him really to sabotage the talks?

Foreign Secretary: I would not use such strong words like what you just used. I would say that it is very important for both sides to keep their vision focused on what our goals are. I am reminded of being very clear about your goal and not to be distracted by all the minor obstacles that come in between. Our Prime Minister has very clearly outlined to Prime Minister Gilani during their meeting at Thimphu in April what his vision of this relationship is, and how for the region of South Asia it is very important that India and Pakistan try their level best to structure a normal relationship which will help the people of both countries and help development in this region. So, these are the goals that we have in mind and we would like to stay focused on that and to take this dialogue forward.

Interviewer: Before the press interaction in Islamabad, did the talks go the way you wanted and was this vision sort of being realized during the dialogue?

Foreign Secretary: With any such complex relationship I think you have to be very realistic about the fact that progress, by the very nature of the complexities that you are surrounded by, will be slow. It will be a somewhat protracted, if I may say, prolonged process. But the process has to move forward in a steady, in a graduated, and a sustained manner. And our vision about this has not strayed from that goal despite the fact that yes the outcomes of the last meeting were not as, shall I say, concrete in terms of how you define outcomes would be. But all the same, Foreign Minister Qureshi has been invited to visit India. We have kept the door of dialogue open. We have put forward a number of concrete ideas to the Pakistan side about how we re-engage and resume dialogue. So, we are satisfied with the approach we took, and we believe that the Pakistan side should reflect and introspect on the ideas that we have put forward.

Interviewer: When you talk of concrete ideas, does that contain all the issues that were identified in the Composite Dialogue or is it just going to be a focus at the moment on terrorism and the rest to follow as and when Pakistan delivers on terrorism?

Foreign Secretary: Terrorism is a core concern. May I add that the Pakistan side in turn informed us that it is a core concern for them also given the fact that Pakistan has come under a lot of terrorism related attacks in the last few months and in the recent past. So, terrorism is a core concern. And I do not think we can deflect attention from the fact that we await responses from Pakistan on the Mumbai trials, on the evidence that we have handed over to them. So, all this must be stated very clearly at the outset. Having said that, we have also stressed that we need to begin the process of confidence building and reduction of the trust deficit in the areas where it is doable at the moment. Take for instance people-to-people exchanges. Take for instance trade and commerce related areas, the humanitarian issues, the release of prisoners, confidence-building measures in other areas. For instance we have water-related issues between the two countries which are part of the implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty. So, where questions have been raised about those issues we are prepared to discuss.

Interviewer: Is anything doable where Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, or at the moment is that off the agenda?

Foreign Secretary: We have trade across the LoC now in Jammu and Kashmir. That is a big CBM. In fact, it has brought people of the two sides together. And we have transportation links also, the bus services, as you are aware. There are a lot of technical issues relating to the implementation of those CBMs that both sides need to discuss. And this is also one area where we are prepared to move forward.

Interviewer: There is one thing I think Mr. Qureshi said at his press interaction, which sort of got lost in the entire fiasco, where he said something about Sir Creek and that the Indian side is now willing to give a written proposal instead of a verbal proposal.

Foreign Secretary: On that also we have said that there is a process under way as far as Sir Creek is concerned. Up until 2008, until the eve of the Mumbai attacks, we had had some good discussions in that area. We have had some specific ideas that we have in a sense outlined to the Pakistan side, and we are always prepared to take that discussion forward. So, that again is not an impediment let me say.

Interviewer: The very fact that the Foreign Minister who is the person who really handled the talks from all accounts and not so much the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, the way he sort of went off the tangent, is that going to make it very difficult to get the talks back on an even keel?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe that it should be difficult. At least I am optimistic by nature, I suppose. And also having understood the tone and tenor of the discussions in the last few meetings that I have had with my counterpart and even during this meeting between the two Foreign Ministers, I think the possibilities are immense. And both sides have begun to discuss concrete ideas. Even if these are at this moment confined to confidence-building and trust deficit reduction, I think one can take encouragement from those developments and the way discussions have gone. And certainly the way is open for further talks and for further discussions.

Interviewer: But every time India and Pakistan have met under this new Government in Islamabad, we had these, what we call Qureshi-isms which always spoiled the atmosphere somewhat. This time of course he went many steps further. But if you remember, he also said, well now Bombay is behind us, let us look forward and let us talk ahead. Was that the kind of sense you have got about terrorism when you were speaking to him?

Foreign Secretary: I am sure the Pakistani side understands that in diplomacy you have to weigh your words very carefully because the impact of words can go far beyond just words themselves. And I am sure they realize that.

Interviewer: You are being so polite. It was all there for the world to see. Did they really realize that? It does not seem so. But I guess if he has sent this message about another meeting in Kabul, we can perhaps be optimistic.

Foreign Secretary: The impact of what was said at the press conference that was held yesterday morning - that is what I said, the impact of words can go far beyond the words themselves - and the reaction that you have seen in our country to that, I think should have sent a message very clearly to the Pakistan side about how we do not want to get drawn into slanging matches. India-Pakistan relations are not about trading accusations; they are not about slanging matches. We have to behave like grown up nations.

We have to behave in a mature way, and understand that the fate of more than a billion people is in balance here. So, we look at it that way and our approach will always be calibrated based on that.

Interviewer: There is another phrase that this round of talks has thrown up and that is of limited flexibility. Who has been exercising this 'limited flexibility'? Was it India or was it Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: That is not a phrase we have used. Probably you have heard it from the Pakistan side.

Interviewer: Absolutely.

Foreign Secretary: You have to ask them what they mean by that. I think it seems to be a very subjective version of their take on the last round of discussions. That is not the way we look at it because I think anybody who is experienced in hard diplomatic negotiations must understand that there can be many obstacles strewn along the course and the challenge of a good negotiator is to understand how to navigate the way forward. And I think you must keep always that door open to future discussion. That is the way we look at it.

Interviewer: Though this is not strictly related to Pakistan, Hillary Clinton is also going to be there in Kabul. So, is there a bilateral on with Mr. Krishna?

Foreign Secretary: There is a possibility that there might be a bilateral. There are a number of other requests we have received also.

Interviewer: Is Pakistan going to figure in that?

Foreign Secretary: As of now I said I do not have anything concrete to tell you on that. We will have to see. As I said, it so happens in ...

Interviewer: Could it be a trilateral?

Foreign Secretary: No.

Interviewer: Thanks so much. Thanks a lot.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you.

(Foreign Secretary gave four other interviews to other TV news channels. Document Nos.223,224,225 and 226)



228. Response of Official Spokesperson to ISI-related reports on 'Wikileaks'.

New Delhi, July 27, 2010.

In response to questions, the Official Spokesperson said, "We have seen media reports about classified information*, supposedly from US government sources, put out in public domain, on support to terrorism by ISI-Pakistan's military intelligence agency. Sponsorship of terrorism, as an instrument of policy, is wholly condemnable and must cease forthwith. The utilization of territory under Pakistan's control to provide sanctuaries for recruiting and sustaining terrorist groups, and to direct terrorist activity against neighbors, must stop if our region is to attain its full potential for peaceful development".



* The documents posted in public domain on whistleblower website WikiLeaks suggested support to terrorism by the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's military intelligence agency. The available information so far said that despite being an ally of the U.S. in the 'war on terror,' the ISI held secret strategy sessions with the Taliban leadership and arranged manpower to mount attacks on foreign forces and eliminate Afghan leadership. The reports also indicated that Pakistan's frontier areas, especially the seven tribal agencies, were used as sanctuaries for the Taliban to recoup and recruit fighters for launching attacks in southern Afghanistan. The "documents" also suggest that an intelligence agency had an inkling of the attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul which killed 58 people.

229. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with weekly 'Outlook'.**New Delhi, August 6, 2010.**

Question. Why did the foreign ministers' meet in Islamabad end in such a disaster?

Answer. Disaster is the wrong word. Every Indo-Pak meeting is an exploration, a quest, an initiation. No absolutes can be applied while describing such meetings. Given the sixty years of relations, it should be apparent that there are no shortcuts to success. Moreover, a press conference cannot be the gauge with which to judge what transpired at the meeting.

Question. Indo-Pak relations are fraught with such nasty surprises why did you not stick to a joint statement instead of a joint press conference?

Answer. There are no easy or simple prescriptions. A categorical conclusion that a joint statement would have been better does not simply follow. The convention of a joint press conference is widely practised today when high-level diplomatic meetings take place. The opening statements made by the two Foreign Ministers were balanced in their tone and substance. At some stage into the Press Conference, after four questions had been raised - two from the Indian side and two from the Pakistani side- as previously agreed, foreign minister (Shah Mahmood) Qureshi decided to allow more questions. Perhaps the outcome would have been less tendentious if this turn of events had not taken place.

Question. When the press conference took this turn, why couldn't you intervene and end S.M. Krishna's agony?

Answer. Our minister was never in agony. I stoutly refute that. He is a seasoned and experienced Minister. He was calm, cool and restrained throughout- a perfect example of grace under pressure. He held his positions with equanimity and confidence. There was no intervention required.

Question. The Pakistani side says you were constantly on the phone to get instructions from Delhi, implying you were not clear about your bottomline. Is that correct?

Answer. We had a very clear brief for the Islamabad talks. We knew our bottom line - and we enunciated it with clarity and precision. Normal communications with our Government were maintained - as is always the case in delicate negotiations such as these. To insinuate that this was evidence of not being prepared is unfortunate, to say the very least.

Question. Has India learnt any lessons from the press conference experience?

Answer. Whatever the Pakistani motives may have been, showing restraint, maturity and sobriety, as our minister did, cannot be construed as a drawback. Our minister conveyed through his demeanour and responses the strength, the confidence and conviction of what India stands for. I know that the succinctness and calm with which our minister enunciated our position has been well recognized.

Question. What happens to Indo-Pak talks now?

Answer. I believe the dust needs to settle. Our minister of external affairs has invited the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India for a continuation of our dialogue. A genuine, carefully formulated and reasonable approach to these talks by India, which is the victim of terrorism unleashed on us from Pakistani soil and territory under its control, should not be under-estimated and under-valued by Pakistan.

Question. More than 20 months have passed since 26/11. Can you mention one significant step that Pakistan has taken against those behind the terror attack to instil confidence in India?

Answer. The very fact that Pakistan acknowledged that the Mumbai attack was planned and executed from Pakistan by some of its nationals was a signal development. Of course, while some steps have been taken on the Mumbai case by Pakistan, including arrests of seven persons, and the declaration of 20 more as proclaimed offenders, much more needs to be done. The focused and determined investigation of the conspiracy, the bringing of the perpetrators to justice, are all tasks that remain to be completed. The trial has moved at a glacial pace. This is a matter of concern.

Question. When India talks about "perpetrators" of 26/11, does it include the ISI since the agency, according to information and evidence that are now with India, had been in total control of the operation?

Answer. India has not hesitated to share concrete evidence on the real masterminds and handlers of the Mumbai terror attack with Pakistan. During the visit of our Home Minister to Pakistan in June, further evidence was shared in this connection. For Pakistan to state that terrorism has not been used as an instrument of policy against India, and that there is no involvement of state actors in such activity, is unacceptable. The evidence suggests otherwise. Today, Pakistan says it is a victim of terrorism. It is unfortunate that many innocent citizens have lost their lives in terrorist attacks in

Pakistan. But the fact that Pakistan suffers from the scourge of terrorism does not diminish its responsibility to address India's legitimate concerns about Pakistan- originated terrorism against our citizens and our territory. A selective approach in such matters is not acceptable.

Question. There is a feeling that the home ministry has kept the external affairs ministry out of the loop on David Coleman Headley's confession. Is that correct?

Answer. I want to dispel the impression that there is insufficient coordination between our two Ministries. We are in constant communication. In the case of Headley, the MEA and the MHA worked together to coordinate our actions and to ensure that the national interest was met. In a matter of such critical importance, it could not be otherwise. We were not out of the loop.

Question. How does India view the WikiLeaks expose which shows how the ISI had been behind every attack against Indians in Afghanistan?

Answer. What the Wikileaks disclosures indicate has been in the realm of our knowledge even previous to the leaks. Our concerns in this regard have been articulated on a number of occasions. Pakistani officials have time and again spoken out against India's presence in Afghanistan and made no secret about their deep hostility about the work we do in that country. Our officials and our private citizens have been victims of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan. The Afghan authorities have said that those responsible for them were enemies of India-Afghan friendship. Seen against the background of Pakistani hostility towards India's presence in Afghanistan, all this raises troubling questions about Pakistani complicity. The Wikileaks disclosures have brought this into even sharper focus.

Question. With so much information about the ISI now in the public domain, how do you see talks with Pakistan going forward?

Answer. The path to a lasting peace with Pakistan will not be easy. We have never nurtured any illusions about this. It is because of the inherently complex and seemingly intractable nature of our differences that we must seek a way forward to address the difficulties. A serious, sustained and comprehensive dialogue remains the best option. But such a dialogue can thrive only in a climate free of terrorism directed against us from Pakistan. Otherwise, the trust deficit and public alienation towards Pakistan will only deepen.



230. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate.

New Delhi, August 8, 2010.

Interviewer (Mr. Karan Thapar): Hello and welcome to Devil's Advocate. After WikiLeaks and David Headley, where do India-Pakistan relations stand? That is one of the subjects I shall discuss today in this exclusive interview with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary, let us start with Pakistan. Now that we have proof from WikiLeaks and Headley that the Pakistani state is directly and irrefutably involved in instigating and funding terror against India, what is the justification for continuing dialogue with that country?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): I think the justification for dialogue is by no means diminished despite these revelations. I believe that dialogue is the most effective means to tackle outstanding issues with Pakistan, and the abandonment of dialogue or the interruption of dialogue, by no means serves the interests that we seek to pursue in getting Pakistan to stop its pursuit of terrorism against India. In other words, dialogue is the most intelligent means of addressing points of contention.

Interviewer: But if any dialogue is to be meaningful, surely you would agree that it has to be predicated on the fact that Pakistan accepts what it has been doing and, more importantly, promises not to do it again. That is missing in this case.

Foreign Secretary: Pakistan has from time to time made this commitment to us that it will not permit the pursuit and the encouragement of terrorism by groups on its soil or territory under its control. I think over the last few occasions that we have had the opportunity to raise these issues with Pakistan, it has been made very clear to them and very emphatically to them that the atmosphere for the pursuit of this dialogue will never be really conducive until and unless they stop the pursuit of terrorism against India. So, dialogue has served the purpose of putting across our deepest concerns to Pakistan.

Interviewer: But dialogue has not got you a cessation of terrorist activity from Pakistan. Dialogue has not even got Pakistan to accept that their

state, in the shape and form of the ISI, is directly involved. Without that acceptance, aren't you in a sense knocking on a closed door?

Foreign Secretary: To some degree there is an acknowledgement by Pakistan that the pursuit of terrorism directed against India is going to be negative; it is going to have a negative impact on the relationship. To that extent I think there is some degree of acknowledgement. Now let us take the Mumbai trials. We have had Pakistan acknowledge that the masterminds and the handlers of this attack came from Pakistan. And we have engaged with Pakistan over the last one year in the exchange of evidence and information relating to the Mumbai terror attacks. So, obviously the channels of communication that have remained open with Pakistan have served that purpose.

Interviewer: Except that, has Pakistan come close to acknowledging that members of the state and the establishment, the ISI in particular as both David Headley has confirmed and WikiLeaks have confirmed, have been directly involved in instigating terror against India? Has that critical acceptance come?

Foreign Secretary: We are still away from that critical acceptance, I would acknowledge that. But the fact is, now look at the international community, look at the international response to the role of agencies connected with the Pakistan state in the pursuit and encouragement of terrorism directed against India, directed against Afghanistan. Today we are no longer like Cassandras talking about terrorism emanating from Pakistan. There is a widespread groundswell of belief and conviction in the stand that we have taken and the acknowledgement by the international community that we are taking the right position.

Interviewer: And David Cameron's statement in a sense underlines that.

Foreign Secretary: Absolutely.

Interviewer: I will come to that in a moment's time. Let me bring up first a second major revelation that has been exposed by WikiLeaks, the fact that the Pakistani ISI has been involved in instigating terror against India in Afghanistan when General Kayani was head of the ISI. Today the same General Kayani is the Army Chief of Pakistan and he is going to continue in that post till at least 2013. How do you view General Kayani?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to comment on personalities, and I am not here to give you a kind of assessment of how we see General Kayani. But let me say that the role of official agencies from Pakistan in promoting terrorism against India is something we have been speaking of and drawing attention to for a long time now. It is not just that the WikiLeaks have come up with that revelation. It has been known to us for a long time. And we have said all along that the acts of premeditated violence against our nationals in Afghanistan are completely unacceptable to us.

Interviewer: What about this? Many people in Pakistan and in India believe that General Kayani is inimical to this country. He has himself gone on record to say that under him the Pakistan Army will be India-centric. Does the Indian Foreign Office share that assessment?

Foreign Secretary: We have sixty years of a troubled relationship with Pakistan. And I think we understand and we know that country better perhaps than any other country in the world. So, we see through the glass darkly no doubt about the state of Pakistan and the conditions in which this relationship is operating at the moment. So, to that extent we understand the role of Pakistani state agencies in promoting terrorism against India.

Interviewer: So, there is nothing about General Kayani that you do not understand; it is just that you may not want to say it publicly.

Foreign Secretary: I think we understand the nature of these institutions and the personalities behind them very clearly.

Interviewer: On the other hand he is also far and away the most important person in Pakistan. Is there a need for India to try and establish some direct line of contact with him?

Foreign Secretary: I have been asked that question on a number of occasions. My answer to that is that we have dealt and we continue to deal with and we will continue to deal with the civilian democratic government in Pakistan, the elected representatives of the people there, and the civilian officials concerned. That is the interface that we have adopted.

Interviewer: But you won't side by side seek to open some line of contact to the military leadership or Kayani in particular?

Foreign Secretary: I am not prepared to talk about that at the moment. But let me say that the interface as it exists is with the civilian government.

Interviewer: The hint you are giving is that there could be some attempt to broaden our contact with the Pakistani military, but it is not advisable to talk about it.

Foreign Secretary: I am not giving you any hints to that effect.

Interviewer: Let us widen our discussion. Given the nature of leaks that we have had both from WikiLeaks and from David Headley, is it still sensible for India to rely on America to curb Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: I think the strategic partnership with the United States of America is of undoubted importance, there are no two opinions about that, and the cooperation that we have engaged in with the United States in a number of sectors including counterterrorism is being taken forward. But having said that, we are not dependent on any third country when it comes to transacting relations with Pakistan. We deal directly with Pakistan, and bilateral issues are taken up bilaterally with that country.

Interviewer: You mentioned the strategic relationship. Many people feel that in fact the Headley revelations and WikiLeaks show that the credibility of America as a strategic partner might be under some sort of question today. Has America kept India informed? Did they do everything they could to curb the terror? Or were they aware of things that they did not share and did not respond to?

Foreign Secretary: I think the manner in which we have been to take this dialogue forward with the United States, the kind of cooperation that we have engaged in in counterterrorism has been to mutual benefit. There is no doubt about that.

Interviewer: Let us then talk about the developing situation in Afghanistan. Many analysts believe that as the situation becomes increasingly adverse for America, the Obama Administration sees Pakistan as the key to the solution. Do you share the view that Obama's increasing dependence on Islamabad will give Pakistan an influence and leverage to work out or at least determine the final outcome in Afghanistan?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe you can paint those colours in a zero sum way as far as Afghanistan is concerned. Firstly, Afghanistan is a fiercely independent country. And the take away we have had from meetings with the Afghan leadership in the recent past is that they are zealous about guarding that independence and in ensuring that the progress that they have made in Afghanistan over the last nine years is not eroded in any manner.

Interviewer: Does this mean that they will check Pakistani influence themselves?

Foreign Secretary: I believe that the international community has to stay committed in Afghanistan for some more time. They are dealing with the war against terror there. That war has to be fought, it has to be won. So, I believe that there is a commitment here that the international community has to reinforce.

Interviewer: I will tell you why I asked this question. Karzai famously has referred to Pakistan as a conjoined twin. Pakistan protects, promotes the Afghan Taliban and is today involved in trying to facilitate talks between the Haqqani and the Hekmatyar groups and the Karzai government. How does the Indian Government view the possibility of Haqqani and Hekmatyar playing a role in a future Afghan Government?

Foreign Secretary: I think here again you are jumping to conclusions before things have happened. The red lines that were drawn at the London Conference on Afghanistan earlier this year are the red lines that the Afghan Government intends to adhere to and abide by. This has been said to us on a number of occasions. Now the fact is that you have groups within the Afghan Taliban that are obviously close to Pakistan, that promote terrorism, that espouse radical ideologies. And I do not believe, given the approach of the Afghan Government to adhering by those red lines that this reality or this possible conclusion that you referred to is really going to come about.

Interviewer: Except for the fact that the Afghan Government has itself been holding, albeit surreptitiously but not by any means secretly, talks with Haqqani group and Hekmatyar group representatives?

Foreign Secretary: I put it this way. I think that the situation in Afghanistan, given the operation of so many groups there, is complex. But let me say once again that this is a fiercely independent country that you are dealing with and a leadership that is fiercely independent, and is not going to, I believe compromise its basic interest in ensuring a strong, a stable and united Afghanistan, which is not going to be bedeviled by the threat of terrorism.

Interviewer: Now as you know, Foreign Secretary, Pakistan has long wanted what it called strategic depth in Afghanistan. Many people believe that America today, perhaps out of a certain sense of desperation, is coming close to accepting Pakistan's primacy in Afghanistan. And if that happens, that would be granting strategic depth. If that strategic depth were granted, what would it mean for India? Help us understand what it would mean?

Foreign Secretary: First of all let me tell you that the so-called strategic depth that you referred to is not a theory espoused by anybody in the international community. There may be some analysts in Pakistan, some people in Pakistan.

Interviewer: General Kayani talks about it.

Foreign Secretary: They may talk about it but I am talking about the reality. You are talking about an independent country; you are talking about a leadership in Afghanistan that is committed to fight terrorism, that is committed to maintain its independence. And I think that leadership needs to be helped in that regard.

Interviewer: You don't believe that this talk of conjoined twinship, which was Karzai's phrase, and at that same time he only referred to India as a friend not a twin, suggests that there is in fact a movement taking place, one that perhaps India may be a little ware of? You don't share that?

Foreign Secretary: I will be very alert obviously to what happens in Afghanistan. It is a neighbor; we have interests there; we have had interests there for a very long time that predate the present situation there. So, let me say that being friends as we are with Afghanistan -

and this is a very deep friendship, it is a friendship that is cemented by bonds between people not just between governments - we are confident about our profile in Afghanistan and the fact that our interests will be well recognized by the international community. And this is increasingly evident in the dialogue that we have with our key partners.

Interviewer: One last question before I take a break. How do you view the stepped up military relationship between America and Pakistan? And if you have concerns, have you shared them with Washington? And what response have you got?

Foreign Secretary: We have shared our concerns with Washington. We have said all along that Pakistan cannot be given a blank cheque in such matters; and any assistance that is extended to Pakistan ostensibly for counter-insurgency and counterterrorism operations could very well be used against India as the history of the last sixty years goes.

Interviewer: And what did the Washington say?

Foreign Secretary: Washington is very attentive to our concerns. We have continued our dialogue on this issue. We are engaged in a constant communication with the United States on these issues. And I believe that the United States is increasingly aware, and alert, and attentive to these concerns

Interviewer: Except that arming Pakistan continues as a policy.

Foreign Secretary: Well there is a situation now in Afghanistan and there is the involvement of the United States in that situation, and Pakistan is involved in that entire operation. So, there is a certain context now in which all this is placed. But nonetheless, our concerns about it have been articulated very clearly to the Americans.

Interviewer: Sounds that we have to grit our teeth a little about things we do not like.

[Let us take a break at that point. I want to come back and talk to you about the other critical relationship that you handle - India and China.]

*

*

*

*

*

Interviewer: Welcome back to Devil's Advocate and an exclusive interview with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary, let us come to China. On the one hand China is India's single biggest trading partner and the two countries hope to hit the 60 billion dollar target this year. On the other hand, China supports Pakistan over Kashmir. It bends laws to sell nuclear plants to Islamabad whilst it questions India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh and seems to go out of its way to check our emergence as a leading power. How do you as Foreign Secretary view China?

Foreign Secretary: Let me tell you how I view the relationship. I think that is relevant to the question you have asked me. It is a complex relationship there is no doubt about it. But having said that and especially since we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations this year, let me say the approach as we move forward is to ensure - and this is a point of view which is shared by the Chinese Government - mutual sensitivity to each other's core concerns, as well as to seek broader convergence on many global issues. So, this is the trajectory along which the relationship is developing.

Interviewer: But are they really sensitive to India's concerns, particularly Kashmir, particularly the arming of Pakistan, particularly the supply or proliferation of nuclear material to Pakistan? Are they sensitive?

Foreign Secretary: That is exactly the context I referred to when I spoke of the complexity in the relationship. And that is what dialogue, intelligently transacted dialogue, enable you to do when you seek more responsiveness from the other side about your concerns, this is exactly so that we are able to place these issues in context and to seek the other side's focus on this issue and greater responsiveness and sensitivity to these issues.

Interviewer: The former National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra has gone on record to say that he fears Islamabad and Beijing may be joining forces. And if that happens, he thinks India will end up with hostile neighbours both in the North and the West. To what extent do you share that concern?

Foreign Secretary: I know that there is a lot of analyses on the various scenarios that could be applied to the India-China relationship. But here in officialdom we deal with realities. And let me tell you the reality of the situation is that the border between India and China has been peaceful for the last few decades and the effort from both sides is to ensure that the mechanisms that we have put in place for confidence-building and for the maintenance of peace and tranquility work well, and there is constant communication between the two sides.

Interviewer: So, are you saying that the fear or the ...

Foreign Secretary: But let me add that this does not mean that we are not vigilant about or alert to situations where our security could be affected.

Interviewer: So, you are aware of the possibility of what in loose language I might call a ganging up between Islamabad and Beijing. You do not turn a blind eye to it.

Foreign Secretary: We take all these factors into account.

Interviewer: China today, in fact just ten days ago, became the world's second largest economy. Does India have any apprehensions or concerns about China's emergence as possibly the second most powerful country in the world?

Foreign Secretary: I think you and I belong to a generation that has been witness to the rise of China, the growth in its economic power, its power projection capabilities. We have been witness to all that. And at the same time the world is increasingly alert to the rise of India, the potential of India, the rapid economic growth of India, the potential in other words ...

Interviewer: But the gap between the two is growing, it is not narrowing.

Foreign Secretary: I believe what that points to, Karan, is the fact that this relationship, the relationship between India and China, is going to be the big story of the 21st century.

Interviewer: A story that will be in India's interest or a story which will make India wary and perhaps a little apprehensive?

Foreign Secretary: A story based on dialogue, as I said, which we intend to conduct intelligently and which we intend to conduct with confidence so that our concerns are protected always.

Interviewer: Is China dialoguing with India openly, or are they doing it behind screens?

Foreign Secretary: I think there is a multisectoral dialogue with China on the bilateral front and if you look at the global multilateral front, there are increasing areas of convergence. I referred to that. And so this is really, as I said, the trajectory along which we hope the dialogue develops.

Interviewer: Foreign Secretary, a pleasure talking to you.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you so much.



231. Government of India announced 'Aid assistance of USD 5 million for provision of relief material to flood victims in Pakistan'.

New Delhi, August 13, 2010.

Government of India has offered assistance of US\$5 million for provision of relief material from India for the victims of the massive floods that have adversely affected Pakistan, causing widespread damage to life and property.

In a telephone conversation, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna conveyed to His Excellency Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan this gesture of solidarity with the people of Pakistan, in their hour of need. External Affairs Minister, on behalf of the people and Government of India, also conveyed deepest sympathies and condolences to the people and Government of Pakistan, on this natural disaster.

Earlier in a letter to his counterpart Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quershi, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna conveyed "sincere condolences of the Government and the people of India, on loss of lives, due to the widespread floods in Pakistan." EAM has also said that he is distressed by the devastation caused by the natural calamity.



232. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister's telephonic talk with Pakistan Prime Minister to condole the loss of life and property in the recent floods and offer of assistance.

New Delhi, August 19, 2010.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh called the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani today to express his sense of sorrow and to condole the deaths resulting from the huge floods that have devastated parts of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said that the Government of India had already made an offer of assistance and was ready to do more to assist in the relief effort. Dr. Singh said that in such times of natural disasters, all of South Asia should rise to the occasion and extend every possible help to the people of Pakistan affected by the tragedy.



233. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the UN at the Plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider the humanitarian situation resulting from floods in Pakistan.

New York, August 20, 2010.

Please see Document No.663.



234. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in Parliament on India's offer of assistance of US \$ 25 million to Pakistan for flood relief.

New Delhi, August 31, 2010.

Pakistan has been severely affected by the massive floods that have caused widespread damage to life and property. The recent floods are being described as the worst in that part of the world in the last 80 years.

According to the latest figures given by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 17.2 million people have been adversely affected by these floods. Death toll has reached over 1600. More than 1.2 million houses have been damaged or destroyed besides widespread damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock. All four provinces of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have suffered the consequences. Latest reports indicate that the flood situation in Sindh continues to deteriorate, even as flood waters recede in Punjab.

We cannot remain unconcerned with this grave humanitarian crisis of enormous magnitude in our immediate neighbourhood. I had telephoned the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on August 13, 2010, and conveyed deepest sympathies and condolences to the people and Government of Pakistan, on this natural disaster, on behalf of the people and Government of India. As a gesture of solidarity with the people of Pakistan in their hour of need, I had also conveyed Government's offer of assistance of US \$ 5 million for provision of relief material from India for the flood victims in Pakistan.

Prime Minister called Prime Minister of Pakistan Yusuf Raza Gilani on August 19, 2010, to express his sorrow and to condole the deaths resulting from the huge floods in Pakistan. Prime Minister conveyed that the Government of India had already made an offer of assistance and was ready to do more to assist in the relief effort.

Pakistan has conveyed its deep appreciation of India's offer of assistance. While mentioning that the United Nations has launched a flash appeal soliciting contributions from the international community to assist the people affected by the floods, Pakistan requested on 27 August that India may channel its contribution to the flood victims through the UN.

As a more concrete assessment of the damage inflicted by this natural disaster and the urgent needs of the people of Pakistan emerges, Government has decided to increase its assistance to Pakistan from 5 million US Dollars, announced earlier, to 25 million US Dollars. Out of this amount, 20 million US Dollars would be contributed to the 'Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan' launched by the UN Office for

the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The balance of 5 million US Dollars would be contributed to the World Food Programme for its relief efforts in Pakistan.

Prime Minister has rightly said that in such times of natural disasters, all of South Asia should rise to the occasion and extend every possible help to the affected people. We remain committed to assisting the people of Pakistan in all possible ways in this difficult hour.

Thank you.



235. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister's letter to his Counterpart conveying Eid greetings.

New Delhi, September 9, 2010.

In a letter to his Pakistani counterpart, EAM has conveyed the deep appreciation of the people and Government of India on the release of 442 Indian fishermen who had been lodged in various jails in Pakistan. While thanking the Government of Pakistan, EAM said that he looked forward to early release and repatriation of all Indian and Pakistani prisoners to their respective countries.

EAM also conveyed his greetings to Foreign Minister Qureshi on the forthcoming festival of Eid-ul-Fitr and reiterated India's commitment to work with Pakistan for the common good of the peoples of the two countries.

Subsequently, Government of India has conveyed to the Government of Pakistan its decision to repatriate seven Pakistani fishermen and twenty four civilian prisoners on September 15, 2010. Further steps are being taken, in cooperation with the Government of Pakistan, to release and repatriate other eligible Pakistani prisoners lodged in Indian jails.

[Please also refer to Document No.204.]

A press release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs next day (10th September) announcing the release of some fishermen and prisoners said:

"During the current year so far, the Indian Government has released 128 Pakistani prisoners and repatriated them to Pakistan via Attari. Orders were issued yesterday for releasing 58 fishermen lodged in Gujarat jails, subject to issue of travel documents by Pakistan authorities.

The Pakistan Government has intimated a list of 43 fishermen. It has been seen that only 7 of them could be cleared for release at the moment. Release order in respect of these 7 persons has been issued. However, due to logistic issues, Pakistan Government has indicated that they would be able to receive them only on 15.9.2010. It has been decided that apart from 7 fishermen, 3 other prisoners lodged in Gujarat jails would be repatriated on 15.9.2010. Gujarat Government has been advised to move the appropriate court in respect of 55 Pakistani fishermen facing trial, so that the cases against them could be withdrawn and they could be repatriated to Pakistan.

Apart from the above, 7 prisoners from Punjab, 7 from Jammu & Kashmir, 1 from Rajasthan and 2 from Delhi are also being released. They would also be repatriated on 15.9.2010 at Attari-Wagah border. With these orders, a total of 213 Pakistani prisoners will be released in the calendar year 2010."

On November 12, 2010 Ministry of Home Affairs issued another press release announcing the decision to release Pakistani fishermen and prisoners. The following is the text of that press release:

"Government of India has released and repatriated 54 Pakistani fishermen and 10 Pakistani prisoners, who have completed their sentence, to Pakistan on November 9, 2010 through Attari border. During this year, India has so far released and repatriated 111 Pakistani fishermen and 106 Pakistani prisoners to Pakistan.

The release and repatriation of the Pakistani prisoners lodged in Indian jails is a continuous process. As per the procedure, a Pakistani prisoner can be repatriated only after he completes his sentence and it is confirmed by the State Government/UT Administration concerned that there are no other criminal cases in which he/she is undergoing trial before any judicial court. Further, a Pakistani national can be released and repatriated only after he/she is provided with Consular Access, his/her nationality is confirmed by the Government of Pakistan and a travel document is issued by the Pakistan High Commission in his/her favour."



236. Response of Official Spokesperson to gratuitous Pakistan statements on J&K.**New Delhi, September 17, 2010.**

In response to a question regarding the statement on Jammu & Kashmir by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the Official Spokesperson said,

"India firmly rejects gratuitous statements* issued by Pakistan on Jammu & Kashmir, which amount to interference in the internal affairs of India. Pakistan should take credible and effective action against infiltration from across the Line of Control and dismantle the terror infrastructure that exists in the territory under its control. This would be an important contribution towards safeguarding the welfare of the people of J&K, who suffer the consequences of terrorism fomented from across the Line of Control and the International Border. As a vibrant democracy, India has sufficient mechanisms and constitutional safeguards to address issues raised by its citizens in any part of the country.

India reiterates its commitment to resolving issues of mutual concern with Pakistan through dialogue and peaceful means. However, Pakistan must fulfill its solemn commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for terrorism directed against India in any manner. This would be in the interest of Pakistan and of the international community.



* The statement issued by the Foreign Office on behalf of Foreign Minister Mr. Qureshi took a serious note of the "deteriorating" situation in Kashmir, maintaining that the "indigenous movement in "India occupied Kashmir" has gained a new momentum and urgency." "The Kashmiris are unanimous in their demand for self-determination. This sentiment and its firm determination is being reflected in the peaceful protests of youth, women and all segments of civil society," it said. Reiterating support for the Kashmiris in their "just cause," the statement said Pakistan was committed to finding a fair and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiris. This was second time in a week that Pakistan chose to make comments on the developments in Kashmir. In so doing, it also sought early and full resumption of the dialogue process with India. Pakistan wanted a constructive, sustained and result-oriented dialogue on all issues, including the Kashmir dispute.

**237. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the UN, at the launch of
the revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan.**

New York, September 17, 2010.

Please see Document No.666.



**238. Statement of Official Spokesperson rejecting resolutions
on J&K by Pak National Assembly and Senate.**

New Delhi, September 21, 2010.

"We have seen reports of resolutions* on Jammu & Kashmir that have been passed in the National Assembly and the Senate of Pakistan. We reject these resolutions. They have no locus standi on what is purely an internal affair of India.

Pakistan should tackle the issues of constitutional safeguards, democracy, extremism, terrorism and human rights violations in the part of Jammu & Kashmir under its illegal occupation.

In the spirit of true rationality, India desires good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. We are committed to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue. Crucially, Pakistan must fulfill its stated commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for terrorism directed against India in any manner."



* Pakistan's Parliament on 20th September condemned India's "brutal use of state force" in 'occupied Kashmir' and urged the international community to stop being silent spectators to the "brutalities" in the troubled Valley. First the Senate and then the National Assembly adopted identical resolutions on the situation in Kashmir on the opening day of the current session. In the National Assembly, the resolution was moved by Chairman of the Special Committee of The Parliament on Kashmir, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rahman. The resolution - moved in the Senate by the Opposition - also calls for the withdrawal of troops from the State, repeal of black laws, and the lifting of curfew in Kashmir. Expressing dismay over the situation in Kashmir, the two Houses further demanded an end to the media blackout, the release of arrested Kashmiri leaders and youngsters, and access to human rights organisations inside Kashmir. Extending support to the struggle of the Kashmiri people, the resolution said Pakistan would always provide moral, diplomatic and political support "for their right to self-determination." Articulating the dismay in Pakistani polity over the silence of the international community towards the issue, the resolution urged the United Nations to ensure that its resolution on the Kashmir dispute was implemented.

239. Statement by Manish Gupta, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN exercising Right of Reply for the first time during the General Debate of 65th session of UNGA.

September 29, 2010.

Mr. President,

I am exercising the Right of Reply in response to the statement just made by Pakistan.

Regrettably, my distinguished colleague from Pakistan has once again raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Such unsolicited and untenable remarks will not and indeed, cannot divert attention from the multiple problems Pakistan needs to tackle for the common good of its people, and indeed of the entire region.

Rather than making unsolicited remarks about internal affairs of others, Pakistan should seriously concentrate on addressing the enormous challenges confronting it: terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, to name a few and the dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure that exists on territory under its control.

Violence in Jammu and Kashmir has been fuelled over the past decades by external forces which do not want peace and progress in our region. This is a well known fact. The Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of all our people, including our brethren in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. Free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir have been regularly held and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have exercised their right to franchise to elect their representatives.

Thank you

Statement by Mr. Manish Gupta, First Secretary exercising Right of Reply for the second time, during the General Debate of 65th session of UN General Assembly, September 29, 2010

Mr. President,

I am exercising the Right of Reply in response to comments from the Pakistani delegate.

We reject the untenable and unsolicited remarks from the distinguished delegate of Pakistan.

Thank you



240. Response of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the remarks by Pakistan Foreign Minister regarding Jammu & Kashmir.

New York, September 29, 2010.

In response to a question, at an interactive session at Asia Society in New York on September 28, on remarks by Foreign Minister of Pakistan regarding Jammu and Kashmir, in his address at the UNGA earlier in the day, the External Affairs Minister said:

"It is with a sense of genuine disappointment that I react to the unacceptable references to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, made by Foreign Minister Qureshi in his address at the UN earlier today. I am also aware that at this august forum (Asia Society) he had brought up this issue last week. Pakistan is a country that has enormous and serious challenges confronting it. Such unsolicited and untenable remarks will not and indeed, cannot, divert attention from the multiple problems Pakistan needs to tackle for the common good of its people, and indeed of the entire region.

India is a vibrant, mature and thriving democracy. Our democratic institutions guarantee fundamental rights to all our citizens under our Constitution, including to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The only path, as our Prime Minister has said, for lasting peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir is that of dialogue and discussion. Meaningful dialogue can happen only in an atmosphere free of violence and confrontation. We are ready for dialogue with anybody or any group that does not espouse or practice violence."



241. Response of Official Spokesperson to former Pakistan President General Musharraf's statement on Pakistan training for terrorism in J&K.

New Delhi, October 6, 2010.

In response to a question on General Musharraf's reported statement* that Pakistan trained militant underground groups to fight against India in Kashmir, the official spokesperson stated that this is a widely accepted fact and General Musharraf's assertion only confirms the veracity of what we have been repeatedly saying over the years. This is precisely why India has sought a firm and abiding commitment from Pakistan that it will not allow its territory and territory under its control to be used for the aiding and abetting of terrorist activity directed against India and for providing sanctuary to such terrorist groups.



* The former Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, had said Pakistan had regarded terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as "mujahideen" fighting for the "rights" of Kashmiri people. General Musharraf defending militant groups said: "From our point of view, LeT is fighting for the rights of Kashmiris and there is great public support in Pakistan for groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba," he told NDTV adding anyone "fighting in your part of Kashmir" was a "mujahideen" for Pakistan. Asked whether killing innocent people was not terrorism, the former President retorted that the Indian Army was also killing civilians. "Isn't Indian Army also terrorist?" However, he admitted that the attack on Indian Parliament and the Mumbai bombings were terrorism. About his remarks to a German magazine last week that Pakistan trained militant groups were fighting in Kashmir, he said he did not mean that they were trained during his tenure. "I didn't say that. I said certain things which were taken as such," he said pointing out that "mujahideen groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen" came into being in 1989 after the "freedom struggle started in Kashmir." "To say that I was doing this ...this argument has to be killed. I was nothing at that time. I was just a Brigadier." Challenged on his description of the LeT as "mujahideen," he insisted that for Pakistan it was a group of freedom fighters.

242. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at the Symposium on "The Future of India-Pakistan Relations" at the Pakistan Studies Programme of the Jamia Milia Islamia.

New Delhi, October 19, 2010.

I consider it a privilege being invited to speak to such an august gathering at the Jamia Milia Islamia on a subject which is of critical importance to over a billion people of South Asia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vice Chancellor Najeeb Jung, who I am proud to call my friend and batchmate, my former colleagues Ambassador Satyabrata Pal and Ambassador T.C.A. Rangachari, Shri M.J. Akbar, Dr. Raja Mohan, Dr. Ajay Darshan Behera and the faculty of this reputed centre of learning for providing me an opportunity to set my sights on the future and speak on how I see the evolving paradigm of relations between the two largest countries in the South Asian sub-continent. Predicting the course of one of the most complex and unpredictable relationships in the modern era is a task that most intrepid astrologers would hesitate to undertake and ladies and gentlemen, I am no astrologer. I will however, attempt to approach the subject as a practitioner of diplomacy and international relations.

2. Six decades after the tragedy and trauma of Partition, a host of issues continue to bedevil India-Pakistan relations and cast long shadows on bilateral ties. The challenge then, is to grasp this moment in history to explore the possibility of peace in the region in the larger context of an increasingly interdependent and globalizing world. In the India-Pakistan discourse, we have literally eaten bitterness for the last sixty years and given the complexities of our ties, the task of improvement in ties is also Sisyphean. Some argue that we must induce a radical transformation of mindsets on both sides that view each other through the prism of an embittered past and entrenched hostility. This may be the conventional wisdom but is often not borne out by the behaviour of the multitudes of common people living on either side of the border. I say this in the realization that there are enough people in both countries that continue to be prisoners of the past. And yet, how does one explain the warm and spontaneous applause of thousands of spectators at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 3 this year when the Pakistani contingent entered the stadium for

the opening ceremony of the 19th Commonwealth Games in Delhi or the statements of support from the Pakistani sports authorities in the run up to the Games when others were vying with each other to write off the event before it had started? What explains this? On the one hand there is the push of realism that compels us to see the relationship with Pakistan as hobbled by its many limitations, while on the other hand, there is the pull of emotion, of sentiment, of the muffled footsteps of shared history that beat in our blood, that generates a response that is giving and generous.

It may be tempting to conclude that the common man desires peaceful and good neighbourly relations and that the governments of both countries are somehow impediments in achieving this cherished goal. This would be far too simplistic and naïve. While it is apparent that the people of both countries desire to live in peace and amity, yet it takes only one act of mindless terrorism, like the barbaric attack on Mumbai in November 2008, to vitiate the atmosphere and poison public perception.

3. Of course, there is the engulfing deficit of trust between the two countries that needs to be bridged. This needs to be done both at the government and people to people level. Numerous well-meaning efforts in the past have faltered and many will continue to do so in the future unless both sides show an unwavering commitment to stay the course and create a propitious and enabling environment to surmount the innumerable obstacles that are littered on the path to peace. There is no magic panacea that can make this happen. But it is incumbent on each and every one of us to persevere with patience and dedication so that future generations do not remain hostage to a poison-ridden legacy of political misunderstandings and geopolitical antagonisms.

4. The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan met on the margins of the SAARC Summit in Bhutan in April this year and agreed to normalize relations and to address the deficit of trust that exists between the two countries. Accordingly, they mandated their Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries with the task of working out modalities for restoring trust and confidence in their relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern.

5. Pursuant to this directive, I visited Islamabad in June to prepare the ground for a subsequent visit by the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan

the next month. While I do not want to dwell into the specifics of both these visits, notwithstanding the cordial and frank exchanges, our efforts to bridge the trust deficit and pave the way for a serious and comprehensive dialogue were thwarted by a level of overreach by Pakistan that complicated the resumption of a sustained dialogue process. However, we do not view this as a set-back in our quest for peace as both sides appear to be committed to ensuring that the spirit of Thimphu is not lost. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan has accepted our invitation to visit India, dates for which will be decided through diplomatic channels. We will continue to strive for a resolution of all outstanding issues through dialogue.

6. The countries of the South Asian region have a common stake in ensuring a peaceful, stable environment that guarantees a bright and prosperous future. Democracy has infused a new vitality among all countries in the region, and brought with it a revolution of rising expectations and perceived possibilities among the peoples of South Asia. The leadership in all the countries of South Asia is obliged to concentrate on the imperative of providing inclusive and sustainable development and economic opportunities to the needier sections of their populations. This realization should also unlock bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. It informs the vision of our leadership when they seek dialogue with Pakistan. The linkages resulting from economic interaction, connectivity and people to people contacts could build the sinews of a more durable and lasting peace in which stakeholders will have a vested interest in preserving the gains of a mutually beneficial relationship. This is the call of the 21st Century.

7. India's advocacy of an incremental, graduated and forward-looking approach that seeks to address the deficit of trust is by no means an attempt to avoid tackling of the substantive differences that trouble relations with Pakistan. While there can be no guarantees for success, such an approach seeks to build first on what is achievable and simultaneously to also address the more intractable issues in a sustained manner. The issue of terrorism arising out of the sub-conventional conflict directed by Pakistan against India for over two decades now, cannot be ignored either. It is as substantive an issue as the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, or the issue of the Siachen Glacier.

8. As we seek to pave the way for a serious and comprehensive dialogue, how do we enlarge the constituencies of peace in both countries so that the dawn of a new era does not remain a chimera? I had earlier

referred to economic linkages and enhanced people to people contacts. The task before us is to translate this on the ground to a mutually enriching and beneficial partnership for the greater good.

9. The Indian economy has grown exponentially in the last couple of decades and despite the global downturn, it continues to grow at over 8 %. While the Government is committed to inclusive growth so that the benefits of an ever expanding economy percolate down to the grassroots, we would be happy to share this growth with all our neighbours. This can only be done if we are able to promote our complementarities and link our economies to a trajectory of inclusive and incremental growth. Artificial barriers and self-defeating policies need to be struck down. The ensuing economic interaction and mutually beneficial cooperation can lift our region from the morass of poverty and deprivation and at the same time create vested interests in a shared vision of peace and prosperity for our people. Unfettered trade and investment flows coupled with freer people to people exchanges at various levels, particularly between the youth of the two countries, and better communications could help in realizing this vision.

10. Education can form a bridge in bringing together young minds in the region. Universities and academic institutions in both India and Pakistan can play an important role in creating objective understanding. The South Asian University, under the SAARC framework, provides an ideal platform to create a South Asian consciousness. The vision of a world-class South Asian University was envisaged by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka in 2005 when he stated:

"The people of our subcontinent are at the cutting edge of scientific and technological research and in the front ranks of the knowledge society across the world. Wherever an enabling environment and world-class facilities are made available to our talented people, they excel. Let this become a forum where our academicians, scholars, researchers and gifted students can work together in the service of human advancement".

The University, which commenced its first academic session this year, has as its core objectives, building a culture of understanding and regional consciousness; nurturing a new class of liberal, bright and quality leadership; and building the capacity of the region in science, technology and other disciplines considered vital for improving the quality of life of the

people. It can play a stellar role in peace building and reconciliation in the subcontinent by providing a foundation for mutual comprehension and understanding amongst our youth. We have emphasized that Pakistani students seeking admission to the SAU are entitled to the same non-discriminatory dispensation as all other entrants to the University from other South Asian countries, and that we welcome them to come to SAU.

11. The future of India-Pakistan relations, as I see it, must be predicated on such a win-win situation where everybody has a stake in furthering the cause of peace and good neighbourly relations. It is with this vision that our Prime Minister has repeatedly reached out to Pakistan. The recent devastating floods in Pakistan provided an opportunity for us to express our solidarity with the people of Pakistan in their hour of need. Our offer of \$ 25 million was meant to alleviate the heart-wrenching suffering of the people and we are ready to do much more as a neighbour that shares a long border with Pakistan. We are ideally placed to rush badly needed relief material, food, medicines and supplies across the border to provide succour to the suffering millions. Pakistan wished us to route our assistance through the United Nations. We were ready to oblige.

12. I am not trying to predict a rose-tinted future for India-Pakistan relations. But surely, we can dare, perchance, to dream? To dream of a future where on both sides of the divide, our two countries will foster imaginative and creative approaches to tackling problems of peace and security, confidence-building in both conventional and non-conventional areas of defence, the differences over Jammu and Kashmir, and gird our relationship by a raft of clearly enunciated agreements and understandings that can bury the rusting, corrosive hatchet of sixty years and more?

13. Our relations have been encumbered by a host of missed opportunities. We compound these by refusing to learn from history and thereby condemn ourselves to replicating the past rather than unmaking it. However, to learn from history we cannot afford one-sided or biased interpretations. We must also remember that essentially, we were one people shaped from the same timber of humanity before we decided to part ways. There is a need to understand the past in a more redemptive way. Unless we rise above the present we cannot realise the future we seek. The choices for the future are stark and real. Either we learn to live together in peace and harmony or we risk imparting to future generations

our differences and prejudices that will continue to divide us rather than unite us and indeed widen the gulf between us. Given the complexities of our relationship and the tortured path that we have traversed till now, it is easy to be cynical and predict a gloomy future. However, as an eternal optimist and someone who believes in the power of people to shape their destiny I feel it is incumbent on all of us to strive and achieve a peaceful and mutually reinforcing relationship that will unlock the true potential of more than a billion people for their betterment. Can we realise this goal? The answer needs to be jointly explored sooner than later or else time will pass us by and yet another opportunity would go a begging. I am confident that if we are to approach this with a shared vision and a conviction of purpose, the quest for peace need not remain elusive and in the realm of our fantasy. The eyes of the rest of the world are on us as we engage in this quest.

14. That, Ladies and Gentlemen, would be my prognosis for the future of India-Pakistan relations. I would like to conclude by wishing all the participants in this symposium success in their deliberations.



243. Response of Official Spokesperson to Pakistan proposal for sending a Judicial Commission to India in connection with the Mumbai Terrorist attack.

New Delhi, October 20, 2010.

In response to a question on Pakistan's proposal for sending a Judicial Commission in connection with the Mumbai terrorist attack trial, the Official Spokesperson said,

"Pakistan has made a general proposal for sending a Judicial Commission to verify the statements of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and the Chief Investigating Officer, who had recorded Ajmal Kasab's confessional statement, and the Para-medical staff, who performed the post mortem of the dead bodies. Pakistan has requested for the views of the Government of India on receiving and facilitating a Judicial Commission for recording the relevant evidence.

India has sought clarifications from the Pakistan side on, inter alia, the law under which the Commission will be constituted, its composition, the nature, scope and modus operandi of the work of the Commission. A confirmation has also been sought that the Commission would only record the statements of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Investigating Officer and that no cross-examination would take place

Once Pakistan has responded to these relevant questions, Government of India would be in a position to take a decision on the proposal."



244. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on Defence Minister A. K. Antony's statement at the Army Commanders Conference.

New Delhi, October 25, 2010.

The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today asked Pakistan to shed its ambivalence on terrorism. Addressing the top brass of Army Commanders here, Shri Antony said Pakistan did not appear to give up India-centric posturing.

"Pakistan does not appear to be willing to leave its India-centric posturing. It will have to shed its ambivalence in dealing with terror groups. Though we are not unduly concerned, we will have to keep constant vigil on the developments in Pakistan," Shri Antony said.

Pointing out that fighting terrorism cost the nation substantially, the Defence Minister reiterated that we will crush terrorism with all our might. Shri Antony said that violence has shown signs of abating in Jammu and Kashmir due to the constant vigil by the Army.

"The Army has been quite successful in countering the proxy war and in minimising the incidents of terror," Shri Antony said, adding, "Still, as long as the terror infrastructure across the border continues to flourish, we cannot afford to drop our guard".

The Defence Minister said that the security situation in the 'AfPak' region continues to be a cause for concern. "Despite the physical and material costs, India has at all times, advocated peace and stability with all nations - including our neighbours," Shri Antony said. "The volatile political situation in our immediate neighbourhood has the potential of having a debilitating impact on the region. India's role in preserving peace and stability thus, becomes all the more important," he added.

Calling upon the Armed Forces to maintain a high level of operational readiness, Shri Antony stressed that the Government remains committed to modernisation and indigenisation.

"The Defence Ministry has introduced changes in the Defence Procurement Procedure to increase private participation. I am confident that the changes in our 'Procurement Procedures' will help in realising the full potential of Public Private Partnership and leverage the advantages in the fields of R & D and manufacturing," Shri Antony said.

The Defence Minister underlined the need for probity and transparency in defence deals. "I wish to strongly reiterate that we must adopt 'Zero Tolerance' towards corruption in letter and spirit. Even the slightest hint of corruption will erode the lofty image of our Armed Forces that the people of our nation have become used to," Shri Antony said.

The inaugural session of the Army Commanders' Conference was attended among others by the Chief of Army Staff, General VK Singh and the Defence Secretary, Shri Pradeep Kumar. The five-day conference will review the security situation, emerging challenges and strategies. Issues pertaining to operational logistics to include infrastructure development and modernization will also be discussed. Keeping pace with the technology transformation and advancement, the conference will also focus on training and its effectiveness based on state-of-the-art technology for meeting the future challenges as also attaining a high state of combat readiness.



245. Information supplied to the Lok Sabha in reply to a question regarding international cooperation on terrorism.

New Delhi, November 10, 2010.

The matter of terrorism and international cooperation to counter it is consistently taken up by the Government of India at various levels, including the highest, with governments of friendly countries, including the United States of America. This is done both bilaterally and in multilateral fora.

In the last three years [2007-2009], bilateral meetings have been coordinated by Ministry of External Affairs with 18 countries/groupings. Bilaterally, Government of India cooperates in counter-terrorism through the mechanism of Counter-Terrorism Joint Working Groups (CT-JWGs). Ministry of External Affairs currently coordinates CT-JWGs with 25 countries and 2 regional groupings (list attached). Ministry of Home Affairs does the same with some of our immediate neighbours.

These meetings have proved very helpful in enabling exchange of views and experience regarding terror threats and groups, sharing of information, cooperation in training and capacity building, countering terror financing, sharing best practices, strengthening of multilateral efforts in countering terrorism and in facilitating agency to agency cooperation.



246. Reiteration by India of its request to Pakistan to act on its commitment to bring perpetrators of Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice.

New Delhi, November 25, 2010.

Government of India has conveyed to Pakistan its regret that despite the repeated assurances given by Pakistan's leadership at the highest level and the extensive cooperation extended by India in connection with the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan on the Mumbai terrorist attacks, substantive and verifiable progress has not been made on bringing all the perpetrators and masterminds of the heinous attacks to justice.

India has once again called upon Pakistan to fulfil its stated commitment to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice and unravel the larger conspiracy behind the attacks. A time-bound fulfilment of its stated commitments by Pakistan would not only go a long way towards building trust and confidence between the two countries but would also be a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism comprehensively.

Lack of tangible progress in delivering on this vital commitment is increasingly being viewed in the Indian public opinion as dilatory and lacking in seriousness.



This message was issued on the 2nd anniversary of the Mumbai attacks by a Pakistani terrorist gang.

247. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the media on the 2nd anniversary of Mumbai attack.

Colombo, November 26, 2010.

On the 2nd anniversary of the barbaric terrorist attack in Mumbai, the nation pays respectful homage to its sons, daughters and foreign guests, whose innocent lives were cruelly snuffed out.

The day is a stark reminder, that no cause can ever justify terror, either by state or non-state actors. Once again I call upon Pakistan, to dismantle the terror machine operating with impunity in territories under its control and to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attack to speedy justice.

We seek peaceful, stable and cooperative relations with Pakistan. I travelled to Islamabad last July for talks and have also invited my counterpart Foreign Minister Qureshi to visit New Delhi for further discussions. India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through dialogue.



248. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the press briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the ongoing visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

* * * *

Question: Madam, paragraph 12 in the Joint Communiqué says, "They also recognized the need to implement all relevant UN resolutions, in particular UNSC resolutions 1267, 1373, 1540 and 1624." In the light of the fact that just a couple of days back JuD Chief Hafiz Saeed has held an open rally in Pakistan and the fact that now it appears in the Joint Communiqué as well, what sort of cooperation do you expect from China in this regard?

Foreign Secretary: In the discussions that the two Prime Ministers had, obviously they talked about the situation in the region and also the relations between India and Pakistan. Our concerns about terrorism emanating from Pakistani soil were expressed, as also the fact that relations between India and Pakistan will really move forward in a substantive manner, once these concerns that we have, these very legitimate concerns, about terrorism and about terrorist groups, and terrorist leaders of such groups pursuing an agenda which is very anti-Indian, is stopped.

That was clearly put forward and also the fact that the need is very much there for China to also look at the real concerns that India has, and the fact that it is only when terrorism is properly addressed and the forces of terrorism are defeated that we will have a stable region. And that affects China also because Premier Wen referred to the terrorism that they face in Xinjiang. And he expressed great sympathy for the victims of the Mumbai attacks and how concerned they have been about the fact that Mumbai had come under attack like that. So, in that context we spoke about, in the context of what is happening in the UN Security Council and 1267 Committee, the need to effectively curb and prevent the activities of organizations like the Jamaat-ud-Dawa was raised. This was a conversation I think which moved in a very open and candid manner where we were able to express our concerns quite clearly,

articulate them very clearly. I think the Chinese Premier was given a very clear understanding. I am sure it enabled him to have a much clearer understanding of India's concerns in this regard.

Question: Madam, just one follow-up on that. What was the Chinese response to our concerns on terror, which you said we brought up in a big way, and particularly about these UN Resolutions? I am asking this because they are still holding out on Masood Azhar being added to 1267. So, while in the Joint Statement they say one thing, is it practically being reflected in what they are doing? Also, did the issue of stapled visas come up and what was their response?

Foreign Secretary: On terrorism I think I have explained myself quite clearly. In some detail I referred to the conversations that Prime Minister had with Premier Wen on this issue. So, I do not need to go into that in greater detail. On the stapled visas issues, in fact Premier Wen Jiabao brought it up himself and he said that China takes our concerns on this issue very seriously. And he suggested that the officials of the two sides should have in-depth consultations with each other so that this issue can be resolved satisfactorily.

Question: What consultations?

Foreign Secretary: On the issue itself.

Question: It is up to them.

Foreign Secretary: Yes, of course, in a sense the ball is in their court. There is no doubt

even before we raised it. Of course, we intended to raise it with him but he brought it up in the course of the conversation and spoke about how they took this issue and the issue of our concerns very seriously. I think that is something that you have to take note of, the fact that he said that.

*

*

*

*

Question: The Chinese Premier will be visiting Pakistan tomorrow. Did our Prime Minister tell the Chinese leader to use China's enormous influence over Pakistan to expedite 26/11 probe? And also did we convey

our concerns over the Sino-Pakistan nuclear deal for building two nuclear reactors?

Foreign Secretary: The fact that Premier Wen is going to Pakistan after India, you should not see this as in any way connected to what we are doing in the India-China relationship. We just have to look at the Communiqué and I think it really speaks for itself. There is evidence here of a multidimensional, well-evolved relationship that India and China have been able to achieve. And this does not compare with any other relationship really because it is the narrative of two of the largest developing countries, two neighbours who have consciously worked on building a relationship despite the complex issues that still remain to be resolved - I refer to the boundary question between the two countries. There is a conscious attempt by both sides to expand the scope of the relationship and the Communiqué speaks for itself. We are really moving from one level to a higher level with each visit, with each such engagement.

On the issue of Pakistan, I answered in the first question about how our concerns about terrorism from Pakistan were expressed very clearly. China's assessment on the situation in Pakistan was also conveyed to us. Of course, I am not going to discuss confidential assessments but certainly we were able to have a very good exchange of views on what is happening in our region, particularly in the context of the terrorism in Pakistan, the kind of turbulence that we have seen coming out of that country.

On the issue of the nuclear reactors, I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that both countries stated their commitment to nonproliferation objectives and to expand their dialogue on these and related issues in bilateral and international fora. So, we already have a means, a mechanism, a way to handle these issues, and that is how we intend to tackle it.

*

*

*

*



SRI LANKA**249. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the congratulatory message from Prime Minister to Sri Lanka President Mahind Rajapaksa on his reelection as President for the second term..****New Delhi, January 27, 2010.**

"Please accept my heartiest felicitations on your re-election as the President of Sri Lanka.

Your Excellency's success in the elections is a reflection of the trust the people of Sri Lanka have reposed in you. I am confident that, under your leadership, Sri Lanka will find lasting peace, where all communities can live with dignity and in harmony.

India and Sri Lanka have a shared commitment to democratic values. We have time tested ties of friendship and cooperation. I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our close and multi-dimensional bilateral relations in the coming years.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and personal well being and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Sri Lanka."

**250. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka.****Colombo, March 8, 2010.**

The Foreign Secretary of India, Smt. Nirupama Rao, paid an official visit to Sri Lanka from 6 - 8 March 2010. On 7th March 2010, she called on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who also hosted a lunch in her honour. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama, also received the Foreign Secretary. The Foreign Secretary also met other senior officials of the Government of Sri Lanka, including

the Senior Advisor to the President Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Foreign Secretary Romesh Jayasinghe, Treasury Secretary P.B. Jayasundera and Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal. In addition, she also met representatives of leading political parties, including Tamil and Muslim parties.

During her meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, the Foreign Secretary congratulated the President on his electoral victory and underlined that the elimination of terrorism and holding of elections provided Sri Lanka with a historic opportunity to initiate a process of political reconciliation where all communities in Sri Lanka can live in peace and harmony. The President appreciated India's substantial assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka and for the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons. In particular, the extension of US\$ 425 million as Lines of Credit for railway projects in Northern Sri Lanka was welcomed. The President mentioned that around 70,000 IDPs remained in the camps, many of their own volition. The Foreign Secretary welcomed the relaxation of movement restrictions on IDPs, but also expressed the hope that the resettlement process could be expedited, especially in Killinochchi and Mullaithivu, so that the IDPs could resume normal lives in their original places of habitation. She conveyed that India looked forward to opening a Consulate General in Jaffna. The Foreign Secretary noted that the October 2008 Joint Statement of Fishing Arrangements had led to a decrease in incidents of apprehension of Indian fishermen and reiterated the importance of strictly adhering to this understanding. It was also agreed to convene a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fishing to discuss issues related to fishermen on both sides.

During her discussions with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and other senior officials of the Foreign Office, The Foreign Minister thanked India for its generous assistance towards the ongoing rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction activities in northern Sri Lanka. The Foreign Secretary assured the Government of Sri Lanka of Government of India's intention to continue supporting the task of development and reconstruction in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. In this context, she announced India's support for housing projects to be taken up in the Killinochchi and Mullaitivu districts for the benefit of the IDPs. This will include setting up temporary

shelters, repairing and rehabilitating damaged houses and building new houses. Government of India has also sanctioned the supply of 55 buses to various educational, social and cultural organizations and locally elected bodies in northern, eastern and central Sri Lanka with a view to supporting the transportation sector and strengthening connectivity in these areas. Foreign Secretary also indicated that additional Lines of Credit are being considered for railways projects in Northern Sri Lanka. The Foreign Minister also thanked India for its strong support to Sri Lanka during the latter's chairmanship of SAARC.

Cultural engagement and the preservation of shared heritage have always figured as a high priority in India-Sri Lanka relations. In this context, Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao announced that India had decided to participate fully in the setting up of the International Buddhist Museum in the Dalada Maligawa Complex. Work to set up the Indian gallery will be commenced soon under the direction of the National Museum of India. Foreign Secretary also announced that India would assist the restoration of the famous Thiruketheshwaram Temple in Mannar. A team from the Archeological Survey of India and the College of Architecture in Mahaballipuram will visit Sri Lanka to take up this work.

The India-Sri Lanka Foundation is a unique inter-governmental mechanism that has provided crucial support to and helped catalyze a number of initiatives taken by civil society in the area of art, culture, education, human resource development, training, etc. Foreign Secretary announced Government of India's decision to enhance its contribution to the corpus of the Foundation by another India Rupees 15 million (approximately SLR 38 million) as a one-time grant. This announcement was warmly welcomed by her interlocutors.

During her visit, Foreign Secretary also inaugurated the Sri Lanka-India Centre for English Language Training in Peradeniya, Kandy on 7th March. The Centre has been set up with the assistance of the Government of India in collaboration with the well-known English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and is meant to support the Sri Lankan Presidential Initiative for English as a Life Skill. The Centre has a state-of-the-art digital language laboratory and has already trained over 4,000 teachers. In her remarks at the inauguration, Foreign Secretary expressed her happiness at participating in an initiative that was aimed at the empowerment of the ordinary people of Sri Lanka.



251. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the establishment of Short-Term Indian Chair at the University of Colombo,

New Delhi, March 19, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and University of Colombo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair of Social Sciences at the University of Colombo. High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, Shri Ashok K. Kantha, and Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama signed the MoU on March 11th, 2010 at the University's Senate Hall in the presence of the Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka, and senior academic staff of the University.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of six months. During the six months term, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from October, 2010. The MoU would remain valid for five years from 2010.

In his remarks, Indian High Commissioner Shri Ashok Kantha stated that Indian and Sri Lanka share an excellent relationship, in which both countries could count on each other whenever required. However, there has been a lack of focus on regional studies, thus depriving policy makers of crucial inputs. He reiterated that the MoU would enable the University to source academicians on a long-term basis from India. He opined that the Visiting Chair should be regarded as a stepping-stone for the establishment of a much-needed Center for Contemporary Indian Studies. The Vice Chancellor observed that the MoU would contribute to the exchange of expertise on regular basis between the two countries.

The institution of a Visiting Chair would be a very important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening educational and cultural linkages and mutual understanding between India and Sri Lanka through exchange of scholars, intellectuals, academicians and artistes.



252. Joint Declaration issued during the visit of President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa.**New Delhi, June 9, 2010.**

At the invitation of the President of India, Smt. Prathiba Devisingh Patil, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, is paying a State Visit to India from 8th - 11th June 2010. The President is accompanied by Mrs. Shiranthi Rajapaksa.

2. The President of Sri Lanka was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapathi Bhavan on 9th June 2010. During the visit, the President of Sri Lanka was received by the President of India, who hosted a banquet in his honour.

3. Finance Minister Shri. Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister Shri. S.M. Krishna, Leader of Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Smt. Sonia Gandhi called on President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

4. The President of Sri Lanka had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on 9th June 2010, which was followed by delegation level talks.

5. The official discussions between the two sides were marked by friendship, mutual respect and understanding. The President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India agreed that the shared cultural and civilizational heritage of India and Sri Lanka and the extensive people-to-people interaction provided the foundation to build a vibrant and multi-faceted partnership. India-Sri Lanka relations have matured and diversified with the passage of time, encompassing all areas of contemporary relevance, including trade, services and investment, development cooperation, science and technology, culture and education.

6. In consonance with their vision of the future of the India-Sri Lanka relations, the two leaders agreed to further harness the enormous potential available for consolidating and strengthening the bilateral partnership by building on shared values and principles of democracy and pluralism, leveraging common strategic concerns and interests, enhancing connectivity between the two countries, increasing the integration of their economies, and reinforcing the institutional framework for cooperation.

7. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, congratulated the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, on his recent electoral victories and conveyed that the recent elections, together with the cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka in May 2009, provided a historic opportunity for the country's leaders to address all outstanding issues in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation and to work towards genuine national reconciliation. The Prime Minister emphasised that a meaningful devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would create the necessary conditions for a lasting political settlement. The President of Sri Lanka reiterated his determination to evolve a political settlement acceptable to all communities that would act as a catalyst to create the necessary conditions in which all the people of Sri Lanka could lead their lives in an atmosphere of peace, justice and dignity, consistent with democracy, pluralism, equal opportunity and respect for human rights. Towards this end, the President expressed his resolve to continue to implement in particular the relevant provisions of the Constitution designed to strengthen national amity and reconciliation through empowerment. In this context, he shared his ideas on conducting a broader dialogue with all parties involved. The Prime Minister of India expressed India's constructive support for efforts that build peace and reconciliation among all communities in Sri Lanka.

8. The President of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for India's substantial and generous assistance including through a grant of Indian Rupees 500 crore for the humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). He noted that the steps taken by India for humanitarian assistance, including supply of family packs of food and clothing, medicines, setting up of a field hospital and an artificial limb fitment camp and for the resettlement of IDPs, including provision of shelter material, cement bags and agricultural implements and deployment of de-mining teams, were important and timely.

9. The Prime Minister of India was apprised on the measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to bring about a rapid and sustainable resettlement of the bulk of the IDPs. It was stated that the process of resettling the limited number still remaining in the transit facilities would be further expedited. Both leaders agreed on the urgent need for the resettlement of the remaining IDPs, along with speedy rehabilitation,

reconstruction and development in the North and the East of Sri Lanka. They agreed to work closely towards this end. In this context, India's assistance to rebuild infrastructure, including railway infrastructure, set up several Vocational Training Centres, repair and construct schools, houses, stadium and recreational facilities, supply much-needed inputs for agricultural regeneration and undertake several other projects was greatly appreciated.

10. Both leaders announced a major initiative to undertake a programme of construction of 50,000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The President of Sri Lanka warmly welcomed the offer of Indian support for this programme.

11. With regard to the task of reconstruction in northern Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister of India reiterated India's support for various infrastructure projects. In this regard, the two leaders witnessed the signing of the contract for the reconstruction of the Madu-Talaimannar railway line by IRCON. The contract for the Medawachchiya-Madu segment of the track will be signed shortly. It was also noted that the contract for the reconstruction of the Omanthai-Pallai segment of the railway track by IRCON has already been signed. The two leaders directed that the contracts for the construction of a new signalling and tele-communication network by IRCON, and for the reconstruction of the Pallai-KKS railway line, which will be undertaken by the Sri Lanka Railway in collaboration with IRCON, also be concluded at the earliest. The work on all these construction projects will commence latest by October 2010. It was also noted that the procurement of rolling stock from India would take place in a phased manner. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka directed that a Steering Committee be established to oversee and facilitate the timely and successful completion of the contracted work.

12. The President of Sri Lanka expressed his appreciation for the generous and concessionary credit facilities amounting to about US\$ 800 million offered by India for the railway projects in Sri Lanka. The two leaders directed that the relevant agreements on the lines of credit for requisite amounts be concluded within two months, so that there is no delay in the commencement of the projects.

13. In addition, with a view to restoring physical and cultural infrastructure and promoting normalcy in northern Sri Lanka, it was also agreed that India would extend assistance for the rehabilitation of Palaly Airport and Kankesanthurai Harbour as also help in renovating the Duraiappah Stadium and constructing a Cultural Centre in Jaffna.

14. Both leaders welcomed the involvement of Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in addressing the issue of rehabilitation of war widows and witnessed the signing of the MoU on Setting Up of Women's Trade Facilitation Centre and Community Learning Centre at Batticaloa.

15. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress of work on the Colombo-Matara railway line being constructed with Indian assistance, and directed that the project be completed in a timely manner.

16. The two leaders witnessed the signing of the MoU on Small Development Project Scheme.

17. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka reiterated their mutual commitment to substantially enhance the range and depth of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral relationship including through greater economic integration, enhancing connectivity and other linkages and closer developmental cooperation.

18. In this context, both leaders agreed to revive the Joint Commission mechanism and hold the next meeting of the Joint Commission, co-chaired by the two Ministers of External Affairs, in the second half of 2010 in order to devise a fuller agenda of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

19. Both leaders agreed to promote dialogue on security and defence issues of relevance to their bilateral relationship, and enhance high-level military exchanges and training of military personnel as well as impart additional training in Indian institutions for the newly recruited police personnel. They agreed to institute an annual defence dialogue between the two governments.

20. Both leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They also agreed to strengthen the security and legal framework of their bilateral relationship. To this end, the leaders witnessed the signing of the following Agreements:

- i. Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters; and
- ii. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners.

21. Both leaders underlined their desire for closer economic integration to achieve the shared goals of alleviating poverty, creating wealth and bringing about progress and prosperity for the people of the two countries. In this context, they agreed to cooperate closely to nurture a favourable environment to forge closer economic and trade linkages.

22. Both leaders expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade, despite the downturn in 2009 as a result of the global economic slowdown, was already beginning to show a healthy recovery.

23. Recognizing the considerable benefits from greater economic cooperation between the two countries, the two Leaders noted the progress achieved under the India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. They agreed that it would be timely to build on this achievement through a more comprehensive framework of economic cooperation, best suited to the two countries. In this context, they directed the concerned officials of the two countries to hold intensive consultations towards developing a framework for sustainable economic partnership between the two countries and addressing outstanding issues.

24. The two leaders also agreed to launch a CEOs Forum to involve the public and private sectors in a dialogue to generate ideas to deepen and broaden the bilateral economic relationship in all its aspects and to help chart the future course of business and trade interaction between the two countries.

25. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka agreed that there was great potential for the further and rapid expansion of bilateral agricultural cooperation and collaboration in livestock development between the two countries. They noted that the MoU for Scientific and Technical cooperation between the Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the Sri Lanka Council for Agriculture Research Policy had yielded sound results, including in human resource development. They agreed that collaborative research and development programmes in areas such as livestock, biotechnology, the design and manufacture of agricultural and farm machinery and equipment, hybrid seed development and post harvest

processing of perishable products, fruits and vegetables would further contribute to agricultural cooperation. The concerned authorities of the two countries would also cooperate in the area of weather forecasting. Towards this end, the two leaders resolved that the two countries should finalize at the earliest possible an Agreement providing for comprehensive cooperation in Agriculture.

26. The two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in the energy sector. In this connection, they welcomed greater cooperation between the public and private sector entities and emphasised the need to cooperate further.

27. The two leaders were briefed on the progress in discussions between the National Thermal Power Corporation of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board of Sri Lanka on the establishment of a joint venture for building a 500 MW coal-fired power plant at Sampur (Trincomalee), incorporating environmentally friendly technologies, with the Government of Sri Lanka providing the requisite infrastructure support. The concerned parties have agreed to complete their discussions on the Joint Venture Agreement, the Power Purchase Agreement, the Agreement with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, the Implementation Agreement and other relevant arrangements within three months, so that the work on the project can commence without delay. The Sri Lankan side expressed its appreciation for the further concessionary line of credit of US\$ 200 million afforded by the Government of India, to enable the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitments under the Implementation Agreement, including with regard to the construction of a jetty at Sampur and of transmission lines from Sampur to Habarana as also the initial equity of the Ceylon Electricity Board (under the Joint Venture Agreement).

28. An agreement on conducting a feasibility study for the interconnection of the Indian and Sri Lankan electricity grids was also signed on this occasion. The two leaders expressed their confidence that the agreement would make a significant contribution to enhancing India-Sri Lanka cooperation in the energy sector.

29. Recognising the need to speedily restore the traditional links between the two countries, both leaders agreed to resume the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and between Talaimannar and Rameswaram. They directed their respective officials to put in place the mechanisms to start these services at an early date.

30. The two leaders agreed on establishing the Consulates General of India in Jaffna and in Hambantota to reinforce consular cooperation and friendly links between the two countries. The Prime Minister of India welcomed in this regard Sri Lanka's interest in establishing a further Post in India, in addition to those in Chennai and in Mumbai functioning under the High Commission in New Delhi.

31. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka expressed satisfaction that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of October 2008, which sought to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), had led to a decrease in incidents. Both sides agreed to explore ways to strengthen the safety and security of fishermen and, in this context, directed their respective officials to revive the meetings of the bilateral Joint Working Group on Fishing. It was also decided to enhance and promote contacts between the fishermen's associations on both sides.

32. The President of Sri Lanka proposed discussions on the matter of establishing a joint information mechanism on the possibility of oil and gas fields straddling the India Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary. The Prime Minister of India assured the President of Sri Lanka that this proposal would receive the Government of India's attention and the matter could be discussed further between the two sides.

33. Recognising that the shared cultural and civilizational links provided the bedrock of bilateral relations, the two leaders agreed that the 2600th year of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha (Sambuddhatva Jayanthi) will be commemorated through joint activities. They noted with appreciation that an International Buddhist Conference will be organized in Kandy later this year with the support of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

34. Both leaders also welcomed the proposal for the restoration of Tiruketheeswaram temple at Mannar to be undertaken with the assistance of the Archaeological Survey of India and the College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram, with the involvement of the Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka.

35. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka also witnessed the signature of the Programme for Cultural Cooperation for the period 2010-2013.

36. Recognising the immense potential that exists in the two countries to tap knowledge as a key driver of economic and social advancement, the two leaders agreed that both countries should enhance links in the educational sector as a core component of their bilateral engagement. In this context, the two leaders announced the launching of an "India-Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative".

37. Under this Initiative, the two leaders welcomed the proposal of the University of Colombo to establish a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies with the support of the Government of India.

38. The two leaders further welcomed the recent inauguration in Kandy of the Sri Lanka-India Centre for English Language Training (SLICELT) as part of the President's Initiative on English and Information Technology. A distance learning network linking the English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad and SLICELT will be established to enable training of master trainers and teachers in Sri Lanka and upgrading their skills. It was agreed to expand SLICELT further by establishing provincial and regional centres with Indian assistance.

39. The other elements of the Knowledge Initiative agreed upon by the two leaders include the following:

- India announced an expansion of its scholarship programmes in Sri Lanka, including increasing their numbers, introducing new scholarship schemes, addressing special needs of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka and upcountry areas and ensuring wider outreach throughout the country.
- Both sides agreed to promote linkages between Indian and Sri Lankan universities and institutions of higher learning.
- India responded positively to the request of Sri Lanka to extend technical assistance to the Ten Year Presidential Initiative to steer Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual Society by 2020.

- Both sides agreed to collaborate in the establishment of a research institute on agriculture in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
40. Both leaders agreed to promote the use of space technology for a variety of societal services using Indian satellites. For this purpose, the Indian side will extend bandwidth to set up satellite-interactive terminals in Sri Lanka.
41. Welcoming the growing connectivity between the two countries, the two leaders called for greater cooperation in tourism and promotion of people-to-people contacts, especially between the youth of India and Sri Lanka.
42. The leaders reiterated the importance of continuing to work together in the regional and international fora given their increasing convergence of views on a range of issues.
43. Recalling the deliberations at the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, the two leaders agreed to work towards the full realization of the vision of the Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration.
44. The two sides also agreed that current global challenges require the reinvigoration of multilateralism, including through the strengthening of the UN system. In this context, Sri Lanka reiterated its position that the UN Security Council reform process should facilitate India's legitimate claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and reaffirmed her support for the candidature of India as a permanent member of an expanded UN Security Council. Sri Lanka's support to India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2011-12 was also reiterated.
45. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the State Visit by the President of Sri Lanka to India, which provided further testimony to the continuing excellent relations between the two countries. The President of Sri Lanka also invited the President of India and the Prime Minister of India to pay early visits to Sri Lanka. The invitations were accepted with appreciation.



253. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at media briefing on the State Visit of President of Sri Lanka.

New Delhi, June 9, 2010.

The President of Sri Lanka H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa is currently in India on a State Visit. He is accompanied by Mrs. Shiranthi Rajapaksa and a high-level delegation, including three Cabinet Ministers.

2. This morning, he was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister called on him. The Leader of Opposition and the Chairperson of the UPA are also calling on him. A delegation of MPs from Tamil Nadu is also meeting him in the afternoon.

3. He had a meeting with Prime Minister followed by delegation-level talks. Seven Agreements and MOUs were signed.

4. The talks between Prime Minister and President Rajapaksa were wide-ranging and encompassed a range of issues reflecting the multi-faceted nature of our relationship. The two leaders shared their vision of the future of India-Sri Lanka relations and agreed that President Rajapaksa's visit provided an opportunity to lay the foundation for a forward-looking comprehensive agenda for bilateral engagement. These shared understandings are reflected in a Joint Declaration which will be issued shortly.

5. Our Prime Minister emphasised that Sri Lanka's emergence from decades of conflict offered a historic opportunity to spearhead an era of reconciliation where all communities can come together to realise a political settlement. Prime Minister also observed that a meaningful devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would create the necessary conditions for this purpose. In particular, Prime Minister emphasised the need for urgent steps to resettle the remaining IDPs and urged Sri Lanka to undertake speedy rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Prime Minister also referred to the extensive assistance being provided by India for these efforts including Rs.500 crores as grant and about US\$ 800 million as lines of credit for railway projects.

6. Both leaders announced a major initiative to undertake a programme of construction of 50,000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons in

Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. This will be done with Indian assistance.

7. India will also be taking up several projects for the reconstruction of the North and the East, including rebuilding of railway infrastructure, rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai harbour and Palaly Airport, construction of a cultural centre in Jaffna and several vocational training centres, renovation of the Duraiappah stadium, rehabilitation of war widows, etc.

8. In order to assist setting up of the NTPC-CEB Joint Venture of 500 MW Thermal Power Plant at Trincomalee in Eastern Sri Lanka, India will be extending a line of credit of US\$ 200 million. The relevant agreements to set up the power plant will be concluded within three months.

9. We have also signed an agreement to conduct a feasibility study for the inter-connection of the Indian and Sri Lankan electricity grids.

10. Both countries have also decided to resume the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticoran and between Thalaimannar and Rameswaram in keeping with the desire to restore traditional links between the two countries.

11. India would also establish Consulates General in Jaffna and Hambantota.

12. The two leaders noted the progress achieved under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement and agreed that it would be timely to build on this achievement through a more comprehensive framework of economic cooperation. They have directed officials to hold intensive consultations on such a framework.

13. We have also agreed to launch a CEOs Forum to involve the business community in a dialogue to generate ideas to deepen and broaden the bilateral economic partnership.

14. Another significant initiative announced by the two leaders was the India-Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative. Under this initiative, the Government of India will support the University of Colombo to establish a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies. We have announced a major expansion of our scholarship programmes in Sri Lanka. We will be assisting in English language education in Sri Lanka under the aegis of the newly-established

Sri Lanka-India Centre for English Language Training at Kandy and its regional and provincial centres. We will also provide technical assistance for the Presidential initiative on Trilingual Society in Sri Lanka and collaborate in the establishment of a research institute on agriculture in the Northern Province.

15. The two leaders have agreed that the 2600th Year of the Enlightenment of Lord Buddha (Sumbuddhatva Jayanthi) will be commemorated through joint activities.

16. We have also agreed to assist in the restoration of the sacred Tiruketheeswaram Temple at Mannar, Sri Lanka.

17. In order to explore way to strengthen the safety and security of our fishermen, the two sides agreed to resume the discussions under the Joint Working Group on Fishing and promote contacts between the fishermen's association on both sides.

18. Sri Lanka has reaffirmed its support for the candidature of India as a Permanent Member of an expanded UN Security Council, as also for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2011-2012.



254. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

New Delhi, June 9, 2010.

Your Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa

Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa

Distinguished Guests from Sri Lanka

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is, indeed, a great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency President Rajapaksa and Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa to India. Excellency, allow me, at the outset, to felicitate you on your resounding electoral victory.

The people of Sri Lanka have renewed their faith in your leadership. The successful conclusion of the elections and the participation of all communities in this process from all provinces augur well for the future of Sri Lanka.

Excellency, your visit comes at a time when there is promise of a new era of peace and progress in Sri Lanka. Terrorism and secessionist forces have been resolutely defeated. Rehabilitation and reconciliation are the need of the hour. Your Government has undertaken the immediate and challenging task of resettling the nearly 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who emerged out of the conflict zone traumatized by the violence. I am confident that in the coming days, the remaining IDPs will also return to their places of residence to resume their life in peace and security. The restoration of their livelihood, rekindling of their entrepreneurial spirit and resumption of cultural and developmental activities combined with strong financial and moral support will help them resume productive lives again.

Your Excellency's electoral victory holds out hope that an era of reconciliation will begin, where all communities would come together and forge a permanent settlement addressing all outstanding issues in a spirit of mutual accommodation. A genuine political settlement is the path to cohesion and mutual coexistence.

India stands ready to contribute, in any way it can, to assist Sri Lanka in its return to normalcy. The visit to Sri Lanka of a group of Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu last October served to underline this commitment. Our initial focus was on humanitarian assistance which included supply of family packs, medicines, artificial limbs and a field hospital and on the resettlement of IDPs. Apart from the assistance of Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation in the north, we are extending about US\$ 800 million as Lines of Credit for railway projects. We are willing to contribute to the reconstruction process through support for reviving agriculture, for rebuilding schools, housing and civil infrastructure, for rehabilitating war widows, constructing the Cultural Centre in Jaffna, setting up Vocational Training Centres and restoring the Duriappa Stadium.

India and Sri Lanka relations are civilisational and inextricably linked by history, language, religion, trade and, more recently, by our struggle against

colonialism and commitment to democracy and pluralism. In fact, it is this blend of the ancient and the modern that has made India and Sri Lanka relations unique in the modern world. With the cessation of hostilities in northern Sri Lanka, India and Sri Lanka have an opportunity to realize the full potential of their bilateral relations. I am heartened to note that, during this visit, we are committing ourselves to substantially enhance the range and depth of our bilateral engagement.

Enhanced economic interaction and greater connectivity hold the key to leverage our mutual strengths for the benefit of our peoples and, indeed, the entire region. Gains of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement should be consolidated. Trade and investments need to be encouraged further. Several Sri Lankan private sector companies have invested profitably in India. Our traditional development partnership thrives and several projects have been taken up all over Sri Lanka.

I am pleased that we have decided to resume the ferry services between Rameshwaram and Thalaimannar and between Colombo and Tuticorin ports - links that had remained disrupted for years. Power-grid interconnectivity is another linkage being explored. More than 100 flights a week ply between the two countries and the largest number of tourists in Sri Lanka are from India. To bring India closer to the people and promote people-to-people contacts, we are opening Consulates in Jaffna and Hambantota.

Both our countries should come together to leverage our strengths in the world of knowledge and enhance our cooperation in the education sector. Our scholarship outreach in Sri Lanka is being expanded and our capacity building in the education sector, especially among the Indian Origin Tamils, will continue. Recognising our shared civilisational bonds, both countries will commemorate the 2600th year of the attainment of Enlightenment of Lord Buddha through joint activities in Sri Lanka.

India and Sri Lanka can show the way forward to the region and to the world as a model of mutually beneficial cooperation. We can find new synergies and new areas of cooperation. It is through enhanced engagement that we can realize the full potential of our relations.

Distinguished Guests, may I request you to join me in a toast :-

- to the good health and personal well being of His Excellency President Rajapaksa and Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa;
- to the progress and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka; and
- to the ever-growing cooperation and friendship between the two countries.



255. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka.

Colombo, August 31, 2010.

Foreign Secretary Smt Nirupama Rao began her visit to Sri Lanka on 31st August with a visit to Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Jaffna. She was accompanied during the visit by the High Commissioner of India Shri. Ashok K. Kantha, Governor of the Northern Province, Maj Gen (Rtd) G.A.Chandrasiri and senior officials of the Governments of India and Sri Lanka.

2. In Vavuniya, Foreign Secretary received a briefing on the resettlement situation from Maj Gen Kamal Gunaratne, the Security Forces Commander of the Wanni. She then visited Menik Farm, where she met with a number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their families who still await resettlement. She also visited their homes and witnessed their conditions of stay. In a public meeting at the Urban Council Hall in Vavuniya, Foreign Secretary met with another group of IDPs. She assured the IDPs of the Government of India's continued commitment to assist them in the task of rebuilding their lives. India's announcement to build 50,000 houses was widely welcomed. Foreign Secretary underlined that these houses will be built with local participation and will give a fillip to local employment. Foreign Secretary also met with the Government Agent (GA) of Vavuniya, Mrs. PSM Charles and discussed other possible areas where India could assist in the process of resettlement.

3. Foreign Secretary next visited Mahilankulam near Omanthai, a site where the Horizon (ex-servicemen) Group of India is conducting demining operations in a heavily mined area that constituted the no-man's land between the former Forward Defence Lines (FDLs) of the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE. The Government of India is funding three Horizon demining teams, in addition to four teams from Sarvatra, another Indian demining group working in Sri Lanka. The work of the demining teams has come in for considerable praise. Before leaving Vavuniya, Smt Nirupama Rao also distributed another consignment of Indian assistance consisting of agricultural toolkits, roofing sheets and cement bags among recently resettled IDPs, at the Agrarian Services Centre in Omanthai.
4. Foreign Secretary visited Kilinochchi, where she met with local army and civil officials who briefed her on the progress of resettlement. They expressed their happiness that Government of India was readily coming forward to assist in the process of resettlement. She also met with recently resettled families in the Kilinochchi area and distributed toolkits, cement bags and roofing sheets to them.
5. In Jaffna, Foreign Secretary met with local officials who briefed her on the situation in the Jaffna Peninsula and the resettlement priorities of the district. Foreign Secretary was accorded a warm public reception at the Jaffna Public Library where the Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development, Mr. Douglas Devananda and the Mayor of Jaffna were also present. At the Library, she also met with a broad spectrum of civil society leaders and heard from them about the recent developments following the end of armed conflict. They underscored the need for India to be involved in the political process to ensure a permanent settlement.
6. During her interaction in Jaffna, Foreign Secretary underlined that India stood with Sri Lanka in responding to the challenges posed by the task of resettlement and rehabilitation of the large number of IDPs resulting from the end of armed conflict in 2009. In particular, she referred to the challenge posed by housing and noted that India had pledged to build 50,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and that Jaffna would be assisted through signature projects such as the Jaffna Cultural Center, Jaffna Teaching Hospital and the Duraiappah Stadium.

She emphasized that it was time to look to the future for the sake of the coming generations and underlined that India had always accorded high priority to the welfare of the people of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka.

7. Foreign Secretary also visited the site of the Cultural Centre that will be constructed with Indian assistance. She also distributed Indian assistance to a group of recently resettled IDPs.

8. On 1st September, Foreign Secretary will continue her visit to Sri Lanka by visiting Mullaitivu and Trincomalee, before returning to Colombo for further meetings with Sri Lankan dignitaries. She will also call on the President of Sri Lanka before her departure to India.



256. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka.

Colombo, September 1, 2010.

Foreign Secretary Smt Nirupama Rao continued her visit to Sri Lanka by traveling to Mullaitivu and Trincomalee on 1st September. She had visited Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Jaffna on 31st August.

2. In Mullaitivu, which was one of the districts most affected by the recent conflict, Foreign Secretary received a briefing from the Government Agent (GA) of Mullaitivu, Mr. N. Vethanayakam, on the status of efforts directed at resettling IDPs and rebuilding essential infrastructure in the region. While 16,000 families have already been resettled in Mullaitivu, the GA informed Foreign Secretary that de-mining was still a factor preventing the resettlement of others. He expressed deep appreciation for the assistance that had been received from the Government of India for resettling IDPs. Foreign Secretary subsequently met with a group of IDPs at the District Secretariat Office and distributed roofing sheets and agricultural toolkits among them. Speaking on the

occasion, Smt Nirupama Rao praised the spirit of the people of the region, saying that they had come through a very difficult challenge. She reiterated India's concern for the welfare of the people of this region and said that India would continue to work with the Government of Sri Lanka to help resettle the people and rebuild their lives. While speaking about India's pledge to build 50,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, she underlined that this would be done using local expertise and resources wherever available so that employment could be generated locally. She emphasized that peace was necessary for development and that the need of the hour was to look forward and benefit from the tremendous potential that Sri Lanka had as a country to grow and prosper.

3. Foreign Secretary next visited Trincomalee. She held a meeting with the Chief Minister of the Eastern Province, Mr. Sivanesathurai Sandirakanthan at the Eastern Provincial Council offices and discussed with him various projects with which India was assisting in the Eastern Province and others that were in the pipeline. She noted in particular the project on housing, a project to assist war widows in Batticaloa by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and another to build a vocational training centre in Eastern Province. Foreign Secretary also invited the Chief Minister to visit India at his convenience.

4. Foreign Secretary called on the Governor of the Eastern Province, Rear Admiral (Rtd) Mohan Wijewickrema, who briefed her on the development work undertaken in a number of sectors in the Province following the restoration of peace in mid-2007. He also outlined future investment opportunities in the Province, especially in the area of tourism. While in Trincomalee, Foreign Secretary visited the Koneswaram Temple and handed over to the temple management the keys of a bus gifted to the temple by the Government of India.

5. Returning to Colombo, Foreign Secretary called on His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at Temple Trees. She apprised him of her visit to the Northern and Eastern provinces and the assistance projects being undertaken by India for the benefit of the IDPs. President Rajapaksa welcomed India's assistance.

6. Foreign Secretary also met with leaders of major political parties, including UNP Leader and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, as well as leaders of the Tamil National Alliance and the Ceylon Workers' Congress.

7. On the final day of her visit on 2nd September, 2010, Foreign Secretary will be hosted for breakfast by the Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka, Hon. G.L. Peiris. She will hold further meetings with delegations of other political parties as well before departing for India later in the afternoon.



257. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Sri Lanka.

New Delhi, November 23, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. The External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna is paying a bilateral visit to Sri Lanka. EAM leaves on the 25th, the day after tomorrow, and would return on the 28th. His salient engagements include calls on the President and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on Friday 26th November, followed by co-chairing the seventh India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meeting along with his Sri Lankan counterpart. In the second half of the day he leaves for Hambantota where he would be inaugurating the new Consulate General of India.

On the 27th, EAM leaves for Jaffna where he would first inaugurate the new Consulate General of India in Jaffna and then participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the pilot project to construct 1,000 housing units. You would recall that when President Rajapaksa had visited India in June, 2010, it was decided that India would be constructing 50,000 housing units for assisting the IDPs.

Thereafter he leaves for Medawachchiya where he would be inaugurating the railway project. I will come back to the details of the

new 100 kms railway line shortly. This is broadly the programme, including some of the salient engagements of EAM.

He would be accompanied by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao; my colleague Joint Secretary (BSM) Mr. Tirumurti, as well as some other colleagues from MEA and of course our High Commissioner in Colombo.

India and Sri Lanka share a common cultural and civilisational heritage. She is also one of our closest and historically important neighbours. Highest level attention is being paid by both sides towards nurturing this vital relationship. You are aware that President Mahinda Rajapaksa had visited India last month to participate in the closing ceremony of the 19th Commonwealth Games. He also had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh where they reviewed all aspects of the relationship.

President Rajapaksa had earlier paid a state visit to India in June, when a Joint Declaration was adopted, which you must have seen, outlining a roadmap for infusing greater vigour, greater content in our relationship.

Similarly the External Affairs Minister has been regularly engaging, regularly meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Prof. G.L. Peiris. The Sri Lankan FM had accompanied his President to India both in June and October, and has also been meeting EAM on the sidelines of international fora every few months. During his October visit, last month, the two Foreign Ministers had a very useful exchange of views on the bilateral relationship focusing also on the seventh Joint Commission meeting which will be taking place on the 26th of November.

Foreign Secretary had last visited Colombo from 31 August to 2 September, and JS (BSM) had accompanied her. These are just some of the key instances of important meetings or visits that have been taking place. I am happy to note that over the years our bilateral relations have matured, have diversified to cover the entire gamut of relationship including important areas like trade, commerce, services, developmental cooperation, science and technology, security and defence cooperation, cultural relations, agriculture, capacity-building, and so on.

After the ending of the armed conflict in May 2009, Prime Minister announced a Rs.500 crore package for relief, rehabilitation and

reconstruction in Sri Lanka primarily to assist some 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who had taken refuge in temporary shelters.

The package included 250,000 family packs comprising important needs such as grocery, hygiene kits, food, utensils, clothing. We had also set up an emergency field hospital which treated more than 50,000 IDPs. We supplied medicines and medical equipment.

Subsequently we worked on resettlement of IDPs. Here 7,800 tonnes of roofing and construction material was made available to Sri Lanka for that purpose. Also 70,000 agriculture starter packs were provided. You are aware that agriculture is one of the important means of livelihood for people affected by the conflict in that area. Therefore, one of the important things was to de-mine the area, and India had sent seven teams for de-mining.

Next the reconstruction and development phase has been initiated especially in the Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, which was outlined in the Joint Declaration of June 2010. Under this, India has agreed to construct 50,000 housing units, which I mentioned earlier.

Besides the 70,000 agriculture starter packs, India is supplying high quality seeds, 500 tractors and other agricultural implements to assist in cultivation. This exercise will be completed before they end of this year.

During the visit of President Rajapakse a decision was also taken to provide a US\$ 800 million credit line for upgrading railway infrastructure including for construction, rolling stock, signaling and telecom equipment. I mentioned that the EAM will be inaugurating the 100-kilometre Thalaimannar-Medawachchiya -Madhu railway line on the 27th of November.

Another \$ 167 million credit line has been made available for rehabilitation of Southern Colombo-Matara railway line which was earlier damaged by the tsunami, and work is proceeding on schedule.

In addition, India has agreed to undertake a host of infrastructure development projects including development of the KKS Harbour, the Palaly airport, construction as a joint venture of 500 MW coal-fired

thermal plant in Sampur, in Trincomalee, construction of a cultural centre in Jaffna, establishment of a 150-bed hospital in Dikoya, and as importantly in assisting Sri Lanka in reviving small and medium enterprises (SMEs). We are also assisting in the setting up of vocational training centres and are taking up a number of small development projects.

I would like to note that the number of IDPs has since fallen from about 300,000 to 20,000. Both sides continue to pay attention to further improving the quality of life of the IDPs by inter alia assisting them to secure means for sustainable livelihood.

India has also urged Sri Lankan Government to undertake a structured dialogue to evolve a political settlement acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka to enable them to live in an atmosphere of peace and dignity.

Our economic and trade relations are also developing very well. India has become Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. Since the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement, trade has increased manifold and is currently in the region of \$ 3 billion. Both sides are also in the process of finalizing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Sizeable Indian investments estimated at over US\$ 400 million in a number of sectors including telecom, automobiles, hotels, banking, airlines have already flown into Sri Lanka. To further enhance, to invigorate direct business-to-business links it was decided during the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to establish an India-Sri Lanka CEOs Forum.

It was similarly agreed to enhance people-to-people links, to resume ferry services from Colombo to Tuticorin and from Thalaimannar to Rameshwaram. We have good air connectivity with 35 flights between the two countries every week. More than 100,000 Indian tourists are visiting Sri Lanka.

Thank you.



258. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Colombo.

Colombo, November 25, 2010.

Friends

I am delighted to arrive in Sri Lanka this evening.

India-Sri Lanka bonds are historical and civilisational - the arrival of Prince Arhat Mahinda in 3rd Century Before Christ heralded the advent of Buddhism into Sri Lanka. Over the years, our links have become truly multifaceted. Given these links and our mutual support in times of need and adversity, a more comprehensive relationship beckons us.

The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2008 and President Rajapaksa twice this year have been landmark visits. The Joint Commission, which I will Co-chair with my counterpart Prof. Peiris, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka, will ensure that the decisions taken during these visits are closely monitored and implemented.

During my visit, I look forward to calling on H.E. President Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Jayaratne. I will be inaugurating our Consulates in Jaffna and Hambantota, which will serve to promote our people-to-people links. I also look forward to inaugurating the Pilot Project of 1000 houses in Jaffna for the resettlement of IDPs in the Northern Province. As you are aware, India will be taking up the construction of 50,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. I will also inaugurate the construction work on the railway lines in the North. India has committed itself to extending an assistance of US\$ 800 million as lines of credit for railway infrastructure development.

India and Sri Lanka are actively collaborating on a range of developmental and connectivity issues and rehabilitation projects. These include the rehabilitation of the Colombo-Matara railway line in the South, resumption of ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Thalaimannar and Rameswaram, rehabilitation of the KKS harbour, projects to resettle and rehabilitate the Internally Displaced Persons and war widows and revive their livelihood etc.

It is our hope, and the Sri Lankan Government has assured us that the remaining IDPs in the camps would be re-settled by the end of this year.

Economic engagement, connectivity, tourism and knowledge industry are areas of great potential in our future bilateral cooperation. We hope to intensify our trade and investments as we recover from the global recession.

The end of the armed conflict holds out hope that an era of reconciliation will begin in Sri Lanka. A meaningful devolution package would help create conditions for a lasting peace.

I would like to conclude by mentioning that India and Sri Lanka have an unprecedented opportunity to take our relationship forward and I am confident that my visit will generate further momentum in that direction.

Thank You



259. Agreed Minutes of the 7th session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission.

Colombo, November 26, 2010.

The seventh session of the Sri Lanka-India Joint Commission was held on 26th November 2010 in Colombo. It was co-chaired by His Excellency, Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India and Hon'ble G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka. The agreed agenda of the meeting is at Annexure-1. The lists of the Indian and Sri Lankan delegations are, respectively, at Annexure-2 and Annexure-3.

2. The discussions at the Joint Commission were marked by friendship, mutual respect and understanding. The two Ministers agreed that the shared cultural and civilizational heritage of India and Sri Lanka, the extensive people-to-people interaction and their common strategic concerns and interests provided the foundation to build a vibrant and multi-faceted partnership. India-Sri Lanka relations have diversified with the passage of time, encompassing all areas of contemporary relevance, including trade, services and investment, development cooperation, science and technology, culture and education. Today, with the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka, these relations are poised to develop further in an all-round manner.

3. The Joint Commission reviewed developments in bilateral relations since the visit to India in June 2010 of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and noted with satisfaction that the visit had laid a strong foundation for the future development of India-Sri Lanka relations. The Joint Statement issued during the visit embodies the vision of the two leaders for harnessing the enormous potential available for consolidating and strengthening the bilateral partnership. This can be achieved by building on shared values and principles of democracy and pluralism, leveraging common strategic concerns and interests, enhancing connectivity and economic engagement, and reinforcing institutional frameworks for a comprehensive partnership in all areas of bilateral endeavour. In this context, the two sides welcomed the opening of the Consulate General of India in Hambantota on 26 November and of the Consulate General of India in Jaffna on 27 November. The Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of the Joint Commission mechanism to monitor implementation of bilateral understandings.

ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, TRADE, FINANCE & INVESTMENT

4. The Joint Commission reiterated the need to substantially enhance the range and depth of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral relationship through greater economic integration to achieve the shared goals of alleviating poverty, creating wealth and bringing about progress and prosperity for the people of the two countries. The meeting noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade, despite the downturn in 2009 as a result of the global economic slowdown, has shown a healthy recovery in 2010. The two sides reviewed investment proposals being considered by companies in both countries and expressed satisfaction at the growing interest of Indian and Sri Lankan companies to invest further in each other's markets. In this context, the two sides agreed to cooperate closely to nurture a favourable environment to forge closer economic and trade linkages.

FTA/CEPA

5. Recognizing the considerable benefits from greater economic cooperation between the two countries, the Joint Commission noted the significant progress achieved under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA). It reaffirmed the understanding contained in the

bilateral Joint Declaration of June 9, 2010 that it would be timely to build on this achievement through a more comprehensive framework of economic cooperation best suited to the two countries. In this context, it expressed satisfaction with the recent discussions between the officials of the Departments of Commerce of the two countries. The Joint Commission also took note of the stakeholders' consultations carried out by the Sri Lankan side on the draft framework text of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). It welcomed also the agreement between the officials of the Departments of Commerce of the two countries following their recent talks that, in keeping with the instructions of their respective leaders to hold intensive consultations towards a more comprehensive framework for economic cooperation, a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India would visit Sri Lanka on mutually convenient dates in December 2010 to resume discussions on such a framework from where they had been left in July 2008.

CEOs' Forum

6. The Joint Commission welcomed the constitution of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral CEOs' Forum. It expressed its hope that the Forum would prove to be a valuable mechanism in bringing together the public and private sectors in a dialogue to generate ideas to deepen and broaden the bilateral economic relationship in all its aspects and to help chart the future course of business and trade interaction between the two countries.

Credit Lines

7. The Joint Commission reviewed the utilization of the existing Lines of Credit (LOC) offered by the Government of India to the Government of Sri Lanka, especially those pertaining to the rehabilitation of the Southern Railway corridor (US\$ 167.4 million). The two sides also reviewed the status of the LOC for Northern Railway Reconstruction and the LOC of US \$200 million offered by India for the construction of a jetty at Sampur and of a transmission line from Sampur to Habarana, and financial support for equity contribution of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) for setting up the joint venture with NTPC to develop a coal power plant at Sampur.

Railway Projects

8. The Joint Commission reviewed progress on the Northern Railway projects being implemented by IRCON. It expressed satisfaction that

contracts for Omanthai-Pallai, Madu Road-Talaimannar and Medawachchiya-Madu Road had been signed. The Ministers witnessed the signing of the credit agreement for \$416.39 million for these three projects in the presence of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and welcomed the fact that work on the Northern Railway Line was commencing with the inauguration scheduled for 27 November, 2010. Both sides agreed to facilitate the work for its timely completion. Further, in keeping with the understanding contained in the Joint Declaration of June 9, 2010, the Joint Commission took note of the finalization of the negotiations pertaining to the agreement on signaling and telecommunication and agreed that the contract for the Pallai-KKS line, to be implemented jointly by IRCON and Sri Lanka Railway would be concluded soon. The Joint Commission noted that the procurement of rolling stock from India would take place in a phased manner. The Joint Commission agreed on the need for early completion of all these negotiations. Both Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress of work on the Colombo-Matara railway line being constructed with Indian assistance.

Tourism and Civil Aviation

9. The Joint Commission noted the immense potential that exists in the two countries in the tourism sector, given the fact that India contributes the largest number of tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka and the latter is among the top ten tourist sources for India. The last year has seen a significant revival in tourist traffic between the two countries. The Ministers noted that an MoU on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed in January 2004, while the Joint Working Group set up under the MoU is yet to meet. They accordingly directed the concerned officials on both sides to meet at an early date to identify potential areas of cooperation.

10. The two sides noted that Sri Lanka enjoys a very special relationship with India in the field of civil aviation with Sri Lankan Airlines being the largest foreign airline in India. The Joint Commission took note of the interest of Sri Lankan Airlines to increase its services to Delhi and Chennai and agreed that the civil aviation authorities of both countries would meet bilaterally.

Development Cooperation

11. The Government of Sri Lanka thanked the Government of India for the substantial development assistance being provided through a wide

variety of projects. The range of assistance being received from the Government of India for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the Northern and Eastern Provinces includes, inter alia, the following:

1. Housing - 50,000 houses for IDPs;
 2. Supply of 7200 MT of Roofing Sheets for IDPs in the Northern Province;
 3. Supply of 400,000 Cement Bags to IDPs;
 4. Supply of 70,000 Agriculture Tool Kits to IDPs;
 5. Provision of Seven de-mining teams;
 6. Supply of 500 Four-Wheeled Tractors and agricultural equipment;
 7. Supply of Seeds;
 8. Assistance in the Fishing sector;
 9. Limb Fitment Project;
 10. Rehabilitation of Duraiappa Stadium;
 11. Construction of Vocational Training Centres;
 12. Construction of Jaffna Cultural Centre;
 13. Railway infrastructure;
 14. Rehabilitation of Palaly Airport;
 15. Rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Harbour;
 16. Supply of equipment to Jaffna Teaching Hospital;
 17. Supply of books to Jaffna Library and Jaffna University;
 18. Project for war widows by SEWA;
 19. Assistance to rehabilitation of Micro and SMEs;
 20. Assistance for Schools and Universities; and
 21. Assistance for rehabilitation of hospitals.
12. A substantial amount of this assistance has been directed towards humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Internally Displaced

Persons (IDPs) in northern Sri Lanka. Following the initial assistance directed at humanitarian relief in the areas of food, clothing, medicine and shelter, the Joint Commission welcomed Indian project assistance in the areas of de-mining, restoration of agricultural livelihood, vocational training, repair of schools and other public facilities. In particular, the two sides reviewed the ongoing preparatory work on the project for the construction of 50,000 houses for IDPs in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and also for estate workers in the Central Provinces with the support of India and welcomed the proposed commencement of work on this project on 27th November, 2010.

13. The Joint Commission also welcomed the signing of the contract with Hindustan Prefab Limited by the Government of India for commencement of construction of 1000 houses as a "Pilot Project" in the Northern Province. The two Ministers also witnessed the Exchange of Letters with regard to the Housing Pilot Project, which took place in the presence of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.

Agriculture

14. The Joint Commission agreed that there was great potential for the further expansion of bilateral agricultural cooperation and collaboration in livestock development between the two countries. They noted that the MoU for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the Sri Lanka Council for Agriculture Research Policy had yielded sound results, including in human resource development. The two sides reiterated that collaborative research and development programmes would further contribute to agricultural cooperation. It was agreed that the Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation would be signed soon and the Government of Sri Lanka would propose a draft work programme for cooperation in the field of agriculture for the period 2011-2012.

Energy

15. The Joint Commission noted with satisfaction that all negotiations between the National Thermal Power Corporation of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board of Sri Lanka on the establishment of a joint venture for building a 500 MW coal-fired power plant at Sampur (Trincomalee) had been completed and the various Agreements in this regard, including

the Joint Venture Agreement, the Power Purchase Agreement, the Agreement with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, the Implementation Agreement and other relevant arrangements had also been agreed upon. These agreements would be signed in the near future. The Sri Lankan side expressed its appreciation for the US \$200 million concessional line of credit offered by the Government of India to enable Sri Lanka to fulfill its commitments under the Implementation Agreement.

16. The two sides noted the presence of Indian suppliers in the Sri Lankan wind and solar energy sectors and agreed to explore cooperation in other fields of new and renewable forms of energy, including through greater cooperation between the public and private sector entities of the two countries.

17. The Joint Commission also recalled the signing of the agreement on conducting a feasibility study for the interconnection of the Indian and Sri Lankan electricity grids and noted that the concerned officials are in touch to convene a meeting of the Steering Committee in this regard. Both Governments have already committed their respective share of financial support for the study.

Ferry Services

18. The Joint Commission noted the importance of speedily restoring the traditional transport links between the two countries. In this connection, it welcomed the finalization of the agreement to resume ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameswaram and directed the concerned officials to put in place the mechanisms to start these services as soon as the agreement is signed.

Health Sector

19. The Joint Commission reviewed the projects being implemented in the health sector in Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Government of India. It welcomed the finalization of implementation mechanisms for the 150-bed Base Hospital at Dickoya. It also noted the ongoing implementation by India of projects to supply equipment for upgradation of the facilities at the Intensive Care Unit, Eye Ward and Operation Theatre of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. The Sri Lankan side also thanked the Government of India for agreeing to donate a Bhabhatron -

II (a Cobalt 60 teletherapy machine) for cancer treatment to the Hambantota General Hospital. The Sri Lankan side requested for enlargement of coverage of the 'Jaipur Foot' Limb Fitment camp conducted earlier by India through Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti.

Fishing

20. The Joint Commission expressed satisfaction that the Fishing Arrangements agreed earlier had helped decrease incidents on the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Both sides agreed to explore ways to strengthen the safety and security of fishermen and, in this context, welcomed the decision to revive the meetings of the bilateral Joint Working Group on Fishing.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

Education

21. The Joint Commission took note of the recent high-level contacts between the two sides in the field of education. In this context, it welcomed the proposal of the Government of India to significantly expand its scholarship programme for Sri Lankan nationals as part of the "India Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative". It also took note of the signing of an MoU between the University of Colombo and the Government of India on the establishment of a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies. The two sides also directed their concerned officials to expedite discussions on the setting up of regional and provincial Centres of English Language Training and the design of the "10 Year Presidential Initiative to Steer Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual Society by 2020". The need to train in Sinhalese and Tamil languages to support the Presidential initiative was also noted.

22. The Joint Commission took note as well of the concept paper presented during its 7th Session by the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka, on the establishment of Agriculture and Engineering Faculties in the University of Jaffna.

23. The Joint Commission also took note of the collaborative initiatives in the field of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) between the two sides. In this context, it welcomed the support extended by the

Government of India towards expanding the network of Nenasalas (Telecentres) across the country.

24. The Joint Commission noted with satisfaction the ongoing cooperation in the field of strengthening public administration, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) of India and the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) of Sri Lanka. The Joint Commission encouraged the two institutions to intensify their collaboration, including in the exchange of staff, researchers and graduate students/trainees, engagement in joint research activities and participation in seminars and academic meetings.

25. Given the dynamism of the younger generations in both countries and the need to invest in their future, the two Ministers decided to promote a programme of annual youth exchanges between the two countries. To begin with, it was decided to organize and exchange programme consisting of one hundred youth from both countries in the year 2011.

26. The two Ministers also agreed that both countries would jointly commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore during the year-long celebrations which will take place in 2011-12.

Cultural Activities

27. The Joint Commission welcomed the growing cultural engagement between the two countries in keeping with their shared cultural and civilizational links, which provided the bedrock of bilateral relations. In this context, the two Ministers directed the concerned officials to carry forward discussions to facilitate the organization of the proposed International Buddhist Conference in Kandy with the support of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations as part of the activities to commemorate the 2600th year of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha (Sambuddhatva Jayanthi).

28. The Joint Commission also welcomed the proposal for the restoration of Tiruketheeswaram temple at Mannar to be undertaken with the assistance of the Archaeological Survey of India and the College

of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram, with the involvement of the Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka.

29. The two Ministers also reviewed the progress in the preparatory work on renovating the Duraiappah Stadium and constructing a Cultural Centre in Jaffna with Indian assistance.

India Sri Lanka Foundation

30. The Joint Commission welcomed the significant contributions of and the important role played by the India Sri Lanka Foundation in forging deeper links between civil society actors in the two countries and contributing to closer relations in the economic, scientific, educational, technical and cultural arenas. It noted the recent augmentation of the corpus fund of the Foundation on the basis of a grant made by the Government of India and welcomed the expansion of the activities of the Foundation into new areas as agreed to by the last meeting of its Board.

Science and Technology

31. The Joint Commission agreed upon the urgent need to develop a Programme for Cooperation under the Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology signed in September 2008 between the two countries. It recalled that the visit to Sri Lanka in March 2010 of Secretary, Department of Science and Technology had led to the identification of certain areas for cooperation. The Indian side agreed to propose a draft programme of cooperation for the period 2011-2012 for the consideration of the Sri Lankan side.

32. Both sides agreed to identify specific areas of cooperation in using space technology for a variety of societal services using Indian satellites.

SECURITY COOPERATION

33. Both sides welcomed the ongoing and close cooperation between the two countries in the field of defence and security, the resumption of high level contacts between the defence forces of the two sides and the planned interactions on an annual defence dialogue.

34. The Joint Commission meeting witnessed the exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners and of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, thus bringing into effect these two important agreements.

OTHER ISSUES

35. The Joint Commission agreed that while the respective claims of the two countries with regard to the delimitation of their continental shelf margin had been submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, bilateral discussions to come to a mutually acceptable and beneficial settlement would be useful. They agreed to convene a meeting of their respective officials in this regard at an early date.

36. The Joint Commission agreed that Indian companies would be encouraged to participate actively in future oil and gas exploration activities in Sri Lanka, including in the Cauvery and Mannar basins. With regard to the proposal to establish a joint information exchange mechanism on the possibility of oil and gas fields straddling the India Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary, the Indian side assured the Sri Lankan side that the proposal was receiving the Government of India's attention. It was agreed to hold discussions on this subject at the earliest possible.

37. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the Joint Commission Meeting, which provided further testimony to the continuing excellent relations between the two countries. It was agreed that the next session of the Joint Commission would be held in India in the second half of 2011 on a date to be mutually agreed upon between the two sides.

Signed on the 26th day of November 2010 in Colombo.

S.M. Krishna
Minister of External Affairs
Republic of India

G.L. Peiris
Minister of External Affairs
Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka



260. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media after the 7th India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meeting.

Colombo, November 26, 2010.

Hon'ble Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs,
Distinguished Members of the two delegations,
Ladies & Gentlemen of the Media,
Friends,

I have just concluded very useful and productive discussions with Hon'ble Minister Peiris on the various items on the agenda of the seventh session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. Let me, at the very outset, express my sincere gratitude to Minister Peiris and his government for the warmth and gracious hospitality that has been extended to me and to my colleagues and the excellent arrangements made for my visit.

The Joint Commission discussions covered all areas of bilateral relevance, including trade, services and investment, development cooperation, science and technology, culture and education. The sheer breadth of our engagement today, as is reflected in the Joint Commission discussions, is testimony to the fact that our relations have greatly diversified with the passage of time. The visits of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2008 and His Excellency President Rajapaksa in June and October this year have undoubtedly given our relations a fillip. Our relations are poised to develop further in an all round manner.

Earlier this morning, I was honoured to meet His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa. We witnessed the signing of the credit agreement for \$416.39 million for the Northern Railway construction project. I am also happy to announce that work on the Northern Railway Line will commence soon with the inauguration scheduled for tomorrow

Prof. Peiris and I have also just witnessed the exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners and of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. This brings into effect these two important agreements between our two countries.

To build on the vibrant and multi-faceted partnership between our two countries, it is important that we leverage our common strategic interests, further enhance connectivity and economic engagement, and promote people-to-people contacts. The opening of our Consulates in Hambantota and Jaffna, which will take place over today and tomorrow, is a significant milestone in this quest. In this connection, we also expect to resume ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameswaram soon, an agreement on which has been finalized.

The project for the construction of 50,000 houses for IDPs in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and also for estate workers in the Central Provinces will be an enduring symbol of India-Sri Lanka partnership. This morning, we witnessed an Exchange of Letters on the pilot phase of this project, which also took place in the presence of His Excellency President Rajapaksa. Tomorrow, through a ground-breaking ceremony in Jaffna, we will be signalling the commencement of this project.

The cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka in May last year provides a historic opportunity to address all outstanding issues related to rehabilitation as well as a political settlement in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation. It is our hope that a structured dialogue mechanism to work towards this end will be launched soon. We have been assured that it is the intention of the Sri Lankan Government to resettle the Internally Displaced Persons by the end of this year.

I also took this opportunity to emphasise on the need to adhere to the October 2008 understanding on fishing arrangements arrived at between the two countries, which has had a salutary effect on the incidence of fishermen's arrests and on their safety. We agreed that the joint Working Group on Fishing should meet soon.

With the tone that has been set in my discussions today, I have no doubt that India-Sri Lanka relations are poised to fully take advantage of the opportunities open before us. I have told Minister Peiris that I look forward to receiving him in New Delhi at his convenience to take forward our bilateral discussions.

Thank you.



261. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Works for the Reconstruction of Northern Railway Lines.

Medawachchiya (Sri Lanka), November 27, 2010.

Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development,

Hon'ble G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs,

Hon'ble Kumar Welgama, Minister of Transport,

Hon'ble Rohan Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Transport,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in today's event of the formal inauguration of works for the reconstruction of the Northern Railway lines. We are deeply honoured by the presence of senior Ministers of the Government of Sri Lanka. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate at the outset that we are committed to working with the Government of Sri Lanka towards the consolidation of peace, prosperity and development in Sri Lanka and for the further enrichment of our bilateral ties.

Following the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka last year, the development partnership between India and Sri Lanka has expanded significantly. Much of our initial assistance was for relief and rehabilitation as the Government of Sri Lanka addressed the challenges involved in resettling the nearly three lakh Internally Displaced Persons. As the task of resettlement proceeds, our assistance is moving into the areas of reconstruction in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka where we aim to complement the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka.

As part of our effort to provide for the reconstruction of Northern Sri Lanka, the Government of India has pledged a line of credit of US\$ 800 million at significantly concessional rates for various aspects of the Northern Railway project, including reconstruction of railway lines,

installation of signalling and telecom systems and the procurement of rolling stock.

Today's ceremony marks the launch of works on the Medawachchiya-Madhu line by IRCON International Ltd., which is a leading Indian company in railway infrastructure and is already working on the rehabilitation of the Southern Railway, which is also being financed through an Indian line of credit. I understand that the work on Phase 1 of the project in the Galle-Matara Section is progressing well and is likely to be completed by December 2010. IRCON has assured us that in the north too, this work undertaken by them would be completed within schedule. Work will also begin simultaneously on the Madhu-Talaimannar and Omanthai-Pallai railway lines. In this context, I would also like to recognize the efforts put in by the demining teams from India to clear the project area of mines.

As a part of these works, a new pier at Talaimannar will also be built. In order to enable resumption of ferry services between Talaimannar and Rameswaram at an early date, IRCON will also build a temporary jetty at Talaimannar. The resumption of this ferry service will re-establish old ties and the linkages that have existed historically between our two countries.

I believe that both our countries should continue to work together in the spirit of partnership, as our destinies are interlinked. The reconstruction of transport-related infrastructure would restore normal life, generate and support livelihood-related activities and also assist in restoring connectivity, not only within the Northern Province, but also with the rest of the country, thus promoting integration and reconciliation.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation for the cooperation extended by various agencies of the Government of Sri Lanka, including the Ministry of Transport and Sri Lanka Railways, in developing the railways projects. Continued cooperation between our agencies will be crucial for the timely completion of these projects. This cooperation is testimony to the strength of our cooperation and the enduring friendship that exists between our two countries and peoples.

Thank you.



262. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Consulate General of India at Jaffna. Jaffna, November 27, 2010.

Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka,

Hon'ble Governor of the Northern Province

Distinguished Ministers and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to you all for being present here today for the opening of the Consulate General of India in Jaffna.

India's relations with Sri Lanka would be incomplete without highlighting the special relationship that exists between the people of the Northern Province in general, the Jaffna Peninsula in particular and those of southern India.

Over centuries, Jaffna has always stood at the crossroads of history, culture and religion, kings and kingdoms, trade and commerce, and arts, dance and literature. Jaffna port was on the main sea route of its times. One of the great epics of Tamil literature - Manimekalai - has reference to Jaffna. Jaffna's Tamil equivalent - Yaalpanam - itself refers to the mythical harp player from Kanchipuram receiving the land as a royal gift. Tamil intellectuals and scholars from Jaffna like Arumuga Navalar and C.W.Thamodaram Pillai have enriched Tamil literature by their deep understanding and study of ancient Tamil literature. It is, therefore, natural that when India decided to establish a Consulate General, Jaffna was a logical, almost inevitable, place for such a presence.

There must be several in this audience who would have seen the days when there was a direct flight from Palaly to Trichy and a ferry service from Talaimannar to Rameswaram. It is possible that some among you may even have gone off to Chennai - Madras as it was called - only to catch a movie. It's time to revive those links.

Friends,

Sri Lanka has recently come through probably the most difficult period in its history. While the armed conflict that ended last year impacted on all

sections of the population of this country, it did so disproportionately on the civilian population of the Northern Province, as innocent men, women and children were caught up in the cross-fire not of their own making. Several thousands of Internally Displaced Persons - held as human shields - came out of the zone of conflict. The challenge before Sri Lanka is to resettle the Internally Displaced Persons and take up the task of rehabilitating and reconstruction of Northern Sri Lanka.

India has tried to contribute whatever it can to alleviate the miseries and difficulties the people in Northern Province underwent. Initially we rushed food, clothing, medicines and other daily-use articles to the camps. Our emergency field hospital, first in Pulmoddai and later in Menik Farm, which treated more than fifty thousand patients and where Indian doctors carried out more than three thousand surgeries, was a symbol of our solidarity with those who had suffered the worst in the closing stages of the conflict. In recent months, we have extended a helping hand to those who are being resettled in their former places of habitation by providing roofing sheets and cement to help them build transitional shelters and agricultural toolkits to start minimal gardening activities.

We are now looking at the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Northern Province and supplement the efforts of the Sri Lankan Government. Later today, I hope to flag-off, in a ground-breaking ceremony, the Pilot Project for the Government of India-aided housing project under which fifty thousand houses will be built in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Earlier this month, India has also begun the process of donating seeds as well as five hundred tractors, with their associated tools and implements, for distribution to agrarian service centres in the Northern Province. We will stay engaged to revive the livelihood of those in the Northern Province and help people rebuild their lives.

Even as we focus on the immediate tasks of relief and rehabilitation, longer term reconstruction is equally important. India will remain committed to this task as well. Later today, I will inaugurate the work to be carried out by an Indian company, IRCON, on the reconstruction of the Northern Railway from Medawachchiya to Madhu. Work will also begin simultaneously on the Madhu-Talaimannar and Omanthai-Pallai railway lines.

As this region returns to peace and normalcy, one of the priorities of the governments of India and Sri Lanka is to resume the old ties and linkages of connectivity that existed between our two countries. With this in view,

we have recently completed negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding on resuming ferry services, both from Colombo to Tuticorin and Talaimannar to Rameswaram. At Talaimannar, the old pier will also be rebuilt. We have started the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Kankesanthurai harbor and restore it as the hub of Jaffna's commercial lifeline. After all, Point Calimere is only forty nautical miles from KKS. We hope the Government of Sri Lanka will develop Palaly as a civil airport and restore its connectivity with India and within Sri Lanka. I am confident that the resumption, in the years to come, of these multiple linkages will not only restore people-to-people contact, but will also give a tremendous fillip to the local economies in our two countries.

To ensure that the cultural heights of Jaffna are indeed revived, the Consulate General of India will assist in setting up the Jaffna Cultural Centre and restore the Duriappa stadium. We are undertaking the restoration of the Thiruketeeswaram temple in Mannar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009 provides Sri Lanka with an unparalleled opportunity to address all outstanding issues in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation and to work towards genuine national reconciliation. We are convinced that a meaningful devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would create the necessary conditions for a lasting political settlement. We hope that this process of dialogue and discussion would start soon with the participation of all communities. The ultimate goal is to live in dignity and peace.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation for the cooperation extended in the task of the opening of this Consulate General by the Sri Lankan Ministry of External Affairs under the leadership of Prof. Pieris. I would also like to thank the offices of the Governor of the Northern Province and the Government Agent of Jaffna for their facilitation in setting up this post, which, I hope, will continue to receive their cooperation and assistance. I have no doubt that this development holds rich promise for the further flowering of the relations between our two countries.

Thank you.



263. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of Consulate General of India at Hambantota.

Hambantota, November 28, 2010.

Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure today to be present at this seminal event. The opening of this Consulate General of India in Hambantota is reflective of India's desire to strengthen its linkages with a region of Sri Lanka with which my country shares deep historical bonds.

Religious, cultural and linguistic interface between our two countries goes back several centuries. Prince Arhat Mahinda's arrival in Anuradhapura in the 3rd century Before Christ, which heralded the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, is a story that has been told over many generations. Respected Sri Lankan scholars have drawn parallels and linkages between religious practices in Southern Sri Lanka and Southern India. Not too far from here is Dondra, which in the past housed a magnificent thousand-pillared Vishnu temple described in the Sandesaya poem of the Sinhalese poet Alagiavanna. And of course, one cannot forget that we are not too far away either from the famous Kataragama shrine, where Hindu Tamils and Sinhalese Buddhists worship the God Murugan or Skanda at the same location.

In recent years, southern Sri Lanka came to the attention because of the terrible impact of the tsunami that struck this region in 2004. On that occasion, India, which was impacted itself, was the first to come to Sri Lanka's assistance. Indian Navy ships with food, drinking water and medical attention on board were at Sri Lankan shores within 24 hours, delivering much needed succour to many affected communities who live within a few kilometers of here.

India has also taken up the reconstruction of the damaged Southern railway corridor from Galle to Matara. I am happy that the work on this railway line is proceeding on schedule.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our relations are multifaceted and historical. The challenge has been to derive the full benefit of our proximity and exploit the full potential of our friendship and cooperation. With the shadow of the conflict lifting, I believe that the time has come when we can do that.

The visit of H.E. President Rajapaksa to India in June this year opened a significant chapter in our bilateral relations. Our Prime Minister and President Rajapaksa agreed to intensify our development cooperation, revive connectivity and the age-old cultural links and enhance our economic engagement. It was further agreed that the 2600th year of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha (Sambuddhatva Jayanthi) will be commemorated through joint activities.

The Joint Declaration of the two leaders covers every aspect of our multi-faceted relationship and has set markers for progress in the areas of connectivity, development partnership, cooperation in agriculture, power, education, human resource development and culture, greater economic engagement including through joint ventures and investment.

His Excellency the President himself has plans for developing Hambantota and its environs as a major regional hub. It is therefore, natural that when we decided to open a Consulate in the South, we have opened it in Hambantota. Given the optimism we have of the future of this region, the inauguration of the Consulate General in Hambantota is intended to build on India's linkages with this region in the field of trade and commerce, investments, culture and tourism. I am confident that India will take advantage of the industrial and commercial potential in and around Hambantota. We would encourage our private sector to participate in Hambantota's development by seizing the opportunities for investments. I look at our engagement with optimism and hope.

India is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner overall and Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trade partners in South Asia. The overall trade turnover grew five times within eight years since the entry into force in 2000 of our bilateral Free Trade Agreement. After a temporary dip in 2009 on account of the global recession, bilateral trade is again on the upswing and Sri Lankan exports to India have grown by over 50% since last

year. India is also among the four largest overall investors in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's investments in India, too, have shown remarkable growth in recent years. Our development cooperation has increased to include in its sweep all parts of Sri Lanka.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout history, Sri Lanka and its citizens have been known, and with good reason, for their hospitality. I have every confidence that this renowned hospitality will be extended in full measure to this Consulate General and to its officers and staff as they set about their responsibilities in building and strengthening the already robust relationship between our two countries.

I would in particular like to make a special mention of the extraordinary cooperation we have already received from the Sri Lankan Ministry of External Affairs, for which I have my colleague Minister Peiris to thank. In the coming months and years, I have no doubt that our relations will be richer as a result of the cooperation that all of you extend to the endeavours of this post and its officers and staff.

Thank you.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - VI

(ii) SOUTH EAST, EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA**264. Statements issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the various incidents of violence against Indians in Australia.****January, 2010.**

Please see Document No.150.

**265. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visits of Foreign Ministers of Australia and Norway.****New Delhi, March 2, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good Evening. Nice to see you in numbers! First of all, a belated Happy Holi to you. We celebrated it on the aircraft on our way back from Riyadh. Let me introduce my colleague Mr. Arun Goel, the Joint Secretary (South), who looks after our relationship with Australia amongst other countries.

Currently we have two very important visitors in town – the Foreign Minister of Australia and the Foreign Minister of Norway. I will briefly touch upon both the visits and their significance. Thereafter we will be happy to take questions.

Foreign Minister Stephen Smith is in New Delhi. He came today morning and will be here till the 4th of March. His programme includes meetings with our Commerce and Industry Minister, our Minister of Human Resource Development, talks with our External Affairs Minister, which is tomorrow, followed by a dinner that the External Affairs Minister would be hosting for him. He leaves thereafter on the 4th. The visiting Minister will also watch the India-Australia match at the Men's Hockey World Cup today.

We attach high importance to the visit of the Australian dignitary. Both India and Australia are strong, vibrant, secular and multicultural democracies. Australia has a GDP of more than one trillion dollars, and is

the fourteenth largest economy in the world. It is our tenth largest trading partner, and we have since emerged as the seventh largest trading partner of Australia. Our ties have been steadily expanding, deepening and were elevated to the level of a strategic partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in November last year, as you all know.

We have also been having regular high-level exchanges, which has been imparting momentum to the ties. In fact, in 2009 we had eight Ministerial level visits from Australia to India. Significant visits include that of our External Affairs Minister who was in Australia in August 2009; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Ms Julia Gillard visited in August-September; the Victorian Premier was here; the Queensland Premier was here; Foreign Minister Stephen Smith himself was here for the sixth Annual Framework Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers in October; and then the visit of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

We see significant scope and potential for expansion of our ties in areas like economic and trade relations, science and technology, energy, IT, education, defence and so on. Australia, as I had mentioned last time and I would like to note here, has been supportive of India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. This was reiterated in the Joint Statement that was issued during the visit of the Australian Premier. We have been closely cooperating in various regional and international fora. Australia has since become an Observer at SAARC.

Our trade relations are growing quite rapidly. In 2008-09 trade in goods and services was close to 22 billion Australian dollars and growing. Eighty per cent of our imports from Australia comprise of three products basically: gold, coal and copper ores in addition to lentils, dals, and so on. Recognizing the potential, both sides are examining the possibilities of concluding a Free Trade Agreement, and a group has been constituted to look into the question of doing a feasibility study. Australia is also an important investor in India with total investments of over two billion dollars.

During the visit both sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also discuss other regional and international issues of interest. We would also be discussing the issue of safety of Indian students and the Indian community with the visiting dignitary. The Indian

community has been growing and is now close to half a million with the student population having touched 120,000. I believe that in 2009 alone Australia had issued 96,000 student visas, of which 47,000 students are studying in the Province of Victoria. Their safety, security and well being are a cause of serious concern for us and at the highest levels we have been sensitizing our Australian friends about this aspect.

EAM and Foreign Minister Smith last met in London on the 27th of January, 2010 on the sidelines of the Conference on Afghanistan when the External Affairs Minister conveyed that individuals from the Indian community appeared to be singled out and it was increasingly difficult to accept these attacks as mere opportunistic crimes. We have been stressing that measures should be effective so that such incidents do not recur.

Australia has taken a slew of measures which we appreciate. You are aware that a high-level Committee under Foreign Minister Stephen Smith himself has been recently constituted to deal with the issue on an urgent basis and to take coordinated steps. Many of you would have seen Foreign Minister Stephen Smith's important address to the Australian Parliament on the 9th of February, 2010 when *inter alia* he made two significant points. He noted, "We have zero tolerance for racism in this country." He also said, "If any of these attacks have been racist in nature, and it seems clear some of them have, they will be punished with full force of law."

You would have also seen the significant *suo motu* statement by the External Affairs Minister in Parliament just last week, on the 25th of February, when he had *inter alia* stated that India takes the incidents of assault on our students very seriously and also noted, "It can be honestly said that they (i.e., Australia) are making efforts to meet our concerns". This was External Affairs Minister in the Parliament. I think this will be all for the time being on the visit of Foreign Minister Stephen Smith.

Let me then turn to the other important visit of the Foreign Minister of Norway Mr. Jonas Store who is also in India. He arrived on the 1st of March. His meeting includes those with our National Security Advisor. He has already addressed today a Maritime Security Seminar at IDSA. He would be meeting with our Commerce and Industry Minister and

later today would have delegation level talks. In fact, it will be the Fourth Joint Commission meeting which will be chaired by him and the External Affairs Minister. Thereafter the External Affairs Minister hosts a dinner in the visitor's honour.

India has traditionally enjoyed cordial relations with Norway. Of late bilateral economic and technical complementarities are moving the relationship on to a new path. Many of you would recall the private visit of the Prime Minister of Norway Mr. Jens Stoltenberg to India in February this year to participate in Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2010. He had also a very good meeting with the Prime Minister when they discussed a wide range of subjects. Prime Minister had welcomed investments from Norway in the telecom sector. Both sides noted the considerable potential of cooperation in areas like renewable energy and hydro power.

As I said, during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Norway the fourth meeting of India and Norway Joint Commission would take place when the entire range of bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues will come up for discussion. This is not the first visit of the Foreign Minister. He was here in December 2006 for the second round of the Joint Commission meeting. Mr. Anand Sharma, our then Minister of State, had visited Oslo in June 2008 to co-chair the third round.

Norway, though having a small population of 4.7 million, is a developed and a technologically rich country. Our bilateral trade at the moment is close to a billion dollars and growing. Norway is also an important investment partner of ours. There are something like 70 Norwegian companies that are already present in India. The cumulative Norwegian FDI in India as of March 2009 was over 1.5 billion dollars. As significant are the Indian investments in Norway which have already exceeded 1.8 billion dollars.

Potential areas of cooperation include the hydrocarbons sector, shipping sector, hydro power, fisheries where Norway has considerable strengths; and the knowledge-based economy and space where both India and Norway have significant complementarities. These are areas of great synergy for us. I may also note here that Norway has the second largest sovereign fund in the world which is currently estimated at over 460

billion dollars. Therefore, investments from Norway into India are something where there is a lot of potential. Norway is also the world's fifth largest oil exporter and the third largest gas exporter. I think this gives you a brief overview of our relations with Norway and the areas in which we are likely to move further.

With this, my colleague and I will be happy to take your questions.

Question: Foreign Minister Smith spoke about some white paper on counter-terrorism. What is the status of cooperation between the two countries in counter-terrorism? Also the security of the Commonwealth Games, I believe that too will be discussed.

Official Spokesperson: Let me take the latter part and my colleague will take the first. As far as the security of the Games is concerned, Australia and India have been in close touch. As you know, the Australian hockey team is currently visiting; Australian players are likely to participate in the IPL matches; and Australia has expressed satisfaction at the security arrangements.

Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun Goel): What was the question about counter-terrorism?

Question: I believe there is some white paper which the Australian Government has come out with on counter-terrorism. In his statement before he came here, Mr. Smith spoke about this paper and said it would be discussed.

Joint Secretary (South): It is not scheduled. It has not come to my notice.

Question: It was a part of Mr. Smith's statement. I just thought I would draw your attention to it.

Official Spokesperson: But we have been, as you know, consulting each other on this issue. We have similar outlook on the issue of terrorism.

Question: Just a while ago you called back Sujatha Singh for consultations for a week. What was her report to the Government of India on the situation with Indian students? Is the Indian Government

satisfied with what the Australians have done, not what they have said, on the ground so far?

Official Spokesperson: Our Ambassadors or Heads of Mission coming on consultations is a very normal activity. You are aware of that. Our Heads of Mission are invited to come regularly for consultations. They brief the Ministry about how they see a certain situation; their brief is also renewed. So, that is a very normal process. As to your second question, I would again like to invite your attention - which I am sure you have seen, I saw your report, you have analyzed it also - to the External Affairs Ministers detailed suo motu statement in Parliament on the 25th of February where he at length touched upon this issue; how we have been talking to Australia; how Australia has been responding to it. Therefore, in my opening remarks I had culled out while putting it in context about our concerns. We certainly have concerns; we have raised it at every possible forum; we have regularly been in touch with Australia. At the same time we are conscious of the fact that measures that are being taken would take time to become effective. External Affairs Minister in Parliament had categorically said, "It can be honestly said that they are making efforts to meet our concerns". I think there is nothing more that needs to be said there.

Question: Are we still engaged with them on the uranium issue or have we put it on the backburner because of the Government's ideological composition?

Official Spokesperson: Energy cooperation is a very important area of cooperation for us. As you know, we are importing a lot of coal from Australia. In the field of renewable energy also we are engaging closely. Specifically in terms of nuclear cooperation, let me remind you that Australia had supported us at Vienna, both at IAEA and during the India-specific dispensation that was given by the NSG. So, that is where the matter is. We are ready to expand our cooperation in the energy sector with Australia in every meaningful fashion. So, on this aspect we are ready when they are.

Joint Secretary (South): I would like to add that Australia is also one of the largest producers of natural gas and we have made a beginning in this direction in that Petronet LNG Limited, New Delhi has signed an agreement

with Exxon Mobil on 10th August 2009 to source 1.5 million metric tonnes per annum of LNG for twenty years starting 2014. So, gas imports from Australia are also likely to increase manifold in the future.

Question: On the issue of safety of students, it has been seen that there have been a number of attacks and then the conviction rate has been quite low. Will this fact that there are not enough convictions be taken up in the discussion between the two Foreign Ministers?

Joint Secretary (South): Foreign Minister Smith has repeatedly said that the attackers will face the full force of law. Many of the cases are under investigation and many are at a further stage in the courts. We are constantly watching and awaiting the results in each and every case.

Official Spokesperson: What I would like to add, and I am sure you would have noticed it yourself, is that increasingly we see the suspects being apprehended very quickly. As I said, they are taking a slew of measures including even changing their laws, tightening their laws and so on, increasing the police presence in plain clothes and otherwise. So, they are taking a number of steps.

Question: Just one small clarification. Do you think that this is a step forward because Australia has now at least started accepting that some of these cases are racist in nature, something that it did not do earlier?

Official Spokesperson: It is not a question of a step forward or a step backwards. We are not there to score any debating points. Look at our perspective. As a country for us the important concern is that the safety, security and wellbeing of Indian nationals, people of Indian origin and students. So, whatever takes us towards that objective is something that is welcome.

Question: You just spoke about the potential of Norway so far as the natural resources are concerned. You said that it is the fifth largest nation so far as oil is concerned and the third largest nation so far as gas is concerned.

Official Spokesperson: I said they are the fifth largest exporters.

Question: Sorry. On this particular topic, is there any kind of cooperation or are any future things being talked about between Norway and India as far as oil and gas are concerned?

Official Spokesperson: There is a lot of ongoing cooperation in terms of technology transfer from them. Reliance for example has already tied up with the Norwegian side, has given out contracts of nearly one billion dollars to various Norwegian technology providers to help bring the Krishna-Godavari D6 gas field on line. So, there is cooperation between ONGC and the Norwegian side and Reliance. This is again a very important area. In particular, their offshore technology and their offshore expertise is something which is very valuable.

Question: What about agreements to be signed between India and Norway? The advisory says agreements.

Official Spokesperson: Yes, some agreements are likely to be signed. We will apprise you as per practice very soon.

Thank you very much.



266. Statement by the Official Spokesperson commenting on the statement of Australian Prime Minister regarding security in New Delhi during the Commonwealth Games.

New Delhi, September 25, 2010.

In response to questions on a statement by the Australian PM on the security situation in India the Official Spokesperson said,

" We have seen the statement, purportedly on the lines of a travel advisory issued by Australia. Terrorism in an unfortunate reality in today's world which recognizes no political borders. It is incumbent on all countries to join hands to tackle this scourge.

There were some concerns expressed by some countries including Australia about the security aspect during the Commonwealth Games which took place in New Delhi in October 2010. The Government of India which made foolproof arrangements for security of the athletes assured Australia and other concerned that India did not apprehend any danger in view of the arrangements made. The games did pass off peacefully without any untoward incident and the athletes from all the Commonwealth countries and territories including Australia participated in full force.

The Government of India has taken effective measures to ensure safety and security of all during the forthcoming CWGs. We are in close touch with all participating countries, including Australia about the steps we are taking. We are confident of having a safe and successful sporting event."



CAMBODIA

267. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on President's visits to Laos and Cambodia.

New Delhi, September 8, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to all of you.

You are aware that Rashtrapatiji, Hon. President, is leaving on a state visit tomorrow for Lao PDR and Cambodia. Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy is here to brief you on this very important visit of the President of India. Let me also introduce colleagues who are with us this afternoon. To the right of Secretary (East) is Mr. Arun Goyal, Joint Secretary (South); and to my left is Mrs. Archana Datta, OSD to President.

Secretary (East) would be making an opening statement and thereafter will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the visit of Rashtrapatiji to Lao PDR and Cambodia. May I invite Secretary (East) to please make her opening remarks?

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Good afternoon to all of you. I am happy to be here to brief you on Rashtrapatiji's upcoming state visit to Lao PDR and Cambodia from 9th September onwards.

She would first be visiting Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) from September 9th onwards at the invitation of His Excellency the President of Laos Choummaly Sayasone. Later she will proceed to Cambodia at the invitation of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia. Rashtrapatiji will be accompanied by Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Kantilal Bhuria, three Members of Parliament, as well as, a Business and the Official Delegation.

I would first like to brief you on the visit to Laos. It would be Hon. President's first visit to Laos and only be the second by an Indian President since the two countries established diplomatic relations. During the visit, apart from the President himself she will be meeting the President of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister of Laos His Excellency Bouasone Bouphavanh.

India-Laos relations are warm and friendly and are underpinned by profound historical and cultural linkages that date back 2000 years to the period of the Great Emperor Ashoka. Our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru paid a historic visit to Laos in 1954. The role played by India as Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control on Indo-China is still appreciated and remembered with gratitude by the Lao leadership and people. After the emergence of Laos from civil strife and coming to power of the present regime in 1975, India and Laos have worked towards evolving areas of common interest and concern.

In the context of our Look East policy, on which I will speak in more detail later, Laos is an important country. Also in the context of ASEAN, Laos has played a very important role. On the multilateral side Laos has supported India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council, and has voted for our candidature to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations.

These excellent political relations do provide a fertile ground for growth of economic and commercial relationship. They have good transport connectivity, thanks to the ASEAN Initiatives, the East-West Highway being developed. They have good professional labour. They have rich natural resources such as iron ore, forestry, timber, land and plentiful water resources. That makes it an ideal destination for our investments.

There is considerable scope for investments by Indian entrepreneurs and business. We already have a concession agreement signed between the Aditya Birla Group to set up an integrated plantation-cum-pulp project

in Laos with a capital outlay of 350 million dollars. We have provided considerable assistance in the area of human resource development and capacity-building.

We have set up the Laos-India Centre for English language training and the Laos-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre. We have given various lines of credit for projects in Laos. We have also recently had the Joint Commission meeting, and we do have some aspects of defence cooperation.

Moving on to Cambodia, Hon. Rashtrapatiji will first go to Phnom Penh. Again, historically India Cambodia relations are a product of Hindu and Buddhist religious and cultural influences in the past emanating out of India in the 4th to 6th century AD. The pervading influence of Hinduism and Buddhism and Indian architecture are well-known in Cambodia, thanks to the world famous infrastructure of the temples of Angkor Wat and the surrounding area in Siem Reap.

The political relations are warm and cordial. Our association with the Paris Peace Accords and the intense interaction at high levels which preceded their finalization in 1991 are fondly remembered by Cambodia. Cambodia too supports India's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

Cambodia has also been extremely helpful in the ASEAN context. We have had regular exchanges of high-level visits. Prime Minister Vajpayee visited Cambodia in April 2002 both on a bilateral visit and for the first India-ASEAN Summit. Cambodian PM Hun Sen paid a state visit to India in 2007.

Again, we have an active Joint Commission with Cambodia. We export drugs, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and many other items to Cambodia. Many pharmaceutical companies including Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's, Cadilla, Micro Labs have set up representative offices in Phnom Penh. Kirloskar Brothers also have offices in Phnom Penh. There is some potential for cooperation between India and Cambodia in the oil and gas sector. An MoU has been signed between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority.

Cambodia too has been a major recipient of economic assistance from India. There have been several credit lines in the past and there are some being processed for the future.

In Siem Reap, which I have already mentioned, the Indian Government has a major renovation and restoration project with the Ta Prohm temple. These restoration works started in 2003 and are expected to be completed by 2013. We also have Cambodia-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre and English language training.

We have also gifted five information technology kiosks in different provinces of the country. We are setting up the Asian Traditional Textiles Museum in Siem Reap under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Programme. We have a large number of Cambodian students coming under the ITEC programme for training as well as academic studies in India. We have had several defence visits as well.

Moving now to the programme of Hon. President, in Vientiane our President will have extensive talks with the President and the PM. The President will be hosting a state banquet in her honour. She will meet with other senior leaders of Laos including the President of the Senate.

In Phnom Penh in Cambodia she will have extensive discussions with His Majesty the King of Cambodia, the PM and other senior leaders. The King of Cambodia will hold a banquet in her honour. We are confident that Rashtrapati's visit will be instrumental in reaffirming and enhancing the longstanding ties of friendship between our two nations and our two peoples.

I did say that I would mention something about the cooperation on the ASEAN side. Both these countries are important members of ASEAN. As you all know, ASEAN goes back over forty years. In the context of our Look East policy, it was a conscious decision to engage more closely with the countries of the ASEAN and ASEAN as a group.

Laos played a proactive and supportive role for enhancing India's profile with ASEAN. It played a central role in successfully coordinating our accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation with ASEAN, and the

signing of the Joint Declaration for Combating Terrorism which was signed between India and ASEAN, as well as the Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, and the ASEAN-India Partnership 20-20 for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity, which was signed during the Vientiane Summit. Similarly, Cambodia has played a very important role and is currently playing a very important role as the country coordinator for all ASEAN countries in the context of ASEAN-India cooperation.

ASEAN itself has become extremely active and is playing a central role in directing the regional architecture in South East and East Asia. As part of our recognition of the importance and the centrality of ASEAN to this process, India will be hosting a special India-ASEAN Summit in 2012 in India, which the ASEAN leaders have accepted to attend. Again, Cambodia will play a very important role in this as the country coordinator.

Similarly, we are planning to organize a major ASEAN-India Business Summit and a meeting of the Joint Business Council in India in March, 2011. In all of these, I am sure both Laos and Cambodia will have a very valuable role to play and we look forward, during Hon. Rashtrapatiji's visit, to a useful exchange of views on how we can cooperate closer in the ASEAN context.

I think that gives you an overview of the visit and what we hope to achieve there. I would now be happy to take questions.

Question: Do you have any agreements on the cards?

Secretary (East): We do hope to sign some agreements in both countries, and also to make some important announcements. But I think those announcements we would make while we are actually there.

Question: Do they support permanent membership for India on the Security Council?

Secretary (East): Permanent membership, both the countries.

Question: Will you please tell us in what fields there might be agreements?

Secretary (East): We are hoping to sign agreements in the fields of culture, and perhaps in the fields of accounts and audits. But as I said, I would prefer to give those details during the visit.

Question: *The relations of these two countries are a little closer with China. Is it the purpose of this visit to strengthen India's relations independent of those relations? What results do you envisage after this visit? Because both the countries are practically in the lap of China.*

Secretary (East): *You are aware that this entire area is known as Indo-China. It is closer to India as also to China. Our Prime Minister has said that there is space for both the countries. As our Prime Minister has said, there is place for both cooperation and competition between ourselves and China, and the same would be true in this region as well.*

Question: Madam, you mentioned something about oil and gas and this agreement being signed. Could we have some more details on that? How do we look at further investments or cooperation?

Secretary (East): I think the real issue is that there is potential for cooperation in the oil and gas sectors, as I said. An MoU between ONGC Videsh Lt. (OVL) and the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority was signed in December 2007. Present indications are that their oil and gas reserves may prove to be significant. But the MoU only provides the framework for these two agencies to work together. There has not been a specific project as such set up so far, but there are talks ongoing between the two.

Question: What is the estimated amount of reserves?

Secretary (East): I am afraid I do not have those details.

Official Spokesperson: I take it there is no further question on the visit of the President of India.

Thank you very much.

(Text in italics is unofficial translation from the original text in Hindi)



268. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on her way to the State visits to Laos and Cambodia on board the Special Flight.

September 9, 2010.

This time I travel eastwards to Laos at the invitation of President Choummaly Sayasone and to Cambodia at the invitation His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia. These are countries with whom India has deep historical and cultural relations dating back to the period of Emperor Ashoka. What Phu in Laos and Ankor Wat in Cambodia, both World Heritage Sites, stand as grand symbols of the ancient civilizational linkages of India with these countries. In more recent times, our countries have struggled against colonialism. Soon after Laos and Cambodia achieved independence, Prime Minister Nehru visited both these countries in 1954. India had been the Co-chair of International Commission for Supervision and Control on Indo-China where it played a significant role for which there is considerable appreciation in the region.

We have maintained political dialogues with both these countries. President Sayasone of Laos visited India in 2008 and Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia in 2007, when I had the opportunity to exchange views with them on bilateral cooperation and on a range of issues of mutual interest. My visit will be an opportunity to continue discussions with the leaderships of these countries and to reaffirm our commitment to strengthen and consolidate our relations as well as enhance our economic engagement with these countries.

There exists enormous goodwill and affection for India in both these countries. This environment of trust and confidence we enjoy with these countries and the shared political commitment to take forward the relationship provides a good basis to reinvigorate ties. Laos and Cambodia are growing economies, seeking socio-economic development. I will assure them that they can count on India as a willing development partner. Our efforts in this direction have been towards undertaking infrastructure projects and capacity building programmes

in these countries. Our trade and investment linkages have grown over the years although they remain much below potential. An Indian business delegation will be in Vientiane and in Phnom Penh, where I will interact with them as well as business representatives of both countries. I will urge them to avail of the many mutually advantageous opportunities that exist.

Our ties with Laos and Cambodia have a strong cultural and historical basis. At Luang Prabang in Laos and Siem Reap in Cambodia, I will visit monuments reflective of our common heritage to highlight the cultural bonds which have created a special empathy between our peoples. India is involved in the conservation and preservation of ancient monuments in both these countries. I hope my visit to these sites will encourage people-to-people contacts as well as tourism, thus strengthening our traditional linkages. The deep understanding that developed through history lasts to this day. It must be carried forward into the future and this can be possible through contacts between our students and the youth. We have Cultural Exchange Programmes with both the countries to promote cultural exchanges. During this visit, the existing Cultural Exchange Programme with Laos will be renewed for a further period of 3 years.

Our relationship with Laos and Cambodia are of strategic importance as well. I look forward to an exchange of views with Laos and Cambodia on how we can promote greater stability and security in the region. I believe India, Laos and Cambodia have much to gain by cooperating with each other in combating extremism and terrorism. I would like to add that both Laos and Cambodia have given us unconditional support for our candidature for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

My visit to Laos and Cambodia- two important countries in South East Asia will reaffirm our pursuit of a closer and enduring partnership with the countries of ASEAN region as part of our Look East policy. As Country Coordinator for India from 2003-06 in ASEAN, Laos played a proactive and supportive role for enhancing India's profile in the region. Currently, Cambodia is the coordinator on the ASEAN side on India-ASEAN relations, and we recall that it was under its Chairmanship of ASEAN

that India attained Summit level partnership. I expect to discuss our growing engagement with ASEAN countries as we move towards the next Indian-ASEAN and East Asia Summits in Vietnam in October.

I will meet members of the Indian community in Laos and Cambodia, who are working and living there. They are also at the same time contributing to perceptions about India at the people's level, and thus are important in building bridges of friendship and promoting understanding.

I am looking forward to my visit to Laos and Cambodia to further strengthen our historic cultural ties. I am also sure that all of you are also looking forward to visiting these countries who have a rich culture and with whom we have had historical ties and a promising future relationship.



269. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the Indian Ambassador.

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 13, 2010.

I am delighted to be in this beautiful country, with which India has had historical connections, going back to almost 2000 years. I arrived in Phnom Penh only a few hours ago and interacting with the Indian community is my first engagement in the Kingdom of Cambodia. I convey to all of you, my personal greetings and also greetings from the people of India. You play an important role in promoting relations between India and Cambodia.

It is interesting that many legends are prevalent in this country tracing their ancient linkages with India. Most of the historical and cultural monuments spread all over Cambodia speak of the close Indian association, which was made possible as a result of continuous interaction between navigators, merchants and intellectuals of the two countries, over a period of two thousand years. One has heard so much about the grandeur of the world famous Angkor Wat and many astonishing architectural marvels such

as Ta Prohm, Bayon and Banteay Srey. I and my delegation would be visiting Siem Reap where all these magnificent cultural monuments, which are glorious testimony to our common cultural heritage, are located. I am informed that there are many commonalities in the day-to-day life of the people of Cambodia with Indians, such as language, customs and rituals. This must be a product of our ancestors' willingness to learn from each other and is an indication of the everlasting bonds of friendship.

I am happy to say that the Governments of the two countries strived to regain old historical bonds. In the 1950s, India was associated with the International Control Commission on Indo-China and our role as Co-Chairman was well appreciated. There were numerous high level exchanges between our two countries. We are all aware of the close friendly ties that existed between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, which paved the way for not only excellent bilateral ties, but also offered opportunities to the two leaders to exchange views on the role of newly liberated countries in the development of a peaceful world.

Everyone is aware of India's unwavering support to Cambodia not only in good times but also during the difficult period of its history. After the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia, India was among the first countries to recognize President Heng Samrin's government and re-open its diplomatic mission in 1981. Since then, the Governments of India and Cambodia have worked together to expand and deepen our bilateral ties, through high level bilateral exchanges, as well as through interactions at regional and international fora.

While human resource development and capacity building have been the primary focus of our bilateral relations, India is happy to cooperate with Cambodia in infrastructural projects, as well as in projects related to conservation and preservation of historical monuments. Over the years our two countries have signed numerous agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation, and have also established mechanisms to exchange views and to review the status of ongoing projects.

We appreciate the role played by the Royal Government of Cambodia in India's engagement with this region. It is worth mentioning that India attained Summit level partnership with ASEAN under Cambodia's Chairmanship of the ASEAN in 2002, and a forthcoming Commemorative Summit in India to mark India's 20-year association with ASEAN too will be organized,

during Cambodia's Chairmanship in 2012. India is satisfied with its friendly and cooperative ties with Cambodia and would continue to work for strengthening of these ties.

Overseas Indians comprising People of Indian Origin and Non Resident Indians today are amongst the best educated and successful communities in the world. India has the second largest Diaspora, estimated at over 25 million, present in every major region of the world. We are proud of you, and aware of the important role the diaspora plays as a 'bridge' to access knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for the development of the country of their origin. The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated since 2003, every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India. Individuals of exceptional merit are honoured with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion, since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi - the Father of our Nation, returned to India from South Africa to lead India's freedom struggle. His philosophy and his firm adherence to the principles of non-violence and truth are universally admired and emulated across the world. There is a bust of Gandhiji in Phnom Penh and I shall be visiting the site to pay homage to him.

You must carry forward the legacy of the values of our civilisation, upheld so magnificently by Gandhiji. The onus is now on all of you to ensure that a correct image of India is portrayed among your colleagues, neighbours and others with whom you interact. You must also carry forward the efforts of our ancestors in establishing extremely friendly ties thousands of years ago with Cambodia. Always remember that your deeds in this country not only reflect your individual personality but in some way make Cambodians aware of the capabilities of India and also the Indian way of life.

I am told that the Indian community in Cambodia though small is vibrant, active and is supportive of those who need assistance. Such compassion for others is a good trait and I encourage everyone to be humane. I have been informed that the Indian Association in Cambodia celebrates important Indian festivals, and has recently launched a website which is quite informative. This is a good development and I am sure you will continue with such efforts. I take this opportunity to wish you progress and success.

JAI HIND!



270. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni.

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), September 14, 2010.

Your Majesty,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is, indeed, a great pleasure to visit the Kingdom of Cambodia. We are overwhelmed with the warmth and affection received since our arrival in your beautiful country. I and the members of my delegation greatly appreciate the gracious hospitality extended to us.

Historically, India-Cambodia relations are a product of strong civilizational links spanning two millennia. The many magnificent historical monuments spread all over Cambodia are symbols of our shared cultural heritage. Looking back, one is also reminded of the close association between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, which helped in developing extremely friendly ties between our two newly independent countries. Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Cambodia in 1954. President Dr. Rajendra Prasad paid a State visit to Cambodia in March 1959. We in India fondly remember the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk undertaken in March 1955 and his subsequent visits to India. There has always been a strong desire on part of both our countries to strengthen bonds of friendship. India never wavered in its commitment to support Cambodia even at the most difficult phases of its history, immediately after the fall of Khmer Rouge regime.

Your Majesty,

I am extremely happy that Cambodia has been progressing well and it achieved double digit economic growth for a number of years prior to the global economic crisis. While commending the ongoing efforts of Cambodia to achieve a better life for its citizens, I can assure the Royal Government of Cambodia of India's continued support in fulfilling this objective.

Human resource development and capacity building have been the primary focus of India-Cambodia bilateral cooperation for the last many years. India is cooperating with Cambodia in infrastructural projects, considered priority projects for the development of Cambodia, under concessional lines of credit. Today, we have signed an additional line of credit of US \$ 15 million for the Stung Tassal Water Development Project in Cambodia.

Your Majesty,

As both our countries have large agrarian sectors, there is tremendous scope for co-operation in agriculture. Initiatives have also been undertaken to enhance economic engagement between our two countries. We need to encourage private sectors to pro-actively explore trade and investment opportunities.

India and Cambodia also have predominantly young populations. There should be greater exchanges between the youth of our two countries, so that our friendship and deep cultural links continue to resonate in the future. To promote cultural ties, recent significant initiatives have been the setting up of a Chair of Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies at Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University and of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Asian Traditional Textiles Museum. The team of the Archaeological Survey of India is currently working on restoration and preservation of Ta Prohm temple at Siem Reap. We are proud that India was involved in the restoration and preservation of the World Heritage monument Angkor Wat for a few years beginning 1986.

Defence and security-related issues are other areas of active cooperation between India and Cambodia. India is happy to play a role in training the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces officials. It is heartening that in less than two decades, Cambodia has transformed itself from a country which hosted blue berets, to a troop-contributing nation for UN peacekeeping operations in Africa.

We value the support extended by Cambodia for India's enhanced engagement with the ASEAN and for India's inclusion in the East Asia Summit.

I am confident that my visit and similar high level exchanges in the future will contribute to broaden, as well as deepen our bilateral ties and generate goodwill between our peoples.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast:-

- to the good health and well-being of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia;
- to the continued progress and prosperity of the People of Cambodia; and
- to the lasting friendship and cooperation between India and Cambodia.



271. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India - Cambodia Business meeting.

Phnom Penh, September 15, 2010.

I am delighted to be amongst the captains of business communities of our two countries. At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce for organizing this event. The Indian business delegation consists of representatives from Indian companies and from the three major business associations of India namely the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, reflecting the interest to engage with Cambodia. Today's meeting offers an opportunity for business persons from both countries to interact and explore business potentials.

India and Cambodia have deep civilizational links and a time-tested friendship. Our peoples have known each other for more than two thousand years. Our ancestors exchanged ideas and techniques, and created such architectural marvels that are now termed as the wonders of the world. Indian traders sailed to this region, playing an important role in not only establishing trading links, but also in promoting people to people contacts. Those ancient friendly ties which continued for many centuries, once again flourished in the era of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, which saw an upswing in political interaction, not only on the bilateral platform, but also in the international arena. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, India was among the first countries to re-establish its diplomatic Mission in Phnom Penh in 1981. Since then, our two countries have worked together to bolster bilateral ties covering almost all sectors. Prime Minister Hun Sen's visit to India in 2007 and my interaction with the leadership of Cambodia during my visit not only reconfirms the time-tested bonds but is a desire to further strengthen our friendship. A background of such a rich interaction accompanied by a strong commitment by the leadership of the two countries to promote ties, provides numerous opportunities for businesspersons to forge trade and investment linkages.

It is worth mentioning that India and Cambodia started the process of economic liberalization in the 1990s - almost at the same time. Since then, the pace of economic growth in both countries has accelerated. Cambodia figured among an exclusive group of countries to achieve double digit growth in its GDP for a few years in a row, prior to the global economic crisis. India was one of the few countries where the impact of the global economic downturn was limited. This was largely on account of Indian economic growth being propelled by domestic consumption. India is trillion dollar economy and is ranked as the fourth largest economy in the world on the basis of purchasing power parity. India is a large, attractive and a growing market.

Ladies and Gentlemen, India-Cambodia economic relations are at a modest level but there exists much greater scope for expansion. Total bilateral trade is approximately US\$ 50 million with pharmaceuticals being the dominating item of India's export basket. I am certain it is possible to expand the bilateral trade basket, which requires initiatives to create awareness among the business communities of the two countries about the quality and prices of exportable goods and import requirements. In order to promote trade with Cambodia, India has extended a duty free tariff preference facility since last year. I encourage the Cambodian business community to avail of this facility in full at an accelerated pace.

Indian companies have invested overseas and are looking for opportunities to do more business. Frequent business interactions will help in identifying the many investment opportunities in mining, oil and gas, hydropower, infrastructure, tourism, among others. Moreover, in the economies of both India and Cambodia, agriculture continues to play an important role. I am told that the Royal Government of Cambodia is exploring ways to improve agriculture productivity, as well as to transform Cambodia into a rice basket and a key rice exporting country in the world. We welcome these initiatives of the Cambodian Government and I can assure that India would cooperate and share its experience with Cambodia in achieving this objective. India would be happy to extend training support and also depute Indian experts to Cambodia under bilateral co-operation arrangements. I am informed that trade and investment opportunities in the agriculture sector have also generated a lot of interest among reputed Indian business companies. I am hopeful that the current visits by some of them would fructify into actual business transactions.

India has a strong presence of small and medium enterprises, which have been in operation for many centuries. I believe Cambodia is keen to expand its manufacturing base to add value to its local agro-produce and also for other products to meet local demand. These sectors, alongwith IT and IT enabled services, could be areas which are worth exploring. I am glad that an Indian bank - Bank of India - is now operating in Cambodia. This should help facilitate business between the two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Cambodia's central location in the ASEAN region is useful as India seeks to expand its economic engagement with the region. We are also helped by the fact that for Indians, South East Asia is an important travel destination. In this context, I would like to mention that India-Cambodia tourism trade has tremendous potential for expansion. I am also told that a large number of Cambodian tourists travel to India for pilgrimage purposes. Such visits boost our tourism business and people to people contacts. One of the best catalysts to promote tourist traffic between the two countries would be the

establishment of a direct air link between India and Cambodia. This would open possibilities of attractive tour packages, and also significantly reduce travel time.

Cambodia is a country with which we have historical ties and there exists an abundance of goodwill for India at all strata of society. Therefore, I urge my own compatriots to share their experiences learnt over the years and play a positive role in the development of Cambodia. There exists tremendous scope for developing trade and investment relations between India and Cambodia, which should be realized by businesspersons of the two countries.

I wish you good luck and success in this endeavour.

Thank You.



272. Remarks by President Shrimati Pratibah Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the Governor of Siem Reap Province.

Siem Reap (Cambodia), September 16, 2010.

I deeply appreciate the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I am delighted to be in the historical city of Siem Reap which is home to so many magnificent monuments including the world heritage site - Angkor Wat. These monuments reflect the glory of the Khmers at that time and are a visible symbol of strong cultural ties that existed between India and Cambodia.

India is proud to have been involved in the conservation and restoration efforts of Angkor Wat from 1986 to 1993 and is currently working for Ta Prohm Temple. Today, I had the honour of laying the foundation stone for MGC Asian Traditional Textiles Museum, which would be an added testament of Indian cultural cooperation between India and member countries of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation in this beautiful city of Siem Reap.

I see such joint initiatives as proof of the desire of the two Governments to keep alive the historical cultural ties that exist between the two countries.

I wish to commend Your Excellency, the Governor of Siem Reap Province, and your officials, for their untiring efforts in making the city as well as the Angkor area a tourist paradise. Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite you to join me in a toast:

- to the age old friendship between India and Cambodia; - to the progress and prosperity of the people of Cambodia; and
- to the historic city of Siem Reap and to the World Heritage site of Angkor Wat.



273. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Media on board the Special Flight on her way back from her State Visits to Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

September 18, 2010.

As I mentioned in my departure statement, I visited Laos and Cambodia at the invitation of President Choummaly Sayasone of Laos and H.M. Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia. My visit to these countries was undertaken to reinforce the deep historical and cultural ties which India has with these countries dating back to more than 2000 years, and to build a dynamic economic and developmental partnership on these foundations. The last visit of an Indian President to Laos and Cambodia was that of our first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in March 1959.

In Laos, I visited the capital city of Vientiane and the world heritage city of Luang Prabang. I had detailed and valuable discussions with President Sayasone who had paid a State Visit to India in August 2008 as well as with PM Bouasone Bouphavanh and the President of the Lao National Assembly. Government of Lao PDR repeatedly conveyed its deep

appreciation for India's continued assistance and support for its developmental efforts through loans and assistance in the field of human resource development, hydropower and irrigation schemes in particular. The Lao leadership emphasized that Indian Lines of Credit were very important for Laos and also conveyed special appreciation for the preferential tariff assistance given by India for Lao exports. I was informed that the National Assembly of Laos has already approved the India-ASEAN Agreement on Trade in Goods and only some administrative formalities remain prior to its notification. The Lao leadership also indicated that they look forward to investments from the Indian private sector.

In Vientiane, a Cultural Exchange Agreement for the years 2011-13 was signed as also an agreement for a new Government of India Credit Line of US \$ 72.55 million to finance two power projects. Agreements between the newly set-up Indian Chamber in Laos (INCHAM) with each of the three leading Indian Chambers of Commerce (viz. FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM) were also signed. These measures are expected to give impetus to further economic cooperation between India and Laos.

President Sayasone and I participated in a virtual inauguration of the 115 KV Paksong-Jiangxi-Bangyo transmission line project in Champassak province, where Government of India had provided a Line of Credit for US\$ 18 million.

In Cambodia, I held talks with King Norodom Sihamoni, Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Presidents of the Senate and the National Assembly. The Cambodian leaders warmly recalled India's invaluable support for Cambodia during its most difficult times. They appreciated our developmental assistance and discussed new areas of cooperation. Prime Minister Hun Sen mentioned oil and gas, mineral extraction, agriculture and tourism as future areas for bilateral cooperation. I invited His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni to visit India, which he accepted. The dates will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

An MOU for cooperation between our Comptroller and Auditor General and the National Audit Authority of Cambodia was signed. A US\$15 million Credit Line Agreement between EXIM Bank and the Cambodian

Government was signed for Phase II of the Stung Tassal Water Development Project. I announced a financial grant of US\$ 246,000 for upgradation of the Cambodia-India Friendship School. I attended the India-Cambodia Business meeting in Phnom Penh. I also performed the ground breaking and foundation stone laying ceremony of the Asian Traditional Textiles Museum being set up under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Programme.

On ASEAN, Cambodia has played a vital role as the host and ASEAN Chair in 2002 for the first ASEAN-India Summit. Cambodia is currently the Coordinator for India-ASEAN interaction and will again hold the ASEAN Chair in 2012 when we will host the Commemorative India-ASEAN Summit in India.

The grandeur and scale of the historical monuments I had visited has been particularly impressive in both Siem Reap and Luang Prabang. In my meetings with the Governors of these provinces, they both mentioned the old links with India. Our shared cultural heritage is very much in evidence in the architecture, the language, the religion, the art and culture and the social customs of our countries. The Baci ceremony in Laos in which threads are tied is very reminiscent of our Raksha Bandhan festival. We are proud of India's contribution to the restoration works in Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm in Cambodia and Wat Phu in Laos.

I was accompanied by Shri Kantilal Bhuria Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and by Members of Parliament - Shri Mohan Singh, Shri N. Peethambara Kurup and Shri Anandrao Adsul. They actively participated in the various events during the visit. They, like me, were deeply impressed with the commonality of culture and the ancient linkages with Laos and Cambodia, and the commitment of the leaders of the two countries to forge stronger bonds of friendship with India. I believe that greater economic engagement and people-to-people contacts, particularly among the youth and students will be the catalysts for this.

A business delegation also accompanied me. It consisted of representatives from Indian companies and the three major business associations - CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM participated. As we look at

our objective of greater economic engagement with these countries, it will be our companies and business organizations who will explore possibilities, and increase trade and investment levels.

I was touched by the exceptional affection and personal warmth extended to me in both Laos and Cambodia from the leadership and the people. I am convinced that my visit to Laos and Cambodia has served to reinforce our traditional ties and will also help us to forge new links for the future.

Thank You



CHINA

274. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Book Release function at the Observer Research Foundation.

New Delhi, January 7, 2010.

Shri M. Rasgotra, President, ORF Centre for International Relations,

Shri Prem Shankar Jha, well known author and scholar,

Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta,

Distinguished scholars, Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel privileged to release before this distinguished audience two very topical and insightful books on China and our relations with this emerging powerhouse. One of the books is a crystallization of a hundred schools of thought contending, with well-known scholars and policymakers throwing up riveting possibilities and alternative iterations of the India-China dynamics over the crucial next decade or two. The other is the product of in-depth and painstaking research on the unknowns of China's political economy, seeking to demystify, and offer fresh perspectives on, the Chinese growth story.

The two books released today represent the growing and welcome interest among the Indian intelligentsia in things Chinese and attempt to understand them from an Indian perspective. This in itself is a result of the growing relevance of China to us in India, whether in the precincts of the Government, company boardrooms, market streets or university campuses. It is only proper, therefore, that we develop our own intellectual framework in which to study the Chinese phenomenon from this side of the Himalayas. We can be aloof to the unfolding new challenges and opportunities presented by our largest neighbour's rapid ascendancy only at our own peril. Nor can we rely entirely on external sources for understanding and addressing them. This is why books like "India and China --- the next decade" and "Managed Chaos --- the fragility of the Chinese miracle" matter indeed.

The discourse on China is central to the ongoing process of Asia's economic integration and emergence ---- a process where we have vital stakes. China's sustained eye-catching growth over three decades and our own high growth in relatively recent times have largely pulled the centre of gravity of the world economy to this part of the world. Our two countries, because of the size of our domestic market and unsaturated demand, hold promises for continued economic growth and show a way out of recession worldwide. We have mutual interest in each other's prosperity, as our trade statistics and investment trends eloquently indicate. Respective experience of economic management and respective best practices can similarly serve as the most appropriate benchmarks and models for Indian and Chinese economy, which are uniquely similar in their scale and complexity. At the same time, we need to manage and contain the short-term pains of economic dislocation, while addressing the long-term need for trade sustainability and diversification.

Moving into the sphere of geopolitics, we need to recognize the complexity of relations posed by an unresolved boundary question. This is naturally an emotive issue for us. However, that need not obscure the hard-won fact that peace and tranquility has been preserved in the long India-China border for more than two decades, and the plethora of Confidence Building Measures put in place to reduce or eliminate the perception of threat from each other has worked satisfactorily well. Nor has the non-settlement of the Boundary Question prevented mutually beneficial functional cooperation in a number of areas. At the political level, the aspiration to consolidate our bilateral relations found reflection in the Strategic and Cooperative

Partnership for Peace and Prosperity that we established in 2005. That our relations have now gone beyond the framework of the purely bilateral and assumed strategic and global connotation is rather clear from the intent of the Joint Statement on the Shared Vision for the 21st Century issued in 2008. It also becomes evident when India and China work and articulate from the same side of the development divide, whether on the issue of trade liberalization in the context of the Doha round of the WTO or in the Climate Change debate.

Let me reiterate that Government of India does not view China or China's development as a threat. That said, however, we recognize that cooperation and competition can overlap, as it is not possible to have a perfect congruence of interests between two nations as vast and diverse as India and China. Such competition or lack of cooperation must not be misunderstood as antagonism. Our differences, when they exist, must be handled with dialogue and diplomacy. Fortunately, within the parameters of the Strategic and Global Partnership, our two countries have a vibrant system of political exchanges and have created a full-fledged architecture of dialogue at all official levels, covering all fields. It is our endeavour to fully utilize these mechanisms, address issues in a frank and mature manner and set new goals, rather than allow uncertainties to persist and lead to mistrust and grudge.

This brings me to the paramount need to create greater awareness and mutual understanding at the public level. Knowledge and scholarship of China in our country needs to be augmented to attain the maximum benefit from the rise of China. The media could play a responsible and responsive role in this. Our civil societies must engage with each other more vigorously, recognizing the promises held out by each other.

I hope this process of people-to-people friendship will be put on faster track in the New Year, which will mark the 60th year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. We will commemorate this event in a befitting manner, including through a spectacular Festival of India in China and a Festival of China in India. I am looking forward to my own visit to China this year at the invitation of my Chinese counterpart to further strengthen and reinvigorate our ties. I warmly recall my earlier visit to China, before assuming the office of the External Affairs Minister. I had also recently hosted my Chinese counterpart in Bangalore. He reminded me, and I wholeheartedly agreed, that our relationship should continue to

be guided by the spirit of Panchsheel - the five principles of peaceful co-existence. I am happy that the launch of two books today heralds the promising year ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Observer Research Foundation for organizing this very timely function. ORF's scholarly inputs are of great value in the process of formulating our foreign policy alternatives. I wish ORF all success in its future endeavours.

Thank you.



275. Official Spokesperson's Response to a question on detention of Indian nationals in China.

New Delhi, January 12, 2010.

Ministry of External Affairs is aware of the detention of 21 Indian nationals* by the Anti - Smuggling Bureau of Shenzhen Customs (China) on 8 January 2010.

They are charged with illegal transportation of diamonds from Hong Kong to Shenzhen.

On learning of this detention, our Embassy in Beijing immediately approached the Chinese authorities seeking consular access to the Indian nationals, as provided for, in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on consular matters of 2003.

Indian Consular Officers are expected to be granted access to the detained Indian nationals tomorrow morning, 13 January 2010.



* Twenty-one Indians were among 33 foreigners arrested in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on diamond-smuggling charges. Local authorities said the Shenzhen-based traders were involved in a smuggling racket, reportedly bringing in diamonds from Hong Kong for sale in the open market. The Indian traders were alleged to have been hired by the smuggling ring as "carriers," according to officials. Ambassador to China S. Jaishankar told *The Hindu* that the Chinese authorities had assured the Embassy that those arrested would be granted consular access. Officers from the Indian Embassy in Beijing and the Consulate in Guangzhou have been dispatched to Shenzhen.

276. Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce after meeting of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Beijing, January 19, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister currently on a visit to China, today called on Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. In a warm and cordial meeting, the Chinese Premier agreed that trade and economic cooperation between the two countries is an important part of the overall bilateral India - China relationship. He agreed that both sides could work together to ensure more balanced trade. China would do its part in working towards this objective. Stating that India and China have extensive common interests, he pointed out that each country has its own strengths and can learn from each other. The Chinese Premier emphasized that China and India should work together to further develop their economic relationship as an important plank of their bilateral partnership. Shri Sharma agreed that India - China bonds are strong and expressed his appreciation of Chinese willingness to address the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Earlier, Shri Sharma co-chaired the 8th Meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) with the Commerce Minister of China Mr. Chen Deming. The JEG was meeting after a gap of 4 years. Shri Sharma conveyed that India placed importance on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. China was India's largest trade partner, while India was China's tenth largest partner. India desired to expand its exports to China and India's rank in China's foreign trade does not do justice to the potential that exists between the two countries. Shri Sharma drew attention to the large and growing trade deficit that India is experiencing in its bilateral trade with China. He requested the Chinese side to take corrective steps to reduce this imbalance. He pressed for greater import of IT and ITES by China from India, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to the import of power plant equipment from India, removal of restrictions on import of Basmati Rice, fruits and vegetables by China, landing rights for Indian TV channels in China, and import of more Indian films by China. He further highlighted the procedural bottlenecks, including time consuming licensing

procedures being faced by Indian drugs and pharmaceuticals. During the JEG Meeting, an India-China MOU on Expansion of Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two countries was signed which provides for the Chinese side to import as much of its requirement of value added goods from India as possible.

The Chinese Commerce Minister stated that China too would work towards reducing the trade deficit that India was experiencing. Stating that India had emerged as one of the largest markets for Chinese project exports, he requested India to facilitate the work of Chinese companies in India. Both Ministers looked forward to working together in expanding mutual investments in the other country.

Shri Sharma and the Commerce Minister of China also delivered key-note addresses at an India-China Business Seminar held at Beijing today. An MOU between FICCI and the China Chambers of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronics (CCCME) for cooperation between the two Chambers was signed.



During his China visit Commerce Minister also visited Shanghai and met Communist Party Secretary of Shanghai Mr. Yu Zhengshen , and told him that "cooperation between Chinese & Indian companies is instrumental in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries." He also said that "India attaches high importance to its participation in the Shanghai World Expo at which we will showcase not only its progress in science & technology but also our rich and diverse cultural heritage". Mr. Tang Dengjie, Vice Mayor of Shanghai; Mr. Sha Hailin, Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Municipal Government & Chairman of Shanghai Municipal Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Chen Kehong, Chairman of Shanghai Municipal Science & Technology Commission were present from the Chinese side. Both Shri Sharma and Mr. Yu Zhengsheng exchanged views about how India and China were coping with the global economic crisis and spoke about both countries being engines of economic growth that was helping the world come out of global economic crisis. The Minister said that China is an important economic partner for India's development particularly in the infrastructure sector and added that there are enormous opportunities for Chinese companies in this sector. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng expressed confidence that Indian pavilion will be one of the highlights of the Expo and it will provide an excellent opportunity for Chinese People to enhance their understanding about India. He spoke about business opportunities for Chinese companies in India and also assured full support for Indian business operations in Shanghai.

277. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and China.

New Delhi, April 1, 2010.

April 1, 2010 marks the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China. On this occasion, messages of felicitations have been exchanged between the Presidents, Prime Ministers and External Affairs Ministers of the two countries.

2. Conveying "warm greetings and good wishes" to the leadership and friendly people of China, President Smt. Pratibha Patil, in her letter to the Chinese President, observed that "our bilateral relations have gained in strength and momentum and have assumed global and strategic dimensions" as a result of efforts by the two sides".

3. In his message to the Chinese Premier, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh stated that "India - China relations have diversified into almost all areas of human endeavour. They have achieved a high level of maturity that serves the interests of both our peoples and the cause of peace, stability and progress in the region and the world. We share a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. We are important trade partners. We cooperate closely on many global issues. The Shared Vision for the 21st Century which we signed in 2008 provides the roadmap for our continued interaction and cooperation in the years ahead." PM added that "we regard the future of India - China relations with optimism" and that he looked forward to working with the Chinese Premier "to harness the vast potential for the further expansion of our ties to realize the mutual aspirations of our two peoples".

4. In his communication to the Foreign Minister of China, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna remarked that India and China, "are rapidly developing countries which share the objective of improving the living standards of our people. In recent times, we have emerged as two of the fastest growing economies in the world". He reiterated "our resolve to work closely with China for the peace and prosperity of our region and the globe".



278. Keynote Address by National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon at the seminar organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs & Institute of Chinese Studies Seminar on "India and China: Public Diplomacy, Building Understanding".

New Delhi, April 1, 2010.

Ambassador Devare, Ambassador Zhang Yan,

Friends

Thank you for asking me to speak at the inauguration of this seminar on "India and China: Public Diplomacy, Building Understanding" to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China. This is a useful and timely initiative by the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Institute of Chinese Studies. It will be a significant part of the commemoration of this anniversary in both countries.

It is a pleasure to see so many friends in the audience, and particularly to see our Chinese friends here with us in Delhi.

Sixty years ago, in the international and domestic circumstances surrounding the birth of two new republics in India and China within two years of each other, the rapid recognition and early establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries had a special significance. Asia was taking charge of its own destiny again, and intended to do so on its own terms. That was a moment of promise, a declaration of intent by the two most populous nations on earth, conscious of the role that they had played in history, and aware of the vast gap between their past glory and present condition.

Today, sixty years later, thanks to our separate and collective efforts, both our countries, and Asia as a whole, are beginning to play the roles promised by our mutual recognition sixty years ago.

Today, as our leaders have reminded us, and as was shown again at the Copenhagen COP on climate change, India-China relations have global

significance. How have we come to this point and what should we expect from India-China relations in the future?

India-China Relations Today

For ancient nations and neighbours like India and China, sixty years is only a brief moment in a long record of civilisational contact between our peoples. Ours has always been a broader engagement, not just between our states but between our peoples. Throughout history it was the scholars and pilgrims, the traders and travellers, who carried ideas, goods and science from one country to another. It is even argued by some that Buddhism, that great import from India which was so successfully Sinicised, flourished in China until it acquired the disadvantages of state patronage and of being a state religion, and that it was its place in the people's hearts that enabled it to survive and flourish until today in China.

It was awareness of the historical contact between the two peoples of India and China that created the basis for the attempt in the fifties to build a new type of relationship based on Panchasheela or the Five Principles. That attempt foundered on the boundary question and the politics that prevailed in the late fifties and sixties internationally and in China, leading to the difficult phase of bilateral estrangement during the sixties.

When we began the process of rebuilding state-to-state relations in the seventies, we tried to learn the lessons of history and to bring into play the strength of people to people links and public diplomacy as your seminar calls it. Beginning with Foreign Minister Vajpayee's 1979 visit to China and culminating in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit to China in 1988, Indian and Chinese leaders decided that the difficult and complicated boundary question would be addressed, but would not stand in the way of the expansion of relations in other areas, including the economy and functional cooperation. This approach was taken one step further by the 1993 agreement on the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas and the 1996 CBMs agreement, which committed both sides to preserving the status quo and established procedures to deal with difficulties that might arise on the ground.

The results of this policy of engagement speak for themselves. Today China is India's largest trading partner in goods, over 3,000 Indian students study

in China, and India is one of China's largest markets for project exports. India and China cooperate in international organisations and on global issues. We have established a practice of regular leadership visits and meetings that has resulted in high level political understanding and impetus for the relationship.

By 2003 both countries were confident enough to re-address the most complicated and difficult issue that affects bilateral relations, the India-China boundary question, at the political level. It was decided to entrust the issue to Special Representatives of the leaders. This decision too has borne fruit in the Guiding Principles and Political Parameters for a boundary settlement that were agreed during Premier Wen Jiabao's 2005 visit to India.

In other words, differences in world view, structure, systems and foreign policy decision making have not prevented and will not prevent an expanding engagement between India and China, successfully managing contradictions while building on congruence. The two countries have found a modus vivendi to deal with the fact of the boundary issue and to manage their different approaches to issues where their peripheries overlap. India and China both cooperate and compete at the same time because of their interests and how they perceive the balance of power and situation around them. We have also shown through practice that our bilateral relations are too important to be affected by our relations with any third country.

Both countries can now actively consider together the next steps in the evolution of our bilateral relations; evolve a detailed framework for the resolution of the boundary issue in a manner that is politically feasible for both leaderships; and, seize the opportunities for cooperation that the domestic transformations of our economies and the evolving global situation have opened up.

The Prospect

Today, India has been transformed, China has changed beyond recognition, and the two countries are increasing the well being of their people and contributing to the emergence of a multi-polar world.

The global trend towards multi-polarity and a more even distribution of power has been accelerated by the recent global economic crisis. While the immediate financial aspects of the crisis may have been addressed,

its structural causes in terms of global imbalances remain unsolved. Both the trend towards multi-polarity and the financial crisis have actually increased the opportunity and need for India and China to work together on global issues. As the visionary joint statement issued by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Premier Wen Jiabao in January 2008 made clear, both countries share common positions and approaches on several major international issues of long-term significance such as the environment and climate change, energy security, food security, remaking the institutions of global governance, and international support for national economic and social development efforts.

In the immediate region in which both countries are located, Asia, as well, there is common ground between India and China on combating terrorism and extremism, enhancing maritime security, and on the need for a peaceful environment to permit the domestic transformation of the two countries. While there may be differences in method and choice of tools, in most cases there is a marked similarity of goals. Naturally, the bilateral *modus vivendi* which has been in place for some time may need to be reworked periodically in the light of developments in our countries and around us.

Our experience suggests that there is space in Asia and the world for both India and China to grow and develop, and for us to do so in a way that is mutually reinforcing, if we both wish it. We also have the experience and ability in India and China to continue to manage our relationship successfully.

As India and China continue to pursue their interests, so long as their overwhelming preoccupation remains their domestic transformation, and both understand that this goal requires a peaceful periphery, it is my understanding that the elements of competition in the bilateral relationship can be managed and the elements of congruence can be built upon. As our interests get progressively more complex, the costs of withdrawal from engagement rise.

The larger issue is whether India and China can work together to help to manage the complicated regional security environment in Asia. India's preference is for the open security architecture and the sort of multi-polarity that China too has advocated previously for global issues, and from which we have both benefited in the recent past. To do so, India, China and other rising Asian powers must be willing and capable of contributing to

global public goods in terms of security, growth and stability that the region and world require. How will we help to preserve security in the global commons? Asia has proved that she can do the economics. Can she also do the politics that come with power?

You might ask what this has to do with public diplomacy by India and China, the topic of your seminar. Everything is my answer, for two principal reasons. One is the shrill and over excitable commentary on the relationship that has appeared in both countries in the last year or so. The emergence of "nativist" voices, and the loud expression of opinion as fact in the new media which purports to express public opinion, could introduce volatility in perceptions. We have all witnessed this phenomenon in India-China relations in the last year or so. When the world is changing so rapidly, and when uncertainty in the international system is at unprecedented levels, neither India nor China can afford misperceptions or distortions of policy caused by a lack of understanding of each other's compulsions and policy processes.

Secondly, in a democracy like India foreign policy has a symbiotic relationship with public opinion; it is both formed by it and needs its support to be legitimate, coherent and implementable.

And that is why public diplomacy by both countries becomes important, to bring issues into perspective and to make clear the context and implications of public policy.

It is only on the basis of informed and supportive public opinion that we will be able to grasp the opportunities and move forward on the ambitious agenda that awaits India-China relations, the pursuit of which would place India-China relations on a sound footing for the twenty-first century, and enable us to realise the potential of the India-China strategic cooperative partnership for peace and development.

I therefore wish you success in your seminar. You have a wide canvas to cover in terms of the relationship and the contribution that public diplomacy can make to it - whether through academic exchanges, journalism, civil society contacts and so-called track two dialogue between Indians and Chinese, all of which are becoming richer by the day. I wish you well and look forward with anticipation to learning the results of your deliberations.

Thank you.



279. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to China.

New Delhi, April 3, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to you all and sorry to keep you waiting a bit. Let me first of all introduce a dear friend and colleague Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia), who is responsible for affairs pertaining to China, Japan and other countries.

As you are aware, the External Affairs Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna will be paying an official visit to China at the invitation of his counterpart from the 5th to the 8th of April. We would like to brief you on the important visit. This would be the first official bilateral visit by the present EAM to China and the highest level political visit from India to China under the UPA-II Government. You would recall that the last visit of our EAM to China took place in June 2008.

The External Affairs Minister's visit assumes added significance as it coincides with the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. The exact date of the anniversary was the 1st of April 2010 when the leadership of both the countries exchanged messages of felicitation. In his message to Premier Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh hailed the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity between India and China and observed, "We regard the future of India-China relations with optimism". The Prime Minister went on to say that he looked forward to working with the Chinese Premier "to harness the vast potential for the further expansion of our ties to realise the mutual aspirations of the two peoples".

Let me say at the very outset that developing friendly relations with China, partnership with China, has been one of the topmost priorities of the Indian foreign policy. There is an overarching consensus across the political spectrum in India to have good, cooperative and friendly ties with China. A significant landmark in the relationship has been the establishment of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity

between India and China during the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005.

Turning to the visit of the EAM let me add that he would be accompanied by the Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao; his Advisor; Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale; myself; and our Ambassador in China Dr. S. Jaishankar would be joining the delegation at Beijing.

During his visit, the EAM would be holding wide-ranging talks with his counterpart Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. He would also be calling on Premier Wen Jiabao. Amongst his important engagements would include an address at the China Institute of International Studies. The EAM would be participating in a reception to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which would be jointly organised by our Embassy in Beijing and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

EAM would also be inaugurating the Festival of India which is being held in China. The Festival of India would be for a period of six months. The Festival of China in India would commence in the second half of April. EAM would flag off the Festival of India in China.

External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi know each other well. They have met several times. They had a very good meeting at Phuket on the margins of the East Asia Summit Ministerial meeting in July last year. The Chinese Foreign Minister had also visited Bangalore last October for the RIC (Russia, India and China) Ministerial meeting.

In fact, high-level exchanges characterise our bilateral relationship. We intend to not only maintain but further enhance this momentum. It is these high-level exchanges, the focus at the highest level which has been imparting momentum to the ties.

You would recall that Prime Minister had met with President Hu Jintao at Yekaterinburg in June 2009. The two Premiers have also met on more than a couple of occasions including during the East Asia Summit at Hua Hin in October 2009 and again at Copenhagen during the COP15 Summit meeting in December. I may add that during this festive year we expect honourable President of India to be visiting China. The dates are being finalised through diplomatic channels.

I am particularly happy to note that over the years both sides have established a comprehensive architecture of dialogue which has helped in imparting momentum to the ties. We have, as you are aware, the Special Representatives Dialogue on the boundary question. The Thirteenth Round was held in New Delhi in August last year. We have the strategic dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretaries. We have the annual defence dialogue, the expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers and other such mechanisms. This is just to give an idea of the breadth and the sweep of the dialogue architecture that is already in place.

We have truly multifaceted ties. Our economic and trade relations are one of the pillars of our bilateral ties. It is remarkable that from a figure of a mere 1.8 billion dollars in 2000, our trade has risen despite global economic slowdown to over 43 billion dollars in 2009. I am happy to note that during the first two months of 2010 our bilateral trade has grown at over 50 per cent compared to the same period last year. We have a trade target of 60 billion dollars by the end of 2010 which both sides should be in a position to achieve.

At the same time, the growing trade imbalance is an issue which needs to be addressed. In 2009, India faced a trade deficit of 15.8 billion dollars as compared to 11.17 billion dollars in 2008. We are having constructive discussions with our Chinese friends on greater market access to Indian commodities and easing of other hurdles including non-tariff barriers.

Chinese companies have been very active in bidding for undertaking and executing infrastructure development projects in India. As of end of 2009, 25 billion dollars worth of projects were secured by the Chinese companies in areas like highways, metro, steel plants, and especially in the power sector. You know that energy security is an area which is very important for us. Out of the 25 billion dollars, a number of projects have been implemented and others are in the process of being implemented.

India has already conveyed to the Chinese side that we will participate in a befitting manner in a big way in the Shanghai World Expo which commences in May this year and lasts for about six months. It is indeed satisfying that our bilateral relations have become multifaceted. They cover a diverse area. Not only within the bilateral framework but also in the regional and the global context the relationship has been expanding.

We have good functional cooperation in areas such as culture, tourism, people-to-people contacts, energy, defence, science and technology, agriculture, education, trans-border rivers, parliamentary exchanges - just to indicate a few key sectors.

At the same time, like with any country there are also areas of divergence which include the boundary issue. I mentioned that we have already a mechanism of SR talks in place to address the boundary issue. There is also the issue of Chinese construction activities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which is an area of concern, as well as the issuance of stapled visas to those who are domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir. Our position is very clear that there should be uniformity in the practice of issuance of visas regardless of the ethnicity or the domicile of an Indian national. However, I must say that both sides have the maturity and the confidence to address all such issues in a spirit of friendship, peacefully and to narrow our areas of divergence, which we have been doing very successfully.

I have already mentioned that there are increasing areas of convergences between the positions of our two countries not only on bilateral matters but also on regional and international issues including important matters for both countries like climate change, international financial crisis, the Doha round of trade talks and so on. India and China are both members of G20, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN+6 Dialogue, BRIC, BASIC, etc.

Friends, it is in this background that the visit of the External Affairs Minister takes place when the entire range, the whole gamut of bilateral matters, bilateral relationship will be reviewed by both sides. The leaders will also discuss regional and international matters of mutual interest. It goes without saying that we are keen to build on the positives.

I would like to close by recalling what Prime Minister has said on more than one occasion that the world is large enough to accommodate the developmental aspirations of both India and China. Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: You have just now said that India has been raising the issue of stapled visas to China. What has been the Chinese' response so far? Have they simply refused to discuss this issue or were they listening to India?

Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): We have raised this issue with the Chinese Government, with the Chinese side at different levels. This is a matter of core concern for India because it goes to the very heart of India's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have asked the Chinese side to do away with this dual visa policy that JS (XP) was talking about, of issuing visas stamped on Indian passports for a certain segment of Indian people and giving them a separate stapled visa which is issued on a separate sheet of paper and stapled to the passport. So, this dual visa policy we have asked the Chinese to do away with. We will continue to press them on this issue because it is a matter of core concern to India.

Question: What has been their response?

Official Spokesperson: As my colleague has already mentioned we have articulated our views very clearly at various levels to our Chinese friends and we would expect that this very important concern of ours is taken on board.

Question: At ICWA Mr. Yang had spoken of a regional trading arrangement and he had also spoken of the trade imbalance. Are you going to set up a mechanism to deal with this issue?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): We already have a mechanism to deal with this issue. That mechanism is what is called India-China Joint Economic Group which is headed by the Commerce and Industry Minister of India and the Commerce Minister of China. In fact, this group met as recently as in the middle of January of this year where our Commerce Minister took up the issue of imbalances in trade, and we have brought it to the attention not only of the Chinese Commerce Minister but also the Chinese Prime Minister Premier Wen Jiabao. The Chinese side have told us that they agree with us that trade cannot continue on a sustained basis with such imbalances, and that they will work with us to address the problem of imbalances in bilateral trade.

Question: Could you tell us about the case of 21 Indians arrested in China on the charges of diamond smuggling? What is the latest on it? Would it also be taken up in the meeting?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Yes, definitely there will be some time for discussion of consular and visa issues and other such matters between our External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of China. I expect that this issue will also be touched upon, will also be taken up. Let me give you what is the latest on this issue. As you know, the 21 Indian nationals were first detained by the authorities in Shenzhen in South China in early January. It was probably the 8th of January, if my memory serves me correctly. Investigations against them continued. In early February there were charges against them which were levied by the Chinese authorities. Twenty of the twenty-one were charged with diamond smuggling and one of the twenty-one was charged with money-laundering. In the Chinese system what happens is that the investigations will continue for a couple of months more, and then within a few weeks we hope and we think that the case will be brought to the law courts in China. In the meantime of course our Embassy in Beijing, our Consulate General in Guangzhou has been very very active. They have had consular access to these twenty-one Indians thrice already. We have asked for yet another round of Consular access now for early April. We find that the twenty-one Indians are in good health. There were some complaints about the quality of the food because they are all vegetarians and they were not getting food which was adequate. I think this has now been addressed. More importantly we have insisted that the family of those Indians, at least the immediate family members, should be allowed to meet with them.

The Chinese authorities have now accepted this. There is likely to be a meeting between the immediate family members and the twenty-one Indians who are in jail in Shenzhen very soon. In the meantime of course the law will take its course. We have tried to assist these twenty-one Indians in finding legal redress in the sense of hiring a lawyer who has a good track record. We hope that they will get the best of legal assistance in this case.

Question: There was a proposal to connect the Kunming of China to Kolkata. It was mentioned in one of the joint statements also. A motor car rally was also announced in that joint statement. What happened to this project?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): You are absolutely right. There is a proposal for a connection between Kunming and Kolkata. In fact, Kunming and

Kolkata have already been connected in terms of air connectivity. There is already a flight from Kunming to Kolkata and from Kolkata to Kunming. The motor car rally, you were right, there is a proposal. It is still on the table. It did not materialise so far because of some problems of the access in the roads between the two cities. But I think this has been worked on in the last few years. It is possible that this car rally could take place maybe in the coming months or maybe during this year or maybe next year. But we are still working on it. That proposal is still on the table.

Question: Celebrating sixty years ... (Inaudible)... what efforts should both sides should put into facilitating our ties, especially from the Indian side?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): You are right. Sixty years is an important sort of point both in Indian culture as well as in Chinese culture. I think it is a good point to take stock of what has happened in the last sixty years, to build on the positives as the Joint Secretary (External Publicity) was saying so that we can have a stronger, closer relationship. We already have a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between our two countries. There was a period when we worked very closely together in the past. I think this has some lessons for the future. We are working very closely together again not only on certain bilateral issues but also on many global issues like at Copenhagen last year. I think there is a lot of potential for the two countries to work together in the coming sixty years.

Official Spokesperson: Let me also add here that, as my colleague said, we need to take stock and see where we are today which gives us the encouragement, gives us the momentum to stay the course. So, it is very important to stay the course and build on the positives. I think it is important to note that between India and China we account for forty per cent of the global population. We are two neighbours, we are two civilisational societies. I think India and China working together - I am not saying that by cooperating we will not be competing. Competing is positive, competing is healthy. That is very natural, that is normal - it is in our mutual interest to cooperate. And you have seen so many reports which have pointed out that by the year 2025 for example or the year 2030 US-China-India or China-US-India would be the three largest economies in the world. So, on whichever parameter whatever yardstick you see, it is in our mutual interest, I think,

to stay the course. We should build on our convergences and try to narrow the divergences, which we have been doing all these years.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Just like to add one last point on that question and it is a very good question from the People's Daily. You are absolutely right that the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. But I think you have to also keep in mind that India and China are ancient civilisations. Our interaction between India and China goes back thousands of years. There have been historians, travellers from one country to the other. So, I think we should also keep in mind and take into stock the fact that we are ancient civilisations with histories of interaction which go back for thousands of years.

Question: Looking at the increasing volume of trade and also closeness to China as we are discussing now, is there any possibility of opening of new Consulates in China? Secondly, the Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has been demanding that the trade should be opened at Nathu La borders. What is happening?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): In fact, border trade is open at Nathu La. It opened some years ago.

Question: What is the volume of trade?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): We will get back to you with the exact figures. The volume has been increasing over the last two-three years. It has gone on rising in the last three years. Also let me be very clear that as far as agreements between India and China on border trade are concerned, they focus on the people who inhabit the India-China border areas. It is for their benefit that we have opened this border trade. So, we visualise this as trade between inhabitants of the India-China border areas.

On Consulates, you know we have just opened one new Consulate each just in 2007. The Chinese opened a new Consulate at Kolkata and India opened a new Consulate in Guangzhou in the South of China. I do not think at the present moment there is a move to open new Consulates. But given the vast size and areas of both countries, maybe in the future there might be a request from each side for opening of new Consulates. But that is in the future. As of now we are trying to consolidate our diplomatic representations in both countries.

Official Spokesperson: What my colleague has not mentioned is that he is the first Indian Consul General in Guangzhou. He had set up the Consulate, he had established the Consulate. Who can be a better person than him to give you that perspective!

Question: How many border trade posts are there altogether?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): There are three points where we allow border trade. One is called Lipu-Lekh Pass which is in Uttarakhand; the other is Shipki La or Shipki Pass which is in Himachal Pradesh; and the third is which has opened more recently in Nathu La in Sikkim.

Question: Chinese investment in India is 25 billion dollars, right? What about Indian FDI in China? Also, I want to know how many Chinese workers are currently working in India. We have been having some labour-related issues. Are we following security clearance for Chinese investment in India?

Official Spokesperson: I think there are two different aspects. What I mentioned was the infrastructure-related contracts that China has secured, which is different from FDI. As far as we know, till the end of 2009 Chinese companies had secured 25 billion dollars worth of projects for development of infrastructure. Many of them have already been completed. Many of them are being implemented. Secondly, in terms of FDI or investments, Indian investments in China are in the range of about 400 to 450 million dollars. Bulk of the investments are from the private sector companies in areas like IT, pharmaceuticals and so on. As far as the workers are concerned, there are different categories of visas. If you look at the number of visas that are being issued by both the sides, you will see a steady growth in the numbers. Almost half a million Indians and Chinese are travelling to each other's countries. That is the kind of numbers that we are talking of here. In visas there are different categories. You have the tourist visa, you have the business visa, you have the employment visa. So, the basic position is that the visa should be utilised for the purpose it has been taken. If you have taken an employment visa it should be used for employment purposes. If it is a tourist visa, it should be used for tourism purposes. That is the requirement not just of India but also of China or any other country. That is what has been streamlined. The position is, I think is working quite well.

Question: Is the Chinese Embassy still issuing stapled visas or has this practice ended?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think it is best if you ask the Chinese Embassy that.

Question: How does India react to Hurriyat leaders from Kashmir visiting China? Is it seen as interference into India's internal affairs?

Official Spokesperson: Let us look at the framework. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. That is something that has to be very clearly understood. That said, travel between the two countries of the people of each other's country is fine. India and China have a relationship which I mentioned is a very important relationship. It is a growing relationship, it is a broadening relationship. We have committed to each other to be sensitive of each other's concerns. As I said, you need to build on the positives and show sensitivity to each other's concerns. That is the framework within which any aspect of travel, invitation or interaction should be looked at.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I will just add to what the Joint Secretary (External Publicity) has said. You know that we have taken up this issue of Jammu and Kashmir with the Chinese leadership on several occasions in the past and the Chinese have conveyed to us that this is an issue which has to be solved, sorted out, resolved between India and Pakistan. I would just draw your attention to this position of the Chinese side.

Question: The Shanghai Expo is the focus of the whole China for this year. How is India going to take advantage of this event to showcase the best of India in terms of technology, culture, economy, because it is a big and a very good opportunity for India to better inform the Chinese on what India today is. Can you specify how India is going to do it? Will it be funded by the Government or financed by private sector as well?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): You are absolutely right. India places great importance on the Shanghai Expo. We are going to be participating in it in a big way. The main lead organisation from the Indian side is the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation. But this is not just a Government effort, it is a public-private participation effort. We are going to show the best of Indian industry, the best of India culture at the Shanghai Expo.

We have set up and established a huge India Pavilion which is basically made of bamboo because the theme of this year's Shanghai Expo is linked to green technologies and clean energy. So, we have set up a huge India Pavilion which has about 4,000 square metres of space. It is made out of bamboo. It is supposed to have the largest free-standing bamboo dome. I think that the pavilion itself is very unique. We will also have a large number of performing arts troupes participating in the Shanghai Expo. These will showcase Indian performing arts not only from the area of our traditional dances and traditional performing arts but also to the modern and more people sort of performing arts including troupes from bollywood. We will also have major interactions with Chinese businesses at the Expo. So, there will be a number of business events at the Expo. We will be celebrating India's National Day on August 18 at the Shanghai Expo. There is a whole range of activities, a whole range of events which have been planned. I think the people of Shanghai will really see the best of India during this entire period of the six months that Shanghai Expo will be on.

Question: Will the troupes be performing in Shanghai?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Absolutely. In the whole of China and especially in Shanghai because the Expo is there.

Question: Will there be any frank discussion over Paresh Baruah issue because the news reports in Assam are saying that Paresh Baruah is hiding in Kunming. Is there any possibility of that figuring in the talks?

Official Spokesperson: I have already said that the visit of the External Affairs Minister offers an opportunity to both sides to have a broad-based discussion on all matters of mutual interest. We have a broad canvas to work on, a broad canvas of our relationship. I really cannot prejudge as to what the two leaders will be discussing. But what I can tell you is that the two leaders will be covering various aspects of bilateral relationship and subjects of mutual interest. Given the quality of our relationship with China, our discussions are always constructive and open.

Question: You just mentioned about the troupes which will be there from different parts of the country. Would there be one from Arunachal?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I really do not have a list of all the troupes.

For that you will have to check with the ITPO and maybe the ICCR.

Question: What has been the Chinese response to the construction activities that they have been carrying out in PoK? Will the issue be taken up?

Official Spokesperson: The issue has been taken up. In fact I am on record to have stated, and it is on the website, that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and any such activity is illegal. So, this is an issue which is a very important issue for us and we have taken this up with our Chinese friends.

Question: I would like to focus on the regional issues like Iran and the affairs in Afghanistan. What is India's position on Chinese assessment of the developments in the region especially in terms of the counter-terrorism measures? Even the Chinese are very apprehensive of the developments in Afghanistan bordering them. And, you two are competitors in the market. It is very difficult really to locate areas where you can balance the trade relations between India and China. Is there any area India is likely to focus on? ...(Inaudible)...

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I will start with your second question first. There are some areas in which India has a competitive advantage in which we sell all across the world. I will give you just a few examples. IT-enabled services is one; pharmaceuticals is the second; basmati rice is the third; Indian movies which are very popular in China is the fourth. We find that all these items - where India has a strength, has a competitive advantage, which we sell all across the globe - are finding market access issues in China. So, we have taken this up with the Chinese. We think this is an area where India can increase its exports to China. We have been pressing our Chinese friends, our Chinese colleagues for giving these Indian items greater access to the Chinese market.

Official Spokesperson: About the other question, I think it is best addressed by you to the Chinese side. They will be in a better position to respond to your question.

Question: Mr. Bambawale, with Mr. Menon having taken over as the SR now, can we expect the next round of talks? Any idea about the dates for the next level of talks on boundary issue? Secondly, we have heard Mr. Qureshi make statements recently to the effect that Pakistan was willing to give a blank cheque to China to mediate, to which India of course objected strongly. And China itself, as you mentioned, had said that they would not like to mediate in our affairs. On the specific issue of terrorism we mentioned recently that we would like Saudi Arabia to exercise influence. Since Pak and China are all-weather friends, would we like them to be interlocutors in any way or exercise their office of influence for Islamabad to act?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): On your first question about the Special Representatives, I guess there will be a meeting at some point in time. We do not have any dates as yet. We do not have any specifics on the next round of meeting on boundary question between the Special Representatives. On the second question, we have a Joint Working Group with China on counter-terrorism and we have had some good exchanges with them. I would also draw your attention to the fact that the Indian Army and the Chinese PLA have had two exercises which have been basically counter-terrorism exercises - one in the Southwest of China and one in the South of India in 2007 and then again in 2008. So, both India and China do share concerns on international terrorism and we have been talking to each other about this aspect.

Question: Have we ever asked them to exercise their influence on Islamabad particularly ...(Inaudible)...

Joint Secretary (East Asia): As I told you earlier, even after the statement that you referred to, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman came out very clearly to reiterate the Chinese position that as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned this is something that should be resolved, sorted out, discussed between India and Pakistan.



280. Speech by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) on 'India and China in the 21st Century World'.

Beijing, April 6, 2010.

President of the China Institute of International Studies,
Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to you today on "India and China in the 21st Century World". I thank the China Institute of International Studies for providing me its prestigious forum to share my thoughts. CIIS has a well deserved reputation as one of Beijing's premier think-tanks. I express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Qu Xing President of CIIS and his colleagues who have taken great pains to make this event possible.

2. I am on an official visit to China and will be holding discussions tomorrow with my counterpart, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues. My visit coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of India's diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. To commemorate that anniversary, we are holding a Festival of India in China. I will have the privilege of opening this Festival at the Forbidden City tomorrow in the presence of Chinese dignitaries. Quite appropriately, the Indian cultural performance that will take place focuses on our shared heritage of Buddhism.

3. Most Foreign Ministers, when speaking abroad, articulate their immediate national concerns and interests. With the 60th anniversary very much in my thoughts, I stand before you recalling the rich heritage of our cultural and civilizational interaction and our millennial ties. In that background, I felt it better to address my remarks to the common concerns of India and China and then speak about the future of our cooperation.

4. What does the 60th anniversary of our ties mean for us? In the late 1940s, when we reached out to each other, India and China had a natural bonding and understood each other's aspirations in a way that nobody else could. As great civilizations that left a major imprint on history, we had

both known the oppression of foreign dominance and witnessed the stark decline of our economic strengths. Our pathways to independence were different but the end objective was very similar. India achieved freedom from colonial rule through patient and peaceful political struggle. China, for its part, came through the World War, met the challenge of foreign occupation, and like India, sought to rebuild its social fabric. Domestic political developments in such large countries necessarily impacted on the international system. Indeed, it was no accident that we produced leaderships with such a strong internationalist outlook. The impact of the internal socio-political changes in India and China on the global polity cannot be overstated. It was their charting of new directions that really shaped the emergence of the post-colonial world order.

5. Not surprisingly, the post-1945 order was reluctant to recognize the legitimate concerns and interests of these two nations. China, in particular, stood isolated as a result of Cold War politics. In fact, as late as 1954, only 19 nations had recognized the People's Republic of China. India, of course, was among them, having established diplomatic relations with China in April 1950. It was also sensitive to the sentiments of the Chinese people and became an early advocate of the 'one China policy' and of the PRC's admission to the United Nations. Its own bilateral ties with China during this period, that included a historic visit by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1954, also reflected the friendship between the two nations.

6. In their early years as independent players, the two polities found themselves on the same page on de-colonization, national sovereignty and independence, and security of states. The Panchasheela, or, the five principles of peaceful co-existence, was their unique contribution to contemporary diplomacy. This period was marked by global crises and flashpoints, some like Korea and the Taiwan Straits that directly affected Chinese security, and others like Vietnam and the Suez which were issues of basic principles. India and China stood shoulder to shoulder and the Bandung Conference was the high watermark of that era. In celebrating 60 years of diplomatic ties, we obviously seek to honour and uphold that tradition of working together. The younger generation may well be unaware of it and it is our duty to remind them so that the spirit of cooperation can be even stronger. Therefore, our endeavour is to draw inspiration from those early years of our existence as independent nations to cooperate more closely in the future.

6. In the 1980s, having overcome initial challenges, India and China saw that rapid economic growth would give them a stronger voice in the international community. Looking back, it is significant that Rajiv Gandhi actually sought to accelerate India's modernization just a few years after Deng Xiaoping unveiled his reform policy in China. Unfortunately, it took us another decade to evolve a national consensus. But the point that I wish to underline is that the architects of modernization and reform in both countries - Rajiv Gandhi and Deng Xiaoping - were also the prime movers of normalizing our ties after a difficult interregnum. Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit to China was the landmark event that put our ties on their present course. The underlying assumption that was clearly shared by both leaders was of the importance of growth at home and of cooperation abroad. Those still remain our guiding principles.

7. Getting our growth strategy right in an ever-changing world has its own challenges. As India and China manage their domestic priorities well, it has huge implications for global prosperity. After all, between them, they are raising the living standard of almost one-third of humanity. When the question is raised about what we are doing for the world, it is often forgotten that our domestic development itself has world-wide effect. In the last two decades, we have impacted significantly on global per-capita income, longevity and human development. Given the scale of what is underway, there is much that can be gained through our close cooperation. The economic models of India and China may be very different. But an exchange of best practices can still benefit both countries. After all, we do face similar challenges of urbanization, resource consumption, food and energy security, inclusive growth and skills development.

8. The paradigm of co-existence has today been enhanced by more active engagement. But this is still not adequate. We must ask ourselves whether as neighbours and partners, each of whom are large and rising economies, are we making the best of opportunities? Put bluntly, is it possible that India and China can leverage each others' strengths? After all, in their own past history, both nations have leapfrogged using international relationships. There is a huge infrastructure demand in

India, covering sectors like power, roads, rail and telecommunications. In the recent budget, 46% of the total plan allocations are assigned for physical infrastructure development. China has actually carried out many of the changes that India is still contemplating. As a result, it has capacities but less domestic demand. There is considerable scope for joint projects as we master the practice of working harmoniously together. On the Chinese side, the outsourcing of IT by state enterprises has only started recently. There is a potential waiting to be tapped, which would happen only by connecting Chinese users to Indian providers. I am meeting representatives of Indian businesses in China later today and will encourage them to be creative in exploring opportunities here. We strongly feel that the India-China relationship is grossly under-realized and the capacities for expansion are enormous.

9. Like other major States who made the same journey earlier, India and China seek a secure and peaceful environment that allows them to focus on their growth prospects. In this regard, we must always remember that the two countries are each part of the other's immediate periphery. Just by ensuring stability and promoting prosperity at home, we are actually serving each others' interest. What are the challenges to our peaceful periphery? They are actually not very different from the problems that we face at home. These emanate from two central issues - material poverty and intellectual poverty. To the extent that we can raise living standards rapidly at home and encourage similar progress in our neighbourhood, we will be more secure and stable. The more complex challenge is that of ideas. As pluralistic societies, we are threatened by political ideologies that are based on narrow loyalties, often justified by distorting religious beliefs. These forces are against progress and modernity and have only brought misery wherever they have dominated. States that use them as instruments to advance their political interests find themselves consumed by these very destructive ideas. For both of us, stability at home stands in sharp contrast to extreme instability in our shared neighbourhood. We cannot afford to be passive spectators. It is critical for our future that we cooperate actively in meeting common challenges. Our ties were never a zero

sum game. Today, it is all the more important that we take an enlightened and long-term view of our self-interest.

10. A strong and stable relationship between India and China has consequences for the entire world. Because we are different, our divergences are often exaggerated. If truth be told, there are vested interests at work too. India and China must not just cooperate; they must be seen to be doing so by the rest of the world. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, often emphasizes that the world is large enough to accommodate the aspirations of both countries. But this is not an inevitable outcome. It is a goal that requires strong political will, sustained engagement and a high degree of mutual sensitivity. What can we do to make this cooperation stronger? I believe that we need to work on a wide variety of fronts as progress on one will reinforce in the other.

11. A number of dialogues and forums already exist between India and China that need to keep meeting regularly and productively. These include mechanisms where we discuss bilateral, regional and global political issues. We have a separate set of talks for the boundary question. Annual consultations take place between our foreign offices, defence establishments, policy planners, consular officials and disarmament experts. There are also dedicated bodies to deliberate on trade matters and water management. Regular meetings lead to better communication, more understanding and strengthen confidence. I would, therefore, strongly encourage an intensive and sustained engagement between the two systems.

12. Far from sliding into complacency, we must keep pushing the pace of the relationship with new ideas and more activity. I was pleased to note that this is already underway. On the political side, the support provided by growing track-2 dialogues is a welcome development. Our military-to-military cooperation is also expanding steadily. In trade, business events in 18 Chinese cities this year with IT, pharmaceuticals, engineering and agro-exports as thrust areas will surely make an impact. In culture, the Festival of India that will take our performing arts to 33 Chinese cities this year will be equally noteworthy. Growing exchanges

of students and tourists speak of changing levels of comfort. Soap operas on Chinese TV and Bollywood dances in local restaurants confirm that we have transcended cultural barriers.

13. We need to strengthen sentiment at the popular level. The 60th anniversary of our ties itself offers a great opportunity. But this needs to be a continuous and widening process. There are powerful symbols of connectivity between our societies. Xuan Tsang is one from distant history. We are now completing the construction of an Indian temple at the White Horse Temple complex in Luoyang which is associated with him. This will be a powerful symbol of our shared history. Asia's first Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore too evokes positive sentiments among Chinese intellectuals. His 150th birth anniversary next year offers a unique opportunity to build stronger cultural bonds. We have, of course, examples from more contemporary times like the young and heroic Dr. Kotnis and the Indian medical mission to Yen-an. We must appreciate the power of culture to bring about perceptual changes in society as a whole.

14. India and China have only begun to impact seriously on the world. Just as we advanced de-colonization and independence movements in the fifties, today we are striving to rewrite the rules of the world a little more in our favour. A reshaping of the global architecture is underway, evident in new groupings like the G-20, BRIC, BASIC and the East Asia Summit. As developing societies, our convergence is manifest on issues like climate change and global trade rules. Given their shared interest in creating a more contemporary order, the two countries can advance their respective interests much better through active cooperation. Indeed, even on the complex issue of UN reform, it is perhaps time for China to review previously held positions and welcome the presence in the Security Council of a nation with which it has much in common.

15. We have to accept that there will be outstanding issues between the two countries even as our relationship forges ahead. This is in the very nature of global politics and we should not get discouraged as a result. The true test of our maturity is how well we handle our problems. Even on

an issue like the unresolved boundary question that is often the subject of media speculation, it is not always appreciated that considerable progress has actually been made. The Peace and Tranquility Agreement of 1993, the Confidence Building Measures of 1996 and the Guiding Principles and Political Parameters of 2005 have all demonstrated that we have the ability to increase convergence and deepen mutual understanding on this complex issue through patient negotiation.

16. As rising powers, India and China are often projected to have a competitive relationship. In the final analysis, we all are what we want to be. It is upto us to disprove such scenarios, not through platitudes and wishful thinking, but by concrete examples of cooperation. Certainly, there is a strong case for a global issues partnership between India and China as two large developing Asian economies. We can work together on key challenges that will define the 21st century. These include sustainable development, technology exploitation, water usage, climate change, rapid urbanization, migration, human development and building a pluralistic society. The 21st century will be increasingly driven by the quality of human resources. As the two largest human resource powers, our cooperation can accelerate that trend.

17. But there is more to our prospects than issue-based cooperation. Our rise promises to alter the configurations of the global order as we have known it in a fundamental manner. We cannot accept incremental change in the way the world is currently run. The G-20 represents the first step in a new direction. Our combined efforts can help reform the systems of international financial governance much more effectively than we could by working alone. As Asian states, we must recognize that our continent lags behind Europe and the Americas in terms of economic and infrastructural integration and security cooperation. We have yet to find the right common denominators in many areas. If India and China work purposefully in this direction, the whole world stands to benefit.

18. The destinies of India and China were linked in the past. The growth of our relationship will be determined by the extent of our awareness that they are linked in the future as well.



281. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Opening Ceremony of the Festival of India in Beijing. Beijing, April 7, 2010.

Your Excellency State Councilor Madam Liu,

Your Excellency Minister for Culture Mr. Cai

Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be amongst you in Beijing today to inaugurate the Festival of India in China in this very important year marking the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. The Opening Ceremony will witness the enactment of a play based on the life of Emperor Ashoka, who underwent a dramatic change of heart after a major war and converted to Buddhism. Since Buddhism has played a major part in contacts and exchanges between our two nations for thousands of years, it is only befitting that we inaugurate the Festival of India in China with such a performance.

The Festival of India will bring to the Chinese people a full spectrum of Indian culture, art and theatre. More than 30 Chinese cities will witness performances of various Indian classical dances, folk dances, classical music, martial arts and contemporary music. A number of Indian exhibitions, covering both antiquities and modern art, will be on display at Chinese museums in different cities. An Indian Film Festival will also take place in three separate locations in China. We hope that the Festival of India will play a major role in increasing awareness about India and its culture among the Chinese people.

This year of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations has got off to a good start. We hope to carry on this momentum throughout the year and into the future. The various activities to be undertaken in the Festival of India will serve as a platform to build stronger bridges between and create more awareness among our two peoples. I am confident that this will aid in the further consolidation of the India - China relationship.

I am confident that you will all enjoy today's performance. I wish the Festival of India complete success.

Thank you.



282. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the External Affairs Minister's talks with Chinese leaders.

Beijing, April, 7, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening to you again. As you know the External Affairs Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna is on a visit to China. Foreign Secretary is here to brief you on his engagements yesterday and today. Ma'am, can I invite you to make your opening remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Smt Nirupama Rao): Thank you Vishnu. As he said EAM is paying an official visit to China at the invitation of his counterpart Mr. Yang Jiechi, Foreign Minister of China. The External Affairs Minister has been received with great warmth, and accorded all courtesies by the Government of the People's Republic of China during this visit. His visit, as you know, coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

The External Affairs Minister participated in the reception hosted yesterday by the China People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Embassy of India. State Councillor of the Peoples Republic of China His Excellency Mr. Dai Bingguo attended the reception together with other Chinese dignitaries.

Our Minister will inaugurate the Festival of India in China later this evening at the Forbidden City Concert Hall, and there will be a performance of Ratan Thiyam's Uttara Priyadarshi. This is a dance drama brought to audiences here in China through the aegis and the good offices of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi.

As you are aware, the focus of the External Affairs Minister's visit has been to build mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual confidence between the two countries as well as to enhance all-round bilateral relations. We have a truly multifaceted relationship with China which extends to almost every field of human endeavour. It covers areas like trade, investment, science and technology, energy, defence, culture, tourism and the important area of people-to-people contact. Both countries have a similarity of outlook

on a number of issues of regional and international importance, as for example terrorism, climate change, the Doha round of trade talks etc.

The External Affairs Minister addressed the China Institute of International Studies yesterday. Many of you were present during the talk and you must have seen the text of his address. Today he called on His Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao. They had a 45-minute meeting at the Zhongnanhai a short while ago. Of course, earlier today the EAM had consultations and discussions with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the Diaoyoutai State Guest House here in Beijing. The discussions went through the morning and were followed by a banquet hosted by Foreign Minister Yang in honour of our External Affairs Minister and the visiting delegation.

During these discussions our Minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India to the Government and people of China. He conveyed to Premier Wen Jiabao the warm regards and good wishes of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, and this was in turn warmly reciprocated by Premier Wen Jiabao.

Both sides have hailed the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between the two countries, and have expressed the conviction that more content and depth should be imparted in the years to come, especially against the backdrop of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This visit has enabled an exchange of views on enhancing mutual synergies, and in continuing with regular high-level exchanges.

Both Foreign Minister Yang and External Affairs Minister Krishna have agreed that the spirit of cooperation between India and China, as was evident at the Climate Change Conference at Copenhagen and at the number of G20 summits held over the last year, should continue.

The two Foreign Ministers today signed an agreement on the establishment of a hotline between the Prime Minister of India and the Premier of China. This initiative was agreed upon between Prime Minister and President Hu Jintao during their meeting in Yekaterinburg in June last year. The agreement to establish a hotline is an important confidence-building measure and it opens up a direct channel of communication between the leaders of the two countries.

As I mentioned earlier, the subject of people-to-people exchanges also was discussed during these meetings. The two Foreign Ministers particularly have agreed to increased exchanges of students, of school teachers, of young people. As you know, we already have youth exchanges between the two countries. It was felt that these should be further intensified in order to promote mutual understanding. Also, exchanges between university Vice Chancellors and media personnel were discussed. Both sides felt this was a good way to go forward in order to enhance mutual understanding.

The leaders were able to exchange views on regional and global issues. The situation in Afghanistan, the threat of terrorism was discussed. Foreign Minister Yang conveyed that both China and India should stay in touch on these issues and remain in regular contact in regard to the situation in the region, particularly on Afghanistan.

As you know, the President of India has been invited to visit China later this year. The Chinese leadership said that they were greatly looking forward to this visit, that it would be a significant milestone in our relations. External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna has invited Foreign Minister Yang of China to visit India.

As you can see, these have been cordial, useful, constructive and wide-ranging discussions. What came across during these discussions was that this relationship between the two countries has more than just a bilateral dimension, it has a global impact, and that a long-term strategic view is required of this relationship. The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, as I mentioned, forms an excellent backdrop to the discussions held today and for the events that we hope to see put in place and fulfilled over the next year.

The enhancement of leadership level contacts has found significant mention in these discussions. I mentioned to you that our President is to visit China this year. From the Chinese side Vice-Chairman Han Qide of the National People's Congress visited India a short while ago. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu was in India, as you know, also a short while ago. He met our Prime Minister during that visit and had very good discussions. The Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr. Sun Jiazheng is going to visit India shortly, later this month, for the inauguration of the

Festival of China in India. It is also hoped that there would be more leadership level visits from China to India later this year.

Both sides have agreed to intensify their cooperation in counter terrorism. I mentioned Afghanistan, but we also have a counter terrorism dialogue. It is one of the dialogue mechanisms between the two countries. Both sides agreed today that there is need and that they must activate the various dialogue mechanisms that exist between India and China. Just to enumerate a few, we have of course the Counter Terrorism Dialogue, we have Foreign Office Consultations, we have a Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Secretary and the Vice Foreign Minister of China, we have the annual Defence Dialogue, and also there is cooperation in science and technology. If you remember, during the visit of President Hu Jintao to India in 2006 we had identified specific areas including biotechnology, nanotechnology, cooperation on climate change engineering, weather forecasting as some of the areas where we could cooperate. The scientists and the scientific establishments of the two sides have been working on these ideas and these projects are going to fructify shortly. That is another area that we spoke of today.

Education was given a very prominent position in the discussions because in the context of building greater mutual awareness and understanding it was felt that educational exchanges play a very important part. In this context the example provided by the educational exchanges that India and the United States have, and China and the United States have did find mention.

It was discussed as to how we could in a sense see the example that has been provided in these other contexts, how we could see if these experiences could also be in a sense repeated when it came to India and China. So, we agreed to explore those possibilities and there was a suggestion from the Chinese side that they would like to invite about 100 secondary school students from India to come to this country and understand it, and also have a program to invite around 50 teachers to begin with from the schools in India to come to China and to promote such exchanges. Our External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna particularly stressed the importance of teacher level exchanges as being very important towards the contribution of mutual understanding.

I know that you will ask me about the subject of stapled visas between India and China. You are aware of our position in this regard that we do not accept the stapled visas that have been put on the passports of Indian citizens who reside in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. Our position in this regard was made clear once again to the Chinese side during this visit. They listened very attentively to what we said. We underlined the need for more sensitivity to be shown to Indian concerns in this regard. This is a subject of ongoing discussion between India and China. That is where it stands at the moment.

The issue of India's membership of the UN Security Council was also raised in the meeting between our External Affairs Minister and Premier Wen Jiabao. The Chinese position in this regard as encapsulated in the Joint Statement issued after our Prime Minister's visit to China in 2008 was reiterated.

Our Minister Mr. Krishna has suggested to his Chinese counterpart that the Foreign Ministers of the two countries should meet annually from now on and this proposal found an immediately positive response from the Chinese side. So, this is another outcome of the visit. I would stop here and take your questions.

Official Spokesperson: I just wanted to mention that Foreign Secretary has to go for another engagement but she will be happy to take a few questions. Kindly keep your questions brief.

Question: Madam, you said that you discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism. Considering the fact that Indian interests face the sole threat from agencies either sponsored by Pakistan or otherwise. Now was this discussed with the Chinese side considering that conventionally Chinese have been closer to the Pakistanis?

Foreign Secretary: The External Affairs Minister was able to elaborate on the work that we are doing in Afghanistan, our development partnership with Afghanistan, and the unfortunate and tragic incidents of terrorism that have affected our personnel and our assets in Afghanistan. Of course, the Chinese side told us that they condemn all acts of terrorism. As I said to you earlier in my briefing, we have agreed to remain in touch on this issue. The Chinese side was interested in knowing our view on developments in

Afghanistan. I believe that this is going to be a good area of cooperation in the context of the dialogue between our two countries.

Question: You would have seen reports about Chinese hackers targeting computers of the Indian Defence Ministry and some Indian Embassies like the ...(Inaudible)... This report said that these hacking attacks originated within China. I was just wondering if this issue was brought up during meetings with the Foreign Minister.

Foreign Secretary: We did not discuss this issue.

Question: But are you worried?

Foreign Secretary: Obviously we are concerned about such reports and there is every need for us to be alert to such threats. Cyber security is of paramount importance and we will of course take all necessary steps to safeguard our assets against such attacks.

Question: Madam, after a rough patch last year between our two countries, do you think this visit is a breakthrough of sorts because we do not have any hotline of this sort with any other country? What would you think is the biggest deliverable that you are taking back from India's standpoint from this visit?

Foreign Secretary: I have not quantified it in such terms but let me try and give you my take on this. I think we go back with an enhanced level of understanding, of clarity about each other's positions, and the determination to step up our level of exchanges. I think what came through in the discussions from both sides was that they see this relationship as a very important relationship, a relationship between two emerging powers, a relationship between two large neighbours in Asia, a relationship between two of the largest developing countries in the world. So, from all these parameters this is an important relationship. I think there is growing realisation of the enormous potential that exists for the enhancement, the deepening and the strengthening of this relationship.

Question: Madam, I just want to check whether these issues were discussed: the boundary issue, construction activity in POK, and the arrest of 21 diamond merchants.

Foreign Secretary: All three issues were discussed. On the boundary question both sides referred to the ongoing efforts within the Special Representatives mechanism that was set up in 2003. As you know, we have had 13 rounds of discussions by the Special Representatives on the boundary question so far. The mechanism has yielded progress in the guiding principles and the political parameters that can form the framework for a boundary settlement. So, certainly this has been most useful and productive mechanism. Both sides understand that this is a complex issue between the two countries, that it will need patience to solve. But we also are fully cognizant of the fact that in the ten-pronged strategy that we announced during the visit of President Hu Jintao to India in 2006 both sides had expressed and articulated their resolve to reach an early settlement of this question. That point found reiteration again in the discussions held today. So, there is political will on both sides to move forward, to narrow their differences on this issue, and to seek a peaceful negotiated settlement to this outstanding question, and also while these efforts are ongoing, to maintain peace and tranquillity in the boundary areas, the border areas between the two countries.

On the issue of the Chinese projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, yes, the matter was raised. Our concerns were conveyed and the Chinese side was given the full picture as to why we feel this way about their activity in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The Chinese position is that the issue of the outstanding differences that exist on Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan should be resolved between these two countries through bilateral dialogue in a peaceful way, and that what they do in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir is without prejudice to this position of theirs.

On the issue of the Indian merchants who are held in Shenzhen, we have communicated to the Chinese side that the legal process should be conducted in a transparent manner, that we should be permitted access to these businessmen. They have permitted access to us and they said they would continue to do so, and the families of these businessmen will meet with the 21 detainees between April 7th and 9th, between today and day after tomorrow.

Question: Was there some talks about the supply of arms by China to Pakistan? (question was asked in Hindi)

Foreign Secretary: We did not discuss that issue specifically but in the context of India-Pakistan relations the Chinese side welcomed our recent initiative for Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. They were briefed on the discussions and the outcome of these discussions. What we have stressed is that we have always advocated dialogue with Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, but that terrorism that has affected us from Pakistan territory and territory held by Pakistan should stop, and that unless proper atmosphere is created in terms of dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism and the reduction and doing away with such terrorist activity, it will really be difficult to resume substantive dialogue with Pakistan.

Question: Any discussion on ...(Inaudible)... dam, or irrigation projects ...(Inaudible)... on the upper reaches of ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: We did discuss the issue of trans-border rivers. As you know, India and China have an expert level mechanism that has been established between the Water Resources Ministries of the two countries. The fourth meeting of the expert level mechanism will take place in India later this month. On the issue of the Brahmaputra river and the reports which have appeared in the media of the construction of certain projects by China in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra river, the Yalu Zangpo river, we were told by the Chinese side that they have not undertaken any such projects. They have of course some projects for generation of hydro power. But these are not storage projects and they are not designed to divert water in the river.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much and thank you for your presence.



283. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's meeting with President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the IBSA and BRIC Summits.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Very good morning to you all. I hope you had a comfortable and pleasant evening. Today Prime Minister has a packed calendar. Very soon he will be heading for his bilateral meeting with President Lula where after, there would be the IBSA Summit and the BRIC Summit. Today morning, the first engagement of the Prime Minister was his meeting with President Hu Jintao. From the Chinese side, State Councillor Dai Bingguo and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi assisted President Hu. Prime Minister was assisted by Commerce and Industry Minister, National Security Advisor and other officials.

The discussions between the two leaders were marked by mutual warmth and respect. Both sides expressed happiness at regular high-level exchanges which have become one of the hallmarks of our relationship. The leaders expressed an interest to further scale up the high level exchanges between the two sides.

You would recall that President Hu and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had last met at Yekaterinburg on the sidelines of the BRIC and SCO Summits in June 2009. By the way this was the first meeting with any Head of State for Dr. Manmohan Singh, after UPA government came back to power.

Talking of high-level exchanges, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Premier Wen Jiabao have been meeting regularly. They met at Hua Hin on the sidelines of the ASEAN and EAS Summits in October. They again met in Copenhagen in December 2009.

External Affairs Minister, earlier this month from the 5th to the 8th, paid a very successful visit to China where he had comprehensive discussions with his counterpart Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. He called upon Premier Wen Jiabao and also at a function met with State Councillor Dai Bingguo amongst other Chinese leaders and dignitaries.

During the meeting today, Prime Minister conveyed deep sympathies and condolences at the tragic loss of life during the earthquake that had hit the Qinghai Province. He conveyed the sense of grief of the people and the Government of India.

Prime Minister also conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the President of India, Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the people of India to the friendly people of China, to the leadership of China, and President Hu Jintao.

Both sides described 2010, which is the 60th anniversary year of establishment of diplomatic relations, as a momentous year in our relationship, as a significant year in our ties. They noted with satisfaction that the ties had grown steadily, had expanded and had deepened. Both the leaders noted with satisfaction that our strategic and cooperative partnership was gaining in content, was gaining in substance. Prime Minister observed that India was fully committed, which sentiment was reciprocated by our Chinese friends, to take our important strategic and cooperative relationship further.

Both sides underlined that India and China cooperation, our friendship was of mutual advantage, was a win-win proposition. It was not just beneficial for both the countries but also good for peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world. They expressed a keen desire to widen cooperation to new areas and deepen cooperation in areas like education, science and technology, high technology, agriculture, defence, and of course trade and economic relations which does constitute one of the cores of the bilateral relationship.

Both the leaders noted and reiterated that they have been encouraging companies in their respective countries to invest more in each other's countries. It was underlined that India and China were not competitors but partners. In fact, President Hu Jintao recalled Prime Minister's sentiment which he has expressed so lucidly at more than one occasion when he remarked that the world is large enough to accommodate the aspirations of growth of both India and China. And President Hu Jintao remarked that China fully subscribed to that viewpoint.

Both the leaders expressed a desire to seek enhanced bilateral trade and economic ties. They agreed to facilitate greater market access for each other's products, and recognised that there was significant potential for expansion of trade and economic relations. You would recall that we have established a target of 60 billion dollars in bilateral trade for the year 2010, and both sides are optimistic that that target can be attained.

They also spoke of maintaining even closer cooperation and coordination on major global issues of interest such as climate change, the Doha round of trade negotiations, and of course the issue of terrorism which affects not only the two countries but the world at large. They also spoke of the desirability to not only maintain but enhance our coordination in multilateral fora like G20, BASIC and other such organisations.

President Hu remarked that he and the people of China look forward to the state visit soon of President Pratibha Patil to China. As I noted earlier, they also looked forward to many more high-level exchanges during this important year and the years to follow. In fact, there was a marked optimism expressed by both sides at the future of bilateral relations. While both leaders took stock of how the relationship had progressed, expressed happiness, satisfaction at that; they also said that they would like to see this trend continue.

In sum, the talks were held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere. The discussions lasted close to 45 minutes. I will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: Did the Prime Minister raise any contentious issues with China for example the issue of the stapled visas or Chinese projects in PoK or even the issue of hacking which has always been a concern? Did he bring any of these issues up?

Official Spokesperson: As you would recall, External Affairs Minister was in China last week from the 5th to the 8th. That was an occasion to take stock of our relations. We have a broad canvas of our ties which were discussed at considerable detail. It was noted that our convergences are steadily growing. Like any other relationships there are also areas of divergence, some of which you had alluded to. During

the visit of the External Affairs Minister and his discussions with his counterpart, some of these matters of concern to India were articulated, flagged to the attention of our Chinese friends.

Question: Was there any talk about the next round of boundary discussions? I notice that both the SRs were present at the meeting. Is there any possibility of the two SRs meeting together on the sidelines separately?

Official Spokesperson: Prime Minister introduced NSA Mr. Menon as the new Special Representative to President Hu Jintao and his delegation, which as I said also included State Councillor Dai Bingguo. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the SR mechanism was operating. You would recall that the 13th round of SR talks were held in New Delhi in August. Both sides felt that the next round of talks should take place at an early and mutually convenient date. It was also reiterated that pending settlement of the boundary issue - and both sides are working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary issue - both sides would work towards, as they have been, to maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC.

Question: Were India's concerns on maritime security discussed in any manner, Sir, with China's expansion into Arabian Ocean?

Official Spokesperson: I have already given you a good flavour of the nature of discussions that took place.

Question: Did the issue of trade imbalance come up? Also, when you spoke about greater access to Indian services can you elaborate on that as to which sectors?

Official Spokesperson: I did note that the both the leaders remarked and underlined the fact that trade and economic relations constitute one of the key pillars of our bilateral relationship. If you look at the trade graph, from close to a billion dollars in 2001 it had touched 52 billion dollars in 2008. Because of the global economic slowdown, it dipped slightly to about 43 billion dollars in 2009. In the first two months of the current calendar year, I believe that our trade has bounced back and

the bilateral trade is already up about 50 per cent as compared to the previous year. At the same time, while we are very happy at the buoyancy in the trade, the manner in which our trade and economic relationship has grown, there is a concern about a growing trade imbalance, which was close to 15.8 billion dollars in 2009. And you would again recall that Commerce and Industry Minister had led a delegation to China in January this year when all aspects of trade and economic relations were discussed at length. Obviously the desire to see a rapid growth in trade, especially rapid growth in balanced trade is something which we have been expressing and which has been noted and appreciated by our Chinese friends. That is the background and that is the context in which the two leaders today spoke about the economic and trade relations. The sides agreed that they would work towards this objective and work towards providing greater market access to each other's products.

Question: Did the issue of the nuclear aspirations of Iran come up in the meeting the first day? After the US President Barack Obama and Hu Jintao meeting, the White House had remarked that the China's reaction was positive.

Official Spokesperson: I have already given you a flavour of the discussions. This was a meeting which lasted about 45 minutes, and the primary focus of the discussions was on bilateral relations. By the way, that issue did not come up.

Question: Has there been any evolution in China's position on India's candidature for Security Council seat and did the issue of UN reforms figure in the discussion?

Official Spokesperson: Again let me take you back to the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister. All the details have been shared with you. India's candidature of the UN Security Council is one of our important foreign policy priorities. We have been taking up this matter with our key interlocutors, our friends, key nations, and in fact all the nations in the world. During the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Beijing when he called on Premier Wen Jiabao, the latter had said, and you recall, the Foreign Secretary had briefed at that time and when she

had mentioned that Premier Wen Jiabao reiterated the position as expressed by the two sides, in the Joint Communiqué that was issued after the visit of Prime Minister to Beijing in January 2008.

Question: Are we to take that all the contentious issues were left to the Foreign Minister earlier and only the positive features were discussed between the Prime Minister and President today?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, the visit of the External Affairs Minister was from 5th to the 8th of April and that afforded an opportunity, the time, the space, the place, the atmosphere, to take up the whole array of matters, both our convergences and our divergences. Today's was a short meeting, it was 45 minutes. It was on the sidelines of the BRIC and IBSA Summits in Brasilia. The President and our Prime Minister had last met in Yekaterinburg in June. So, it was after a gap of about ten months that the two of them were meeting. The focus was primarily on bilateral issues where, as I have already remarked before you came in, they looked at different aspects of the relationship, they took stock of the relationship and expressed satisfaction at the manner the relationship is progressing, reiterated the resolve to deepen our exchanges. That does not by any manner mean that anybody is glossing over any aspect of concern. Like any other relationship, there are areas of divergences. But what is a matter of satisfaction is that the areas of divergences are steadily narrowing, the areas of convergences are steadily growing. And both sides have the maturity and the confidence to be able to address all the issues, positives and divergences, in a manner that it is forward-looking, that while we narrow our divergences, that does not weigh us down in taking forward our positive agenda which is quite a substantive agenda.

Question: Any roadmap for talks between the two Special Representatives on boundary issues?

Official Spokesperson: The Prime Minister introduced, as you know, Mr. Menon our National Security Advisor has taken over recently and three weeks ago, he was designated as the new SR for carrying forward the boundary talks. And it was agreed that the SRs will remain in touch and that they will meet at a mutually convenient early date.

Question: You said that global issues like climate change and terrorism were discussed? Can you give us more details on the terrorism front and what exactly was discussed?

Official Spokesperson: I do not think I said that it was discussed. What I said was and I would repeat that both sides agreed that it was useful and important for us to not only maintain but deepen our coordination, our exchange of views, bilaterally and at international fora on international issues of mutual interest. So, that was flagged.

Question: Of the 45 minutes, how much time was spent on discussing regional matters? Did Pakistan figure?

Official Spokesperson: I have already mentioned that the focus of discussions was on bilateral issues. It was not only agreed but it was underlined that our cooperation, our coordination, our friendship is beneficial not just for India and China but conducive to peace, stability and prosperity in the region, in Asia and the world.

Question: Between now and the Mexico Summit on Climate, are any BASIC countries meetings scheduled in which China and India are important members?

Official Spokesperson: You would recall that we had a very good coordination at Copenhagen. That is something which is a matter of satisfaction for all BASIC countries. My sense is that this BASIC mechanism is going to be continued, that both sides or all sides, or the BASIC members would remain in touch before, during and after the Mexico event. But specifically when the next round of BASIC countries would be held, I would need to check on that and come back to you.



284. Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chinese President Hu Jintao at the loss of lives in an earthquake in China.

New Delhi, April 15, 2010.

I have learnt with deep sorrow of the devastation wrought in Qinghai province by a severe earthquake yesterday. Your Government has reacted with commendable speed in bringing medical and other assistance to the quake-afflicted people in the disaster zone.

The people and Government of India join the people of China in mourning the loss of so many lives, and the untold damage done to property and infrastructure.

As your Government rallies to the assistance of the injured and displaced, I want to assure you, Excellency, that the people of India share the grief of the people of China. We stand ready to render any assistance that you and your Government may require of us.

Please accept my sincere condolences, and the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.



285. Questions relevant to China answered by Foreign Secretary at the Media Briefing on Prime Ministers visit to Bhutan for the SAARC Summit.

New Delhi, April 21, 2010.

* * * *

Question: Has China admitted that they are going ahead with the dam on the Brahmaputra? Earlier they had said, no, run of the river, this and that.

Foreign Secretary: Let me clarify that. Again, when I briefed some of you after EAM's discussions in Beijing, I had mentioned that the Chinese side spoke about the fact that there is a run of the river project that they are doing for generation of hydroelectricity in the upper reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo, on the Brahmaputra river, in the Tibet Autonomous Region. What they said to us was that this is not a project that would divert water in any way, in other words affect downstream flow of water. This was said to us in the context of the discussions that the External Affairs Minister had with his counterpart the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. As you know, we have an expert level mechanism with China to discuss hydrological data and flood control data in the Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers. The fourth meeting of the expert level mechanism will take place in a few days from now in New Delhi.

Question: So, they are not building dams. It is just run of the river.

Foreign Secretary: A run of the river project involves certain work on the river but it is not a storage dam for irrigation purposes. That is what they said.

* * * *



286. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to China.

New Delhi, May 25, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. As you are aware, Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji, President of India, would be leaving on a State visit to China tomorrow. Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao, will be briefing you on the visit. Let me also introduce the colleagues who have joined Foreign Secretary. To Foreign Secretary's right is Mr. Gautam Bambawale, the Joint Secretary looking after East Asia in the Ministry of External Affairs. To my left is Mrs. Archana Datta, OSD (PR) in President's Secretariat.

Foreign Secretary would be making an opening statement and thereafter would be happy to take a few questions. Ma'am, may I invite you to make your opening statement?

Foreign Secretary (Smt. Nirupama Rao): Good Afternoon,

I am happy to be here to brief you on Rashtrapatiji's upcoming State visit to the People's Republic of China from 26th to 31st May, at the invitation of H.E. President Hu Jintao. Rashtrapatiji will be accompanied by Minister of Food Processing Industries Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Members of Parliament Smt. Jayanti Natarajan, Shri Ramdas Agarwal and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and senior officials including Foreign Secretary and Secretary to President, besides a business delegation.

2. This visit is the first by an Indian Head of State to China in a decade, the last one being in 2000 by the then President Shri K.R. Narayanan. From the Chinese side, President Hu Jintao paid a State visit to India in November 2006.

3. India China relations are characterized by regular high-level exchanges, which are proposed to be maintained and even enhanced. In the preceding months our Prime Minister met with President Hu Jintao at Yeketerinburg in June last year and again at Brasilia in April this year. He had very good exchange of views with Premier Wen Jiabao, on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Hua Hin (Thailand) in October last year and

during the 15 Summit of the Conference of Parties on Climate Change at Copenhagen in December 2009

4. I would like to note that developing friendly cooperation with China, has been one of the priorities of our foreign policy and we are pleased that our relations are becoming truly multifaceted. A significant landmark in the development of this relationship was the establishment of Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for peace and prosperity in 2005 during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India.

5. The visit of our President assumes added importance, as it is taking place during the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. It also signals our unequivocal commitment to deepen and expand our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership, with China.

6. In Beijing on the first leg of her visit, our President will have extensive talks with President Hu Jintao who will also be hosting a State Banquet in her honour. She will meet with other senior most leaders of China, including the Chairman of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo, Premier Wen Jiabao and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Jia Qinglin.

7. Rashtrapatiiji will visit the historic city of Luoyang in central China's Henan Province on 29th May. The city has special association with India, as the first two Indian Buddhist monks to China lived and worked in the famous White Horse Monastery there under imperial patronage in the first century A.D. The President will inaugurate an Indian-style Buddhist shrine which has been built within the precincts of the Monastery with the assistance of the Government of India to commemorate these historical connections between our two countries. She will dedicate it as a gift from the people of India to the people of China.

8. Shanghai will be the last leg of the President's visit. She will visit the World Expo, which was opened to the public earlier this month. India has built its own dedicated pavilion and President will be visiting the pavilion at the World Expo. She will address a Business Meeting to be attended by captains of industry in both countries. I may also mention that a sizeable business delegation is accompanying the President on her visit.

9. Naturally, the President will interact with the growing Indian Community in China. This interaction will be in Shanghai, which has a significant concentration of Indians. Our President will also unveil a statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in a main avenue in Shanghai.

10. As I mentioned, the President's visit coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. We are celebrating this with a high-quality Festival of India in China and a Festival of China in India. The two Festivals are currently under way, and have received warm and enthusiastic response in both countries.

11. We are confident that Rashtrapatiji's visit will be instrumental in re-affirming and enhancing the long-standing ties of friendship between our two nations and our two peoples.

Thank you. I will be happy to take your questions now.

Question: Madam, are there any agreements or documents to be signed between the two countries during the visit?

Foreign Secretary: I will not give you the details now. I think you should wait till the meetings are over and we will be able to communicate the final agreements to you. Certainly, there are some agreements on the anvil. They are under discussion and in the process of being finalized.

Question: Madam, Nalanda International University is a major thing that is to be created between East-Asia Summit partners. China is also one of the donors. Has the Nalanda Mentor Group submitted its final report? Has China assured of any contribution in this international university?

Foreign Secretary: It is true that China has also participated in the meetings of the Nalanda Mentor Group. Prof. Wang Bangwei from Peking University has been contributing to the discussions in this Group. The report is ready. As you know, the Nalanda University Bill has to be presented in Parliament. Thereafter, we will be able to announce the founding of the University and the starting of its functioning. So, this is still a work in progress. Let me also tell you that this is not strictly an India-China bilateral matter. It is something that is flowing out of the discussions at the East-Asia Summit.

Question: Madam, Indo-China relations have seen highs and lows. It is very confusing as to what exactly is the status of our relationship at the moment. After Copenhagen there was supposed to be this warmth and then there were all kinds of bickering among the Ministers. Please tell us a little more about what the President's visit is going to achieve.

Foreign Secretary: I must start by saying that I do not exactly subscribe to the point of view that you just expressed. I think there is clarity about this relationship, about the outlook that we have on this relationship, the perspective, the policy that we adopt regarding the improvement and enhancement of relations with China. Let me say it is a two-way street. There is dialogue, there is discussion, there is constant exchange of views between the two countries, the two Governments at the highest level - I referred to that in my opening statement - and also between officials, between various Ministries of the Governments, between the think-tanks and the cultural organizations. The building of the Indian style Buddhist temple at Louyang is another manifestation of this. So, what you have seen in the last decade, decade and a half is the evolution and the development of a multifaceted relationship between India and China.

Look at the trade between the two countries, the way in which it has mushroomed. It is true that it is not balanced exactly because there is an adverse trade balance that India has vis-à-vis China, and obviously this needs to be addressed through concerted efforts particularly by the Chinese side, let me say. But the fact is that of the manifestation of such strong commercial and economic relationship between the two countries.

Question: What are the bilateral trade figures?

Foreign Secretary: It was about 43 billion dollars both ways last year. The year before that the volume was larger. It was about 51 billion US dollars. The drop in figures is basically accounted for by the global recession which impacted trade also between India and China last year.

I was referring to the fact that relations have mushroomed in so many areas. A lot of people ask me about the issue of stapled visas, or the issue of Chinese projects in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, or the issue

of the 'difficulties' faced by Chinese telecom companies. I know that these questions are coming and I am going to put this in perspective.

Question: Including Arunachal Pradesh?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to refer to that at the moment. But I am referring to these day-to-day issues that seem to crop up. The first point I want to say is that these issues are the subject of continuing discussion between India and China. Obviously we want to resolve them satisfactorily in a manner that safeguards our legitimate concerns on all these issues. That is a second point.

The third point I would like to make is that you must also understand that the India-China relationship is not predicated on one or two issues alone. My honest advice is, do not predicate this relationship on the basis of one or two issues alone. Just because we do not see a solution on some issues does not mean that we judge the relationship on the basis of these issues alone. That is another point I would like to make. I think, and I honestly feel, we must take a wider view of this relationship between India and China, I have said this before, a relationship between two large neighbours, a relationship between two of the largest developing countries, a relationship between two emerging global powers. So, please see the relationship in that context. Also when you look at our Rashtrapati's visit to China, see it in that context. I believe that this visit will have a very positive impact across the length and breadth of the relationship.

Question: Madam, a Minister in the Government appears to be lobbying for a specific Chinese company also ends up painting, possibly inadvertently, the Indian Government as paranoid as far as Chinese companies are concerned. Does that have diplomatic fallout on India-China relations? Has it had?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to get into discussion on that issue. All those matters have been clarified. No, it has not had an impact as far as the issue before us is concerned - the India-China relationship. Most importantly, we are talking now of our President's visit to China.

Question: When is the next meeting of the Special Representatives of the Prime Ministers scheduled?

Foreign Secretary: We do not have dates as yet. This is being discussed through diplomatic channels. We will be able to give you an answer to that in due course.

Question: Would you say that this would be a good occasion for India to discuss with China about its role in containing terror in the region because it is after all a P5 country and there are a host of resolutions and a lot of responsibility devolves upon China to ensure that they were adhered to. But in this region mostly we see other P5 countries more active than China. So, would the President take this up with her Chinese counterpart with specific reference to what is happening in Pakistan vis-à-vis us?

Foreign Secretary: There will be discussion on the bilateral issues that concern the relationship. There will be references to the regional situation and the larger context of global issues that concern both countries. On the subject of terror, again this is a subject of ongoing discussion with China. It is not that we are just raising it now or going to raise it tomorrow. We have discussed this for quite some time between the two sides. There are mechanisms between the two countries also on counter-terrorism matters. We have articulated our concerns very clearly to the Chinese on these issues. I believe that they are fully aware of where we stand on terrorism in our region and the need for the international community to be clear and aware about the dangers that we face on account of terrorism directed against us and the need for neighbours like China also to be sensitive to our concerns.

Question: There have been several reports about China supplying or maybe financing the construction of two new nuclear reactors in Pakistan. What is the stance of the Indian Government on this? Are you going to bring this up somewhere in the international fora?

Foreign Secretary: We are alert to these reports and we are fully aware of what has been announced in regard to the supply of nuclear power reactors by China to Pakistan. Now, these reports state that the cooperation is ostensibly for peaceful use and is under IAEA safeguards. Reports have also mentioned the issue in the context of what the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines are on this. This is obviously a matter that has to be discussed within the Nuclear Suppliers Group. We will have to see what the outcome of that is.

Question: Madam, to carry on from the earlier question, just at this time when you are going there are reports of a nuclear deal between Pakistan and China. During your visit there are you going to take this up? Also, as you know, Hillary Clinton would be there.

Foreign Secretary: She is there already.

Question: Yes. The US State Department Spokesman has also been very ambivalent about this. He has not criticized this at all despite Pakistan being a proliferator. Is this issue going to be taken up by the Indian Government?

Foreign Secretary: I have already expressed in my answer to your colleague just now as to where this matter stands at the moment. Obviously, this is a matter that is under examination. It has to be studied properly. The results of that examination will really establish what this deal is about and whether the NSG Guidelines have been fully applied in this case. So, we will await the result of that examination.

Question: Just a follow-up to that question on Chinese nuclear supplies to Pakistan. Are you really going to take this up at the bilateral level? Secondly, about the stapled visas there has been no finality. The Foreign Minister has taken this up. After completion of 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, if they continue to issue stapled visas to Indian citizens it questions the very sovereignty.

Foreign Secretary: We are very clear that there cannot be discrimination against any of our nationals on grounds of ethnicity or domicile. That position is very well-known to the Chinese. At the same time, I have told you that this is an issue under discussion, we hope we can resolve it, and our legitimate concerns must be safeguarded. That is our clear position and the Chinese Government - our interlocutors on the Chinese side know that very well. Having said that I also mentioned in my earlier statements that let us not predicate this relationship on the basis of one or two issues alone. There is a larger context involved here.

Question: But you are not committing to taking up the ...

Foreign Secretary: All issues of concern to us, obviously would figure in the discussions. On the issue of the nuclear proliferation in our

neighbourhood our views are very well-known and our Chinese interlocutors are fully aware of our position.

Question: Do you plan to take up the issue of Chinese plans to dam the Brahmaputra River during the visit and if so, in what terms?

Foreign Secretary: The issue of the usage of the waters of the Brahmaputra has figured consistently in media reports. The issue is also a matter of discussion between India and China. We have the mechanism at the level of experts to look at some water-related issues between India and China - basically emergency flood management, hydrological data on the Brahmaputra and Sutlej, which is of use to us in the context of downstream use. That is what we discuss at the expert level. As far as the damming of the waters of the Brahmaputra is concerned, every time we have taken it up with the Chinese they have consistently denied that they are engaged in activity that would involve diversion - and I emphasise the word diversion - of the waters of the Brahmaputra and of course the resultant impact that it would have on downstream areas. This is the position as it stands. The reports continue to surface from time to time. Most recently we took it up when our External Affairs Minister was in China in April this year. The Chinese referred to the Zangmu project on the Brahmaputra and they said this is again not a project designed to divert waters; it was designed to generate hydro-electricity and basically, in their words, a run-of-the-river project. That is where the matter stands. Obviously we are alert to this and we monitor the situation carefully, and would take whatever steps necessary as the situation evolves.

Question: My question was, are you planning to take it up during this visit?

Foreign Secretary: We have taken it up consistently at every occasion. But let me say that please see the visit of the President in the larger context. This is not about one or two or three issues. Obviously they would be relevant to the discussion. But please see it in the larger context of two large Asian countries engaged in a visible improvement of their relations.

Question: With respect, Madam, you did not answer my question.

Official Spokesperson: Your question has been answered Sir, thank you.

Question: Madam, this is on a slightly different note. Pakistan Supreme Court in the last couple of ours has dismissed the Pakistani Government's appeal against the release of Hafiz Saeed from house arrest saying that evidence against him is all speculative and there is not just enough evidence against him. What is your reaction to that?

Foreign Secretary: There is a sense of disappointment. I am sure everybody in this country would share that sense of disappointment at this latest development because we regard Hafiz Saeed, as you know, as one of the masterminds of the Mumbai terror attack and he has openly urged Jihad against India. We are all aware of that. The LeT and the JuD that he heads, have been designated as terror organizations by the UN Security Council, and enough evidence has also been given by India to Pakistan on the role and activities of Hafiz Saeed. Pakistan has assured us that it will not allow its soil to be used for terror activities against India. We hope, therefore, that Pakistan will be sensitive to our concerns and would take meaningful action against this individual.

Question: What is China's position on India's claim for a seat in the United Nations Security Council? Has there been any evolution in the Chinese position? Will this issue be taken up since this is the first visit by an Indian President in the last ten years and this is also the 60th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries? Are we expecting a positive response from China on this?

Foreign Secretary: The Chinese position is that they have taken note of and they understand our legitimate aspirations for better representation and a better role in the affairs of the United Nations including in the UN Security Council. That is a position that they have expressed. Most recently that was expressed during the visit of our External Affairs Minister when he met Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing during that visit. As I said, there would be opportunities to refer to that also in the forthcoming discussions. Our effort will be to ensure that there is an evolution even further forward of the Chinese position on

this matter. I am not just, as I said, predicating it to this visit. But it will be our future effort to ensure that.

Question: Madam, what is the status of security clearance of Chinese telecom companies?

Foreign Secretary: Let me first of all say that there is no intention to discriminate against any specific country in this regard. Of course, when it comes to certain sectors for foreign investment there are legitimate security concerns that any country needs to safeguard before permitting such investment. Our effort is to tackle this issue, to deal with it in a predictable, in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. And that is exactly what we are doing at the moment. I would also like to add that we attach importance to mutually beneficial cooperation with China in the telecom sector.

Question: *I have a little different question. The Canadian Embassy (high commission) has refused visa to two police officer - ADG (Crime) Rajan Gupta and SSP Patiala, R.S. Hatta-on the pretext that they were involved in terrorist related activities. What is the Indian Government thinking about it? (Original question was asked in Hindi)*

Question: If I may add to this, this is not the first time, Madam, this has happened. This has happened with serving officers of the Indian Government earlier as well.

Foreign Secretary: *I will reply in English because the second question is in English.*

The matter, when it was brought to the attention of the Ministry of External Affairs, was taken up immediately and appropriately with the Canadian High Commission and, of course, the Canadian Government. We take this matter very seriously. That is what I wanted to say. Of course, the Canadian Foreign Minister has, in a public statement, stated that Canada has the highest regard for India's democratic institutions and processes, and also respect for India's armed forces and related institutions. But let me once again say that we did take up the matter, we expressed our serious concern, and we continue to take this matter very seriously.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



287. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao during the visit of President to China.**Beijing, May 27, 2010.**

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Good evening and thank you for your patience. Once again my apologies for keeping you waiting.

We are here to brief you about the meetings that our President had with the Chinese leadership, beginning this afternoon with Premier Wen Jiabao, followed by Chairman of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo, and thereafter the Summit meeting with the Chinese President Hu Jintao. That meeting was preceded, as you know, by the Ceremonial Welcome held in the Great Hall of the People. Because the weather was inclement today outside, we had the Ceremonial Welcome inside the Great Hall of the People.

All these meetings were very cordial and extremely positive. In all the discussions that were held, the context in which the visit was taking place was reiterated - not only the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China but also the consolidation of the strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity between the two countries. From both sides there was a reiteration also of the fact that relations between India and China are a diplomatic priority for both Governments. The need for these relations to grow and expand, that there is space enough for India and China to grow and expand was also emphasised.

It is interesting also to note that during these discussions one of the points that was articulated was that the consolidation of the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity was also necessary because it was through such a consolidation that we could ensure that a single issue or a single episode cannot damage or cause problems for the relationship; and this could be done through a deepening of mutual trust through high-level exchanges between the two countries at the level of the top political leadership as well as non-governmental exchanges particularly between the youth of the two countries.

Naturally, in any dialogue between India and China today the importance and the salience of the economic and trade relationship between the two

countries always finds a prominent place. From both sides it was emphasised that this relationship should continue to be strengthened, that we should ensure not only an increase in the volume of trade but also ensure the diversification of this trade, and also address the adverse trade balance that affects India.

Our President mentioned to the Chinese leadership, she emphasized, that there was need to address this adverse balance of trade not only through a diversification of the trade basket but especially through the import of more goods from India, particularly in pharmaceuticals, in engineering goods, in agricultural products, in IT and IT-enabled services. These were a few of the items that were mentioned. From both sides there was the desire expressed that there should be an intensification of contacts in this field, more visits of trade and business delegations, more business investment in both countries, in short a very concerted focus on this aspect of the relationship.

From both sides it was also emphasised in these talks that apart from the strengthening of the bilateral relationship and a consolidation of mutual trust, the two sides should also strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora - within BRIC, within the trilateral India-Russia-China format, within the G20, all these multilateral fora - to deal with such issues as for instance the financial crisis, on the issue of climate change - the cooperation at the Copenhagen Summit found a very prominent mention - and also the need to continue and also to develop on such cooperation in the run-up to the next Conference of Parties at Cancun in Mexico.

On the issue of UN Security Council reform, what the Chinese leadership told us was that they understood India's aspirations and its desire, they supported this desire to ensure a more prominent role for India in the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council. The Chinese said that they believed that representation of developing countries should be increased in the Security Council. As I said, they emphasised that they understood India's position, they supported our desire to play a greater role in the United Nations including and especially in the Security Council. And, this is important, they said that the two Governments should strengthen cooperation on Security Council matters, which would include the reform of the Security Council.

Question: Madam, you used the words the reform of the United Nations.

Foreign Secretary: Let me repeat it. What they said was they supported the idea that there should be greater representation of developing countries in the Security Council. That was the first point. The second point is that they understood our desire and they supported our desire to play a greater role in the Security Council. Thirdly, that India and China should stay in close touch and strengthen their cooperation on Security Council matters with specific emphasis on reform of the Security Council.

Question: *Kindly explain this to me, preferably in Hindi.*

Foreign Secretary: *I shall try.*

Question: *Has the Chinese Government expressed their explicit support to the Indian desire for a seat on the UN Security Council or have been guarded in diplomatic language that 'yes, ok, we are with you'.*

Foreign Secretary: *my assessment is that they did not use guarded or diplomatic language in this context. They said they understood the need for reforms that are desired in the UN and for India's desire.....*

Question: Is reform a short cut for a seat for us?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, reform means expansion of the Security Council.

Question: And also, did President specifically raise this point?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, she did.

Question: Do you see this as a big breakthrough because China has always been seen as trying to confine us to South Asia? So, today is a big step forward.

Foreign Secretary: If you relate it to the context in which today's visit took place, the very positive tenor and tone with which the discussions were held and the warmth of the welcome that is accorded to the President, and you could see it in the chemistry between the leadership at these meetings, I think it is a very positive statement from the Chinese side. I think what it would suggest, I think you have to interpret it, is that they are positive about engaging with India on this issue, that they are listening very carefully to what we are saying, that there is increasing

awareness of the legitimacy of India's position, that they support our aspirations for a greater role in the United Nations. They want to stay in touch with us to discuss this, to intensify their discussions on this because as you know the entire issue of the reform of the UN Security Council, the expansion, is receiving a lot of attention now within the United Nations. Over the last few months there have been a number of evolving steps that are being taken. So, this is a process in which I think the ideas are being generated on what kind of expansion there should be, how much in the permanent category, how much in the nonpermanent category. So, there are a lot of ideas now that are finding expression. So, this is obviously a very opportune moment for countries like India and China to really establish perfect communication on this issue. And that is the signal that we have got today.

Question: Is it fair to say that they want India to engage with them in the manner in which they want the Security Council to be, the way they want the UNSC to be expanded?

Foreign Secretary: Just as we have had this exchange, this cooperation for instance on climate change, which you know has evolved over the last few months, is really making a difference when it comes to strengthening the voice of the developing countries. I think one can see this in a similar way, this new dialogue and new communication on this issue. There is one more issue I wanted to mention. As you know, India is a candidate for a nonpermanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2011-12. So, today during the discussions the Chinese President Mr. Hu Jintao announced China's support for India's candidature at this nonpermanent seat election that is going to take place for 2011-12. That is also I think a very positive development.

Question: Whom did she raise this with? The Premier or the President?

Foreign Secretary: She raised the issue of UN Security Council reform with both the Premier and President Hu Jintao.

Question: Does it in any way dilute their support for the permanent seat?

Foreign Secretary: No, it does not. These are two issues that should be seen different from each other.

Question: Was there any reference to the American idea of India's presence in the Security Council?

Foreign Secretary: No, there was no reference to the American idea. We were not there to discuss the American idea on this. We were talking bilaterally between India and China.

As you know, there were three agreements, MoUs signed this afternoon after the Summit meeting. One was for streamlining visa applications and visa formalities for airline staff of both countries. This will enable airlines staff of India and China to enjoy visa free entry and exit for both countries. Secondly, there was an MoU between the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of our Government. The names of the agreements will be given to you. There was an agreement between our Ministry of Personnel and their Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on cooperation in the field of civil service personnel management and public administration. So, this one will enable cooperation in human resource development in the civil services and public sector, exchange of visits and organising of lectures, study tours and cooperation between training institutions of the two sides.

Thirdly, there was an MoU on sports cooperation between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of our Government. The General Administration of Sports of the People's Republic of China. This will enable the exchange of expertise in the field of physical education and sports, the exchange of sports persons, trainers, and the organisation of workshops, and also cooperation in the field of anti-doping.

Question: But these are very light-weight kind of agreements.

Foreign Secretary: They are agreements nonetheless. When you talk of cooperation in human resource development, when you talk of cooperation in the field of sports, very relevant I think in this time and age. The visa-free exemption for airlines staff is I think very relevant also when we are talking of better and easier connectivity between the two countries, more flights, more airlines operating. So, in a sense you are

institutionalising these processes. I think I would say that you are reaching a process of every day the levels of maturity, the levels of expansion of the dialogue ensuring multifaceted cooperation, these are not just empty words. These are substantive issues in the relationship today.

During the discussions held this afternoon, President and the Chinese leadership had also referred to the steady progress, the dialogue between the two countries on the resolution of the boundary question between India and China, and the fact that both sides lay great importance on the ensuring of peace and tranquility in the border areas pending a boundary settlement. So, there was a reiteration of that approach by both sides during the discussions.

They also spoke, as I said earlier, the expansion of ties in education and culture. Education has become one of the big areas in the relationship. The number of students who come from India to study in China and also vice versa - there are students from China who study in India. So, education has also become an area in which we feel that there is scope for strengthening of ties.

I also wanted to mention that when the President spoke about the relationship between India and China, she spoke about the fact that these relations stretch back over millennia. She mentioned the names of the Buddhist monks who had come from India to China to spread the word of Buddhism. She mentioned the names of Bodhidharma, Kashyapa Matanga, Dharmaratna, Kumarajiva, all these. Chinese leaders listening to her mention that these are household names in China and that people of China remember the contribution of these Indians to better understanding between the two countries.

She also mentioned that in the modern era, Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis and Gurudev Tagore, through their work in China had deepened friendship and understanding between the two countries. I wanted to mention in this context that President felt during her visit that it would be a good gesture to invite the sister of Dr. Kotnis who lives in Mumbai, Dr. Vatsala Kotnis, to come to China during her visit. Dr. Vatsala Kotnis has arrived in Beijing today and she will be present at the function tomorrow being organised by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with

Foreign Countries. Dr. Kotnis played a great role in cementing friendship between India and China.

Question: You have said that she has arrived in Delhi.

Foreign Secretary: She is going to be at the function being organised tomorrow by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and our Ambassador in Beijing Hotel to which all of you are invited.

Question: *I need a small favour. There are two questions on the UN Security Council-one permanent seat and other non-permanent seat for which election has to take place and Chinese agreed to support. Second question is in favour of reform on UNSC. Please explain both these things in Hindi. We need a sound bite for our TV live.*

Foreign Secretary: *As I told you, in today's talks they explained their position regarding UN reforms and expansion and said-they are desirous of the role of the developing countries and their cooperation. Regarding India's aspirations for permanent membership of the Security Council, the Chinese has told us that they understand our aspirations, that India should play much bigger and representative role in the Security Council - to play a bigger and a more representative role as a member of the Security Council, China understands that position of India and supports that position of India, and would like to intensify its discussions with China on this issue. This is what I have said.*

Question: *and about non-permanent sea?*

Foreign Secretary: *For the non-permanent seat 2011-12, we are contesting the election. President Hu Jintao has told our President that China supports our candidature for non-permanent sea. Both these issues are separate.*

Question: But there are a lot of apprehensions to work together. You know the history of our relationship with China. There is Japan, there are other permanent members.

Foreign Secretary: But we are talking of the Indian candidature. We are not talking of what the other countries think. We are talking of dealing

with India. As I said, the desire that was so clearly expressed in today's meetings was that this is a really priority relationship for both countries, from the Chinese side and from the Indian side, and it is absolutely crucial that you meet more often, you intensify your dialogue, you expand your cooperation, not just in bilateral areas but on regional issues. In this context we said we must strengthen. This is from the Chinese side, President Hu Jintao said that we must strengthen the strategic dialogue between India and China. We must strengthen Foreign Office consultations, we should strengthen our cooperation on multilateral issues, we should strengthen our cooperation on counter-terrorism. All these things they said.

Question: Coming back to the UN reform, could you say that there is any change in the Chinese position because this phrasing has been sort of constant since 2005. China understands ...

Foreign Secretary: I do not think it has been constant before 2005. If you look at the 2008 document when our Prime Minister visited here, there is a reference to that which went far beyond what they have said before. They are building on that position now. I think this dialogue that they are now suggesting between the two sides is obviously aimed at how to further build on that position, how to enhance the levels of that understanding.

Question: Perhaps it would be better to say that the sense of priority on the issue position for the first time.

Foreign Secretary: You are saying it better than I do.

Question: Madam, there is one question about the difference between peace and tranquility. Both these words are used. They look the same. But they have been used with meaning. What exactly is that?

Foreign Secretary: We have always used these words, peace and tranquility, together. There should be peace and there should be tranquility. Tranquility refers to tranquil conditions along the border to ensure that the situation remains stable, that there is no disturbance of the situation; that if there are issues that arise, the two sides should meet and sort these out peacefully. I think peace and tranquility is

something that we have always used when we referred to the situation.

Question: I still wanted to ...

Foreign Secretary: I think we could discuss that outside the press conference if you want to.

Question: Did our President make any mention about the disturbances at the border?

Foreign Secretary: Let me put it this way. From both sides there was a desire that was very clearly stated that we have to seek a settlement of the boundary question through continued negotiations in the mechanism of the Special Representatives. That has been working well because they have agreed on Guiding Principles and Political Parameters for the framework of a settlement. Now we are talking of a framework. That is one part of the process. Pending a boundary settlement, you have to look at the long border between the two countries and the need to ensure that there is peace and tranquility, that situations are not disturbed in any way. Both sides should make continued efforts to ensure this.

I also wanted to add that President Hu Jintao mentioned that the Chinese Government is going to support and going to contribute to the establishment of a gallery in Rabindra Bharati in Kolkata on Tagore. On setting up a gallery on Tagore in China, we are going to help set that up as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations and also to coincide with the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Thank you.

(Text in italics is translation from the original Hindi text)



288. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on President's meetings in China.

Beijing, May 28, 2010.

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): I will just brief you on the meetings held today, give you a general picture of the discussions.

This afternoon the President met Mr. Jia Qinglin, the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. It was a meeting held in the Great Hall of the People. It was a good meeting. Both sides appraised the state of relations between India and China very positively, particularly because of the context, as I mentioned yesterday also in my briefing, that this visit takes place in the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

Mr. Jia Qinglin referred to the fact that China-India relations have maintained 'sound momentum and steady growth'. Those were the very words that he used. Interestingly, he not just referred to cooperation between the two countries but also coordination, coordination especially in multilateral fora, their cooperation on issues such as climate change and in the United Nations, he referred to the relationship as 'a mature and healthy one'. Again I am quoting from what he said. He said, 'cooperation serves both countries and confrontation obviously would harm both countries'. This was his view. He said that they were partners and not rivals, and their relationship has a strategic and global significance.

He, of course, said that with the combined population of the two countries being 2.5 billion, the level of people-to-people contacts remains rather low and the potential of that has not been fully realized, and the two Governments should focus on that aspect of the relationship in future, it should be strengthened across all sections of society, that is what he said, and particularly to look at the exchanges between young people of the two countries.

The President agreed with these sentiments and she referred to the relationship between the two countries as a civilizational relationship. She referred to the millennial contacts, the Buddhist monks from India who had come to China, brought the Buddhist scriptures, translated them into Chinese, lived here and spread the message of peace from India so many thousands of years ago. She also talked about the modern period of the

relationship. References were made to Rabindranath Tagore and Dr. Kotnis, the development of contacts in trade between the two countries. Both our President and Mr. Jia Qinglin referred to the need to strengthen not only political and economic relations but also defence relations, cultural and educational relations.

Our President referred to the trade deficit between India and China and the need to have better access to the Chinese market for Indian goods and products. They also talked about the huge potential that exists for cooperation in agriculture and science and technology. I have already mentioned education. That, of course, also was singled out and in this context.

Mr. Jia Qinglin was hopeful that looking at the current trends in trade between the two countries, particularly in the first few months of this year, he was quite optimistic that the trade target that the two countries have set for themselves, 60 billion US dollars by 2010, could be realized. In other words, they felt that there was across the political spectrum - and President also mentioned this that across the political spectrum in India - there is the feeling that India and China should work together and expand their relations. Mr. Jia Qinglin said that the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference would like to expand exchanges with India, and that he would like to work with Indian friends to do so.

Our President then met Vice-President Xi Jinping here just before the function that you all attended to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations jointly organized by the Embassy of India in Beijing and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Mr. Xi Jinping was accompanied by a host of other Chinese dignitaries including Mr. Jiang Zhenghua who is the Chairperson of the China-India Friendship Association. Among those present were Ministerial representatives from the Ministry of Sports, etc. You know the names mentioned at the outset when Mr. Chen Haosu of the CPAFFC introduced the Chinese dignitaries and the Indian members of President's Delegation. The Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Gen. Ma Xiaotian was also present. As you know, Gen. Ma leads the Chinese side at the Annual Defence Dialogue with our Defence Secretary. So, he is well-known to us in that context. Vice-President Xi Jinping referred to India and China as neighbours linked by mountains and waters. In fact, this was the phrase that President Hu Jintao also used

yesterday. So, this phrase came up twice in the conversations held over the last two days.

Our President also spoke of achieving greater heights in the relationship in her conversation with Vice-President Xi Jinping and about how cooperation can take us far. In fact, she recalled what Premier Wen Jiabao had said yesterday about our two countries having had 99.9 per cent of the time very good relations in the past. And she said why do we not look at the future where our relations are hundred per cent good and marked by friendly cooperation? Vice President Xi Jinping agreed with that and he said that the 60th anniversary could be seen as a new starting point - these were the words he used - to further develop and uplift relations between the two countries. He also stressed the importance of people-to-people contacts.

Our President again referred to the ambassadors of peace of yore, the people who had come from India to China like Bodhidharma, Kumarajiva, and also ambassadors from China - in a sense they were all ambassadors - like Xuan Zang and Fa Xian, and also in modern times, Gurudev Tagore and Dr. Kotnis. As you know, the younger sister of Dr. Kotnis, Dr. Vatsala Kotnis, accompanied by her niece Dr. Hattangadi are both here at the invitation of our President to be here during her visit and to participate in this evening's function. Dr. Vatsala Kotnis will also visit Dalian where the widow of Dr. Kotnis, Madame Guo Qinglan, who is over 90 years old, is currently staying. She is not in good health. So, she was not able to make the journey for Beijing. But Dr. Vatsala Kotnis will go to Dalian to meet her.

As you know, Vice-President Xi Jinping represents a new generation of leadership in China. Our President stressed the importance of looking to the future of this relationship, the role that the younger generations of India and China could play to build and cement the ties of friendship between the two countries. She conveyed once again to Vice-President Xi Jinping that we look forward to his visit to India at an early date, at a mutually convenient date. As you know, Vice-President Xi Jinping has been invited by our Vice-President Mr. Ansari to visit India, if possible during this year because I think it will be very fitting if that visit took place during the 60th anniversary year. But we do not have dates for the visit as yet. These have to be decided through diplomatic channels.



289. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on President's Meetings in Shanghai.**Shanghai, May 30, 2010.****Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** Good evening.

I am here to brief you with my colleagues. You know everybody here. On my far left is Shrimati Riva Ganguly Das our Consul General in Shanghai. You know our Ambassador to China Dr. Jaishankar. Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia) is on my right.

This morning many of you were there at the Expo 2010 venue when Rashtrapatiiji visited the Expo. She went to the India pavilion and to the China pavilion. Subsequently she spoke to the media also. So, I would not go into those details. This afternoon she met the Party Secretary of Shanghai Mr. Yu Zhengsheng. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng, as you know, is no stranger to India. He visited India in October of 2008 as part of an exchange programme conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Department of the Communist Party of China. Apart from Delhi, on that trip he visited Bangalore and Mumbai. He also met the External Affairs Minister, the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Maharashtra Governor, when he was there in India.

You may also be aware that Mr. Yu received the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi during her visit to Shanghai in October 2007, a day after he took over as Party Secretary of Shanghai. In fact, Shrimati Gandhi was the first foreign visitor that Mr. Yu Zhengsheng met after he became Party Secretary. During that meeting the UPA Chairperson had invited him to visit India. So, prior to his visit in October of 2008, in August that year Mr. Yu had also met Shrimati Gandhi during her visit to Beijing for the Olympics. This is just the background information. I will just come to the meeting.

Our President had a very good meeting with Party Secretary Yu. He was particularly appreciative of the fact that our President had visited Shanghai, a visit that coincides with the Expo here. He thanked her for her visit to the Expo this morning. He particularly singled out the India pavilion as being extremely popular with the Chinese people. These were his words, 'it has been widely applauded by the visitors to the Expo'. He mentioned that yesterday the Expo had 500,000 visitors. We have our own statistics of

the people who have been visiting our pavilion and on one day in the last few weeks we recorded 37,000 visitors to our India pavilion in one day.

Question: I think it was 47,000.

Foreign Secretary: Well, it is a record number of people. What I am coming to is it almost amounts to one/tenth of the people who visit the Expo every day. That is just an index of the popularity of our pavilion.

Our President mentioned to Party Secretary Yu that she was deeply impressed by what she had seen at the Expo. When he spoke in such positive terms about our pavilion, she mentioned that the bamboo dome of the Pavilion represents the collaborative effort between Indian and Chinese architect. So, it is yet another example of fruitful cooperation between the two countries. She recalled his visit to India in 2008 and the positive outcomes of that visit. She mentioned to him that he, as a result of his knowledge and experience gathered during his visit to India, is particularly aware of the opportunities that exist for cooperation between our two countries, and the fact that after the advent of the strategic and cooperative partnership between India and China, the opportunities to work together have increased so much. In this context she mentioned our cooperation on climate change in multilateral fora and the opportunities for cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries.

Incidentally, the Shanghai region - the city and the greater Shanghai region, and Zhejiang and Jiangsu Provinces - accounts for a large proportion of the economic, trade and commercial ties between India and China. There are over a hundred Indian companies that operate in this region. In terms of banks alone, I think we have six Indian banks present here in Shanghai one of which, the State Bank of India, has a full-fledged operating office here in this city. In terms of trade volumes also we have about five billion dollars worth of trade being generated just from Shanghai region alone. So, the importance of this city as an economic and commercial hub not only in the Chinese context but also in terms of our trade cannot be denied.

Mr. Yu on his part recalled in very positive terms his interaction with our leaders during his visit to India in 2008. He said he was deeply impressed not only by the ancient civilization of India but also by the scientific and technological advancement of the Indian people, and also the fact that

against the backdrop of the global financial crisis there has been a meeting of minds as it were between India and China on ways to cope with the crisis, and the ideas that have been generated from that discussion have been very relevant and very useful.

He said that he hoped that the scientific and technical cooperation, particularly between India and China would be taken to new heights. He mentioned such areas as steel, the automobile and automotive component industry, power generation as good areas for cooperation. In fact, again Shanghai equipment suppliers and contractors have been participating in the power sector contracts in India. He mentioned the importance that they attach to this cooperation.

Our President, taking this theme forward, spoke of how we have the 60 billion dollar target that the leadership of both countries have set for themselves for 2010, how we could work together to achieve this target. She spoke of her conversations with representatives of Indian business here, how they were satisfied with the support that they are receiving from the Chinese authorities, the good work that is being done particularly in the IT sector. Then she referred to the pharmaceuticals sector and the interest of our pharmaceutical companies in gaining greater access to the Chinese market. Then she recalled Premier Wen Jiabao's assurance in this connection that the trade deficit between India and China would be addressed seriously by the Chinese side. The importance, as she stressed, was that we should balance this trade even as we seek to increase it. That point was emphasized by her to Party Secretary Yu.

She also referred to the fact that there are eleven Indian banks today in China, and there is no Chinese bank that operates in India. She flagged that issue, the fact that there are no Chinese banks in India as of now. In this context, responding to the points made by the President, Party Secretary Yu said that the achievement of trade balance as far as China's external trade statistics are concerned is part of their long-term national strategy and a huge trade surplus as they have now is, in intrinsic sense of the word, not so good for the economy. So, they are conscious of this and they want to balance it. They want to encourage more Chinese companies to engage in outbound, that is foreign, investment abroad, and also to support and encourage more imports from foreign countries into China, in this context increase imports from India into China.

Party Secretary Yu also spoke very warmly about Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and his visits to Shanghai in the 1920s, the friendship that he had built with Chinese intellectuals like Xu Zhimo and people involved at that time in this great awakening of Chinese national identity. This was an era, as you know as in India so also in China, when people were consolidating their efforts to resist foreign occupation and interference in their internal affairs. So, he said that there was great sympathy and support that Gurudev Tagore had expressed for the Chinese people at a very difficult time in their history and they appreciated this and they remember it very warmly. He felt that it was very very appropriate that President was going to unveil a bust of Gurudev Tagore at the Mao Ming Avenue in Shanghai, very close to where he had stayed when he came to Shanghai at the residence of the writer Xu Zhimo. You were there I think at the unveiling of the bust and you must have witnessed that function which was very beautiful and was witnessed also by a number of local residents of the city who were present at that time.

That is basically to give you an idea of today's meeting. Thank you.

Question: Was there any specific plan for reaching the 60 billion US dollar trade target?

Foreign Secretary: Not specifically discussed at this meeting but President has been interacting with a number of representatives of Indian business and industry. As you know, there is a business delegation that has accompanied her with representatives of ASSOCHAM, FICCI. The CII has a Resident Office in Shanghai. So, she has had the opportunity during her visit to talk to a number of representatives and corporate, industry executives who are here in China, and they have spoken about their experience about doing business with China. Tomorrow I hope many of you will be there at the business meeting and you will get a chance to hear more about this.

Question: Are there any difficulties which Indian businessmen expressed to the President?

Foreign Secretary: I think there is the issue of market access, as I mentioned, for instance in pharmaceuticals and also to diversify the trade basket. Obviously we would like more engineering goods from India entering

the Chinese market. Companies like Thermax for instance who are leaders in environment-friendly technology, in green technology, obviously would like to do more. In that context many of them expressed the hope that cooperation between India and China within the BASIC framework on climate change could become a catalyst to promote cooperation in such areas.

Question: Was there any positive answer for Chinese banks in India?

Foreign Secretary: The issue was flagged. This was not just flagged today, it was flagged earlier also. The response from the Chinese side was one of interest. I think they will focus on this issue in the short-term. I have no doubt about that.

Question: I thought it was the Chinese leadership which raised first the issue of accessibility for Chinese banks.

Foreign Secretary: No, our President raised it.

Question: On the India pavilion at the Expo, given the business focus of Shanghai, it seemed incongruent in that there is very little business focus in the Indian pavilion unlike some of the other pavilions which we saw at the Expo. I was just curious as to given the diplomatic weight that China has given to the Expo, was there any one in any way being consulted on the content, on the message or it was something that was totally handed over by the ITPO?

Foreign Secretary: The ITPO led the effort. The idea was to define a theme, the cities of the future and the use of appropriate technologies to ensure a harmonious blend of local conditions with the larger universal themes of urban development. So, that was really the theme of the pavilion. I think the focus was on creating an ambiance and the structure and the content within the pavilion that would underline and underscore that theme. The fact that you are attracting so many Chinese visitors to the pavilion and they have an exposure to the message from India, the theme of unity in diversity, pluralism; the fact that this is a country of almost continental proportions very much like China, I think in China that is a very important message to be projecting in my view.

Question: Madam, was MEA also part of the process or was that completely handled by the ITPO?

Foreign Secretary: It is a consultative process but the theme was selected by the ITPO.

Question: Madam, you said that there are six Indian banks in Shanghai and there are 100 plus companies. The five billion dollars generated, is it by the banks or by the companies?

Foreign Secretary: No, no, it is in terms of trade volume.

Question: Do you think that the numbers that are being cited of people visiting the Indian pavilion at the Expo are slightly misleading because a number of them may also go there by chance and may not be interested in actually in actually displayed there. I have spoken to several people and they were not actually very satisfied to see what they saw.

Foreign Secretary: Which people did you speak to? The Chinese people?

Question: Some Indians also.

Foreign Secretary: You are focusing on an international audience here, particularly the Chinese. Here also the Mr. Yu was mentioning to our President how he asked some Chinese visitors to the Expo yesterday when he went there. He said, "Why do you wait five hours to see a pavilion?" he was not referring to this country or that country's pavilion. The answer he got was that many Chinese people, do not get a chance to visit foreign countries, they do not get a chance to see what goes on in other parts of the world, and that was the reason why they wanted to wait and visit various pavilions, to satiate their curiosity about a place. Very much like what happens in India if you go to a big trade fair or a big exposition. The people who visit are ordinary citizens who see this as an opportunity to deepen their knowledge about the outside world.

Question: Madam, I have a specific question about the pricing of Chinese goods in Indian markets. Has this question been raised?

Foreign Secretary: No. It has not been raised.

Question: I am not referring to only the President's visit. Has this question been raised by any one of you earlier as to how they are able to sell Chinese

goods so cheaply in India and that this is a sort of dumping and destroying the Indian market. Has this question ever been raised?

Foreign Secretary: There is an ongoing discussion and negotiation and contact and interaction between the Chinese and Indian sides on the entire issue of balancing the trade better, removing the adverse balance of trade. The proportion, let me tell you, of goods exported from China to India is not made up of a small consumer goods. That is what you see in the markets. The greater proportion of goods exported from China to India are basically power equipment, equipment for steel making, blast furnaces, there are huge commodities and products. Let me give you the figures of trade from Eastern China to India. Last year it was 15.07 billion US dollars, of which Shanghai generated 4.5 billion, Zhejiang 5.4 billion, and Jiangsu 5.2 billion US dollars. So, 35 per cent of our trade you could say is generated out of East China.

Question: Any idea about how much money our six banks generate?

Foreign Secretary: The State Bank of India, the Bank of India, the Canara Bank and the Bank of Baroda, are the four banks that have full-fledged offices in China today. The seven others are representative offices.

Question: *I want to ask a question about our trade deficit. What we import from China and what we export to China there is a big gap, Has there been any discussion on how India can increase exports to reduce the deficit? Is there any road map to fill this gap? You referred to one or two items like pharmaceutical sector. Are there other companies who could come in...please indicate in coming times what is going to be done?*

Foreign Secretary: *Of course, in our discussions with China we are focusing a lot on this issue. We have also identified areas like pharmaceuticals has been mentioned likewise there is the engineering goods, IT, IT enabled services, agricultural products and commodities. In our discussions during this visit, the Chinese have assured us, they have assured us that this is something that they take very seriously. They understand that it would be unviable to sustain such a trade imbalance in the medium-term, in the long-term and that this is an issue that they must address. In this context, attracting and encouraging more Chinese businesses to invest in India is also important, just as our companies are coming here, And of course I*

also feel that Indian companies also need to push more on this. The Government can do so much and we will continue to do that, but there needs to be a very intense drive on the part of Indian companies also to ensure that they have more access to this market. As you talked about the manufactured goods, the pricing and all that, there are a number of anti-dumping investigations also on Chinese products coming into India. There are also safeguard duties that are placed on Chinese products. Whenever we see a surge which is likely to affect our industry adversely, corrective measures are taken.

Ambassador S. Jaishankar: In terms of trade promotion, we are doing seven events in 17 different cities in China this year. Some of these will be very sector specific like we did a big IT event, we are doing a big pharma event. So, yes there is a strategy. There are four thrust areas which are IT, pharma, agro exports and engineering. There are right now 17 events under planning between now and November.

Foreign Secretary: We just exported alphonso mangoes to China for the first time in large quantities this year.

Question: Any other varieties apart from alphonso?

Foreign Secretary: No. We will have to slowly diversify that.

Question: Is this commercial?

Foreign Secretary: Commercial, not just promotion.

Question: Coming back to anti-dumping, can you explain to us what are these lawsuits that have been pending and how are you taking them up?

Foreign Secretary: I am here to brief you on the President's visit. We can talk about this later.

Question: *We met some businessmen today, yesterday too we met them here during the meeting with the Indian community, there was this problem and it was also highlighted by Jairam Ramesh also that in India there are a lot of problems with the Chinese companies. The feedback that we got here, it is understood that the Chinese companies that are working for the last two years, perhaps the Chinese bureaucracy is more rigid than the Indian bureaucracy, you know it better since you have been yourself ambassador*

here, considering the red tap that is entrenched here, do you think, the Indian companies wanting to invest in China, or work on projects here, do you think that the visit of the President and the talks you had here at the highest level, it will benefit in a manner that the companies in both the countries wanting to invest and work on projects of joint ventures, or even single ventures, the money that is invested, even if it is fifty crores, the government will consider these aspects and try to ease the..

Foreign Secretary: Obviously, as business grows and as more and more companies invest in each others' countries, you would focus very much on transparency issues, on predictability on non-discrimination. All these issues would come up to ensure that there is no protectionism, that market access is provided. All this forms the subject of discussion between the two countries. The fact that during this visit the issue of trade has figured quite prominently in all the meetings that our President had had I think raises not only the level of awareness and sensitivity about the importance that we attach to this issue, but also I think provides them direction from the highest political level, to the working levels of Government to ensure that you remove obstacles like red-tape or other difficulties that may arise in the actual conduct of business and transaction of trade and commerce.

Question: Did the state of Chinese telecom companies come up in any of the meetings? Is there a concern that that might affect the push to get more Chinese access?

Foreign Secretary: The issue did not come up.

Question: Is it that when we keep saying market access and market access, they will always go back to what is happening in India about the fact that the ...

Foreign Secretary: They did not do that. That was not the response we got.

Question: Just to follow up what Dr. Jairam Ramesh said and the fact about market access, even Chinese are equally paranoid about Indian companies.

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to be drawn into that discussion. I think I answered that question. That issue is closed and I am not going to delve

into further. The point I am making here is that we have sought greater market access. We would like to see more of our products, particularly in these areas, pharmaceuticals, IT, IT-enabled services, very high end engineering goods that we produce, agricultural commodities. These are all issues on which we want progress. The political message that we are sending to the Chinese side is please pay attention to this, this is important if you have to address the adverse trade balance you will need to tackle these difficulties.

Question: Why is it that there is nothing modern about the pavilion of ours. Does it truly represent India today?

Foreign Secretary: That is your opinion. Are you asking me for my personal opinion? What are you driving at?

Question: It did not seem as if it is ...

Foreign Secretary: That is your take on it. I am talking about the response that the pavilion has received from the Chinese side. I think it embodied both the traditional and modern. I do not believe it was just the way you described it, if I may say so.

Question: Madam, one question about the President herself. When the discussions take place, what kind of response does President personally gives to queries by the Chinese leaders?

Foreign Secretary: They are having a conversation. Each side expresses a certain point, talks in appreciative terms about the relationship. The President spoke of what she had seen while she was in China, the kind of discussions she had, the warmth of the welcome that she had received, how positively she had been impressed by the progress that China has made especially here when you come to Shanghai.

Question: Is that normally an easy-flowing conversation?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, extremely.

Thank you.

(The text in italics is translated from the Hindi text)



290. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Beijing on the ICCR Chair at Fudan University, China. Shanghai, May 31, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Fudan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of an India Chair in Humanities & Social Sciences at Fudan University. Ambassador of India to China, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Dr. Yuliang Yang, President of Fudan University signed the MoU on May 31, 2010 in Shanghai in the gracious presence of H.E. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India.

Under the terms of the Agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the Fudan University, shall appoint a Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences who would be visiting Fudan University for a four-month semester during each academic year. The Indian Professor would contribute to the academic life of the Fudan University by engaging in teaching and research in his/her respective specialization.

Education has been identified as an important area of co-operation between India and China. This MoU is a very significant step in facilitating enhanced interaction between institutions of higher learning in India and China. Establishment of this Chair at Fudan University is in keeping with the objective of fostering greater educational and academic interaction between Indian and Chinese scholars and students. This MoU will help in introducing Indian Studies at the prestigious Fudan University.



291. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar on TV Programme Devil's Advocate.

New Delhi, August 8, 2010.

Please see Document No.230.



292. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on defense exchanges with China.

New Delhi, August 27, 2010.

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson said, "We have an important, multifaceted and complex relationship with the People's Republic of China. Our interaction has been growing in a number of areas, including defense. In recent years, we have had useful defense exchanges at various levels.

The visit, referred to in a newspaper report today, has not taken place, due to certain reasons. While we value our exchanges with China, there must be sensitivity to each others' concerns. Our dialogue with China on these issues is ongoing."



The decision to suspend defence exchanges with China followed Beijing's refusal of a visa to allow the Army's Northern Command Chief, Lt. Gen. B.S. Jaswal to join a military delegation for a high-level visit. Media reports said that in retaliation, India has refused to allow two Chinese Army captains to attend a defence course and a colonel to speak at a higher defence course. While border meetings between Army personnel will continue as before, a cloud hangs over future military exchanges and even a joint exercise. It will remain so until China "unties the knot it has tied," media quoted unnamed senior officials. Pointing out that India's sensitivities on Kashmir are similar to China's on Tibet, the sources said China questioning the State's status by resorting to this move was unacceptable. "There is little point in taking forward other exchanges in the defence area," added the unnamed officials. A senior official found it strange that while China had hosted the Army's Eastern Command chief (now the Chief of the Army Staff) even though it has unsubstantiated claims on large parts under his military jurisdiction, it objected to the visit of the Northern Command chief even though the main discord over

293. India - China Trade figures supplied by the Ministry of Commerce to the Rajya Sabha in answer to a question on September 8, 2010.

India's export to China declined during the year 2008-09 and China's exports to India declined during the year 2009-10. However total trade between India and China during the last three years has been increasing gradually. The details of the bilateral trade between India and China during the last three years is given below:-

Year	Value in USD million		
	Exports to China	Imports from China	Total Trade
2007-08	10871.34	27146.41	38017.75
2008-09	9353.5	32497.02	41850.52
2009-10	11617.88	30824.02	42441.90

(Source: DGCI&S)

There are various factors which restrict exports from India to China. China's macroeconomic policies, exchange rate policy and other specific non-tariff measures make exports to China uneconomic and cumbersome. During the eighth session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations,

territory is between India and Pakistan. "It appears that Pakistan's interests are more important than their own. They seem to be more sensitive to Pakistan's concerns." "While we value our exchanges with China, there must be sensitivity to each other's concerns. Our dialogue with China on these issues is ongoing," said Foreign Office spokesperson Vishnu Prakash. Chinese Ambassador to India Zhang Yan met Foreign Office officials but it was not clear if the visa question of Lt. Gen. Jaswal was discussed.

But separately Media quoted Defence Minister A.K. Antony to say in Hyderabad that there was no question of snapping defence ties with China and asserted that they would continue. India had "very close ties" in the defence area with China. Occasionally, there would be some problems here and there. But that would not affect our broader approach. Defence relations with China would continue and there was no question of breaking ties, he said.

Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) held on 19th January, 2010, the Commerce & Industry Minister raised the issue of growing trade deficit with his Chinese counterpart. As an outcome of 8th JEG, an MoU on Expansion of trade and Economic Cooperation was signed between India and China. The MoU recognizes that a balanced trade is conducive to long term, sustainable and harmonious development of economic cooperation between India and China. As per the MoU, the Chinese side shall strive to import as much of its requirement of value added goods from India as possible.



294. Extract Relevant to China from the Media Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit.

Hanoi, October 29, 2010

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Very good morning and welcome to the media centre. You are aware the Prime Minister of India has had two very important meetings this morning, with Premier Wen Jiabao of China, and the President of Republic of Korea. The National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon is here to talk to you about the visit.

Sir, the floor is yours.

National Security Advisor (Shri Shivshankar Menon): We thought we would brief you about the two meetings that Prime Minister had this morning. He met first with the Premier of People's Republic of China Premier Wen Jiabao, and then met with the President of the Republic of Korea thereafter.

The meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao was warm, friendly and covered the entire gamut of the relationship. This was their tenth meeting actually in the last six years. As you know, Premier Wen Jiabao has visited India before; Prime Minister also visited China as Premier Wen Jiabao's guest.

During their discussions on the bilateral relations both of them took a broader strategic view of the significance of India-China bilateral relations; expressed satisfaction at the development of that relationship; and also discussed specifics in the relationship. Premier Wen Jiabao recalled what Prime Minister had said before that there is enough space in the world for both India and China to realize their development aspirations. He actually added to it and he said that there is enough space for China and India to also have cooperation in all areas.

Premier Wen Jiabao indicated that he hopes to visit India in the course of this year. This is the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. As you know, we have had a series of high-level visits. President has visited China earlier this year. Prime Minister also spoke of sensitivity to each other's core issues. Both spoke of their determination to carry their relationship forward.

* * * *

Question: Sir, I would like to know about the India-China meeting. What were the specifics discussed with respect to climate change and the G20 Summit where China seems to be under pressure on the currency issue?

National Security Advisor: On the climate change issue they both recalled their work together in Copenhagen, and spoke of continuing to work together on a range of global issues - climate change, counter-terrorism, disaster management, energy security, food security - and that we would continue to work together. That is because these are issues where we have similar or identical positions. There was not a discussion on G20 issues during this meeting.

Question: Did the Prime Minister raise the issue of stapled visas?

National Security Advisor: The Prime Minister raised the issue of all difficult questions and showing sensitivity to each other. We were instructed, the SRs and the officials on both sides, to prepare for Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit and to work our way to solutions of all the issues that are difficult in our relationship including the boundary question. As I said, they covered the entire range of the relationship.

Question: Sir, you said that core issues were discussed and stressed the need to carry it forward.

National Security Advisor: No, I did not say that. I said that Prime Minister spoke of the need to show sensitivity to each other's core issues.

Question: Can you just elaborate on that, flesh it out for us?

National Security Advisor: No, I think that is what he said. I will give you what he said. I am not going to put a gloss on what he said.

Question: But when you say there are core issues or sensitivities on both sides, what are the core issues, and do we agree on the core issues of each other?

National Security Advisor: I think we have both indicated to each other and this is an ongoing conversation. It is not one conversation where we mention what concerns either of us. So, we will continue that discussion as we lead up to Premier Wen Jiabao's visit which we are sure will be a very successful and productive visit.

Question: Sir, how long did the meeting last between the two Prime Ministers?

National Security Advisor: About forty-five minutes.

* * * *

Question: What are the dates of the visit? Has it been decided in the meeting?

National Security Advisor: No, we have not actually fixed the dates yet. We are consulting about dates which suit both sides.

Question: Did the issue of defence exchanges come up?

National Security Advisor: As I said, they covered the entire range of relations. They did say that we have to work our way through all these issues.

Question: Can you elaborate on discussions on the boundary issue?

National Security Advisor: On the boundary issue I think both sides said that they look forward to an early resolution of the issue. Both mentioned the need to carry the process forward from the guiding

principles and the political parameters which were agreed and signed in 2005. Both said they would ask the Special Representatives to do so with a sense of urgency. And they agreed that in the meantime, pending a settlement, we will maintain peace and tranquility along the boundary. The SRs are likely to be meeting towards the end of November.

Question: Will the Wen Jiabao visit be in this year or next year?

National Security Advisor: He said he hopes to visit during this year.

Question: Where are the SRs meeting?

National Security Advisor: In Beijing, before the end of November. I think the last meeting was in Delhi.

Question: Sir, this point about 'we have to work our way through difficult issues' was made by the Chinese Prime Minister right in the beginning. It was part of the opening statement.

National Security Advisor: By both sides. It is agreed. I think we both feel we need to. But as I said, both took a larger, strategic view of the significance of the relationship, and the importance of good India-China relations and of working towards that goal, as we have done over several years in the past.

Question: But after the opening statements, forty-minute conversation is a long time, were these issues discussed in detail?

National Security Advisor: I just told you, they covered all the issues in the relationship.

Question: Sir, the stapled visas was a sensitive issue. What was the response of the Chinese on that?

National Security Advisor: I have told you, they both discussed the entire range of the relationship, all the issues in the relationship, and then they spoke about asking their officials and so on to prepare for the visit and to deal with each of these issues.

Question: So, everything will be decided by officials and during the visit.

National Security Advisor: No, what I am saying is that we will continue the process of engagement and continue to deal with the issues that concern each of us as we have done for several years and will continue to do.

Question: What was the significance of the meeting?

National Security Advisor: The significance of the meeting, as I told you is three things. (1) We had a high-level review where both sides reaffirmed their determination to carry this relationship forward along the positive track that we have maintained for several years; (2) that we will, during the 60th anniversary year of diplomatic relations, hope to have a very high-level visit from China as well. Premier Wen Jiabao himself said he hopes to come; (3) that they have given new impetus to the process which we have both between the SRs and between the officials of both countries to work our way through the issues and have given us a clear direction of how they want this handled.

Question: Did the Prime Minister raise the issue of trade imbalance? Secondly, will defence exchanges remain suspended?

National Security Advisor: Premier Wen Jiabao first said that we are very conscious of the trade imbalance and of the need to do something. He outlined some of the steps that the Chinese Government has taken to address this issue. As you know, we had a Joint Economic Group meeting. Commerce Ministers had met in the beginning of the year and they had taken several steps. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the fact that in the first nine months of the year we had achieved about 45 billion dollars worth of total two-way trade, and that we are on track to achieve the target of 60 billion dollars total two-way trade in 2010, which was the target which we had set in 2008. There is some diminution in the imbalance, but there is still an imbalance, and we will continue to work at those issues.

Question: What about defence exchanges?

National Security Advisor: On defence exchanges, we will continue to work the issue. As I said, some high-level defence exchanges for the present are paused.

Question: Sir, do you expect the visit of Mr. Zhou Yuo Kang's visit to be preparatory to that of Premier's?

National Security Advisor: We think it is a very important visit not only because he is such a senior Politburo Standing Committee Member, it is also a part of the party-to-party exchanges between the two countries. We are looking forward to that visit. They are holding a seminar on India-China relations. It will give us a chance to have a much freer, broader sort of exchange of views at a very high level with the Chinese side. And we are looking forward very much to that. He will also be calling on our state leaders.

Question: Was there any decision on both sides to avoid public statements that could create misunderstandings?

National Security Advisor: Do we ever make such statements? Never!

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



295. Keynote Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inaugural session of 2nd Seminar on India-China Relations organized by the Indian National Congress and Communist Party of China.

New Delhi, November 1, 2010.

Your Excellency Mr. Zhou Yongkang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo and Secretary of the Political and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China;

Mr. Wang Jiaarui, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Dr. Karan Singhji, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Cell, All India Congress Committee;

Distinguished delegates from the Communist Party of China;

Members of the Indian National Congress;

Dear Colleagues;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this 2nd Seminar on India-China Relations being organized jointly the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of China. I warmly welcome the Chinese delegation led by Mr Zhou Yongkang to India. I also take this opportunity to thank Dr Karan Singh for institutionalizing this forum of inter-change of ideas between the two political parties. I thank Dr Mridula Mukherji, Director of the Nehru Memorial Library and Museum for hosting the Seminar. Holding today's event in Teen Murti Bhawan has a special significance as it's most illustrious resident Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru worked tirelessly throughout his life for strengthening bilateral ties between our countries.

2. As I speak to you today on India-China Relations, at a time when the motor of the world's economic growth has shifted to Asia, I recall Pandit Nehru's vision of these relations. Panditji who had deep consciousness of the rich heritage of our cultural and civilizational interaction and our millennial ties envisioned that India and China would come together as a unified force. He expected our two countries to exemplify the idea he called "Asianism". His vision was for both nations to rediscover Asia's pride of place after years of living under colonial rule and domination by foreign powers.

3. Today both India and China are demonstrating remarkable economic growth and social development and playing an increasingly important role in world affairs. On this road which we have traversed, we have had trials and tribulations but what is encouraging is that today's post Cold-War world provides us the opportunity to work together to strengthen each other. There is deep realization in both China and India of the need to engage each other, and to cooperate rather than compete.

4. We cannot talk of India-China ties without seeing the reflection of history, and everyday new and more interesting evidence of age old relations are brought out by scholars. Our dear friend Tan Chung, who has contributed immensely to the development of India-China relations and understanding between the two countries, makes an astute observation quoting Reverend Daozuan, the prominent academic authority of the Tang Dynasty, that the term used to describe China by the Chinese people, that is Zhongguo (Chung Kuo) or Middle Kingdom, has been used in the past

in China to even describe India or Madhyadesa. Tan Chung makes an interesting point that in the voluminous Chinese Buddhist literature over nearly two thousand years, the term Zhongguo denotes not China but Madhyadesa, the Buddha's country- Magadha. No doubt such visceral ties have led many to say that India and China were 'Buddhist twins'.

5. These civilizational ties between our two countries were described very eloquently by another great son of our soil, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore who, when he arrived in China in 1942, said and I quote "I don't know why, as soon as I arrived in China, I felt as though I was returning to my native place. Maybe I was an Indian monk in a previous life, who stayed on a particular mountain, in a particular cave, enjoying freedom". Unquote. Gurudev instinctively sensed the grand harmony that has existed between India and China.

6. In the late 1940s, when we reached out to each other, India and China had a natural bonding and understood each other's aspirations in a way that nobody else could. Not surprisingly, the post-1945 order was reluctant to recognize the legitimate concerns and interests of these two nations. As a challenge, leaders of our two countries had the courage and the vision to chart their own course. The Panchasheela, or, the five principles of peaceful co-existence, was their unique contribution to contemporary diplomacy. This year when we are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic ties between India and China, we obviously seek to honour and uphold that tradition of working together. Our endeavour is to draw inspiration from those early years of our existence as independent nations to cooperate more closely in the future.

7. As rising powers, India and China are often projected to have a competitive relationship. In the final analysis, it is up to us to disprove such scenarios by concrete examples of cooperation. Certainly, there is a strong case for a global issues partnership between India and China as two large developing Asian economies. And we are working together on key challenges that will define the 21st century. However, unless we address some of the issues of bilateral concern, our relationship will not attain its true potential for building our common future in this Asian century. While we accept that there will be outstanding issues between two large countries,

we have to address on each other's concerns and exhibit sensitivities on issues impinging each other's security and well-being if we are to make our relationship forge ahead.

8. China is today the world's second largest economy. India is also marching relentlessly on the way towards economic well-being. Getting our growth strategy right in an ever-changing world has its own challenges. As Asian states, we recognize that our continent lags behind Europe and the Americas in terms of economic and infrastructural integration and security cooperation. If India and China work purposefully in this direction, the whole world stands to benefit. After all, between us we are raising the living standard of almost one-third of humanity. Given the magnitude of our development efforts, there is much that can be gained through our close cooperation as we do face similar challenges of urbanization, resource consumption, food and energy security, inclusive growth and skills development. We must ask ourselves whether as neighbours and partners, each of whom are large and rising economies, are we making the best of opportunities? Can we not leverage each others' strengths? Can we not be more sensitive to each other's concerns? I am of the strong view that the India-China relationship is grossly under-realized and the capacities for expansion are enormous.

9. A strong and stable relationship between India and China has consequences for the entire world. Because we are different, our divergences are often exaggerated, sadly sometimes by our own people. India and China must not just cooperate; they must be seen to be doing so by the rest of the world. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, often emphasizes that the world is large enough to accommodate the aspirations of both countries. But this is not an inevitable outcome. It is a goal that requires strong political will, sustained engagement and a high degree of mutual sensitivity. What can we do to make this cooperation stronger? I believe that we need to work on a wide variety of fronts as progress on one will reinforce the others.

10. At the political level we have to work closely to consolidate and strengthen our political partnership and understanding. We welcome Premier Wen Jiabao's proposed visit before the end of the year. He will

receive a warm welcome. The hotline between the two Prime Ministers will soon become operational. In addition I would suggest that Indian and Chinese leadership at all levels in the government and amongst political parties should meet frequently to boost trust and understanding. A number of dialogues and forums already exist between India and China that need to keep meeting regularly and productively. Regular meetings lead to better communication, more understanding and strengthen confidence. I would, therefore, strongly encourage an intensive and sustained engagement between the two systems.

11. Economics closely follows politics and here I would like to call upon business and industry leaders of both countries to deepen the engagement and stake in each other's economy. China is now India's largest trading partner in goods. Trade between our two countries this year is well on its way to achieve the US\$ 60 billion target set by the Prime Ministers of our countries. While both our GDPs are growing at a fast pace and so is bilateral trade, our inter-dependence is still insufficient towards building substantive stakes in each other. Our economic engagement needs to go well beyond trade in goods and investment. We hope China will provide Indian companies a level playing field particularly in the pharmaceutical and IT sectors where we face barriers which restrict market access.

12. Within the framework of our political and economic relations I would also make the case for enhanced cooperation in multipliers such as science and technology and energy which will enable us to leverage our cooperation to bring benefits to our peoples. Both China and India have obtained considerable skill in development of cost effective and innovative technologies. Our scientists and engineers need to engage more with each other in order to allow the diffusion of these technologies. Similarly, a whole new set of challenges confront us on the energy front, where the quest is not only to obtain affordable energy but also to check carbon emission. Climate change has indeed thrown at us a challenge which can only be countered by cooperation. Our cooperation within BASIC framework reveals some new directions in which we can work together.

13. Lastly but more importantly, I would emphasize the need to build people-to-people contacts. Our interactions during the ages along the Silk Route, which saw inter-exchange of goods and ideas, have led to our mutual enrichment. Sadly, as modern nations we seem to be lacking in emulating our ancestors. There is a need to comprehensively revolutionize this aspect of our relations through cultural exchanges, education, films, sports, cuisine and tourism.

14. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have attempted to spell out what I visualize is a recipe for strengthening the India - China relationship in order to build our common future in Asia. The destinies of India and China were linked in the past. The growth of our relationship will be determined by the extent of our awareness that they are linked in the future as well. Far from sliding into complacency, we must keep pushing the pace of the relationship with new ideas and more activity. The world is watching both India and China and what we do together will decide not only our destiny but the history of the world.

Thank you very much. Jai Hind.



296. Speech of Defence Minister A. K. Antony while presenting "K. Subrahmanyam" award to Dr. Srikant Kondapalli a scholar of Chinese studies.

New Delhi, November 11, 2010.

It is a real pleasure to be in your midst for the 45th Foundation Day of IDSA. I express my warm greetings to all of you on the occasion. Our gratitude is also due to Professor Kaushik Basu, a renowned economist, for delivering the Foundation Day address today. I hope that the ideas expressed in his address will generate greater interest among our scholars on various issues and also in using other disciplines in their research. His ideas are thought-provoking. They will be useful to all of us.

One problem plaguing our institutes, think-tanks and universities is that they often work within the narrow confines of their respective disciplines.

Real life problems, as complex as security and its various dimensions require a multi-disciplinary approach. It calls for a thorough understanding of a wide array of disciplines like Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Geography, History, Psychology and Natural Sciences. The security challenges of today are far more complex than at any time in the past. These challenges are both - global and local and nearly always, interlinked. Mankind needs to grasp facts clearly and understand issues in the proper perspective to facilitate better and quicker policy making. In this context, Indian think-tanks will have to discharge an important responsibility by way of rigorous policy research to support more-informed policy making.

I also take this opportunity to heartily congratulate Dr. Srikant Kondapalli for winning this year's K. Subrahmanyam Award. This is the fourth award in the series and its conferment recognizes Dr. Kondapalli's outstanding work on China, especially, its Armed Forces. We attach great importance to our relations with China. I hope that this award will provide impetus to other researchers to go in for more intensive research work on China. I also wish to compliment the winners of this year's President Awards for their noteworthy contributions in journals of repute. I wish to strongly urge the younger scholars of IDSA to draw inspiration from such researchers and excel in their fields of study.

I am told that for the third year in succession, IDSA has been ranked amongst Asia's top ten and the world's top fifty think-tanks. In fact, IDSA is the only think-tank from India to have been included in this list. That way it is a satisfactory thing. You should not be satisfied with the 10th rank. You must aim to become No. 1, if not No. 1, then No 2. Even at the recent Commonwealth Games, India stood at No 2. So, IDSA too should aim to become at least No. 2. Coupled with the rising popularity of the Institute's Visiting Scholars' Programme, this reflects its growing national and international stature.

Despite these satisfactory developments, we cannot afford to relax and be complacent. There is still a lot of hard work ahead for all of us, if we really want to fructify the vision of becoming a 'centre of excellence'. As I have said on earlier occasions, IDSA has to intensify its efforts to make the Institute's work more relevant and useful to the policy-makers. You must be able to foresee the future challenges the country faces. You must strive tirelessly to continuously improve the quality and quantity of research work.

IDSA scholars particularly need to increasingly tap the primary sources and field visits to add quality to your work. Original sources alone will provide new insights that are in touch with the ground reality. Last but not the least, research must not remain confined to being published in journals. You must make your research work more transparent and accessible to our policy makers, parliamentarians, the media, and to the general people. IDSA scholars need to reach out to as wide cross-section of the society, as possible. The ideas and findings need to be communicated in a substantial measure.

Let me share some thoughts on the issues that in my view the Institute needs to focus on. You must utilize the available human resources to turn the focus on key areas for deeper research, rather than scattering them on a large number of issues. You must focus only on key issues.

Among other things, your research work must factor in the rapidly changing geopolitical equations, geo-strategic developments and their implications for India's security. You must pay special, critical attention to the developments in our immediate neighbourhood and beyond.

Today, the security scenario is constantly evolving due to the changing nature of conflicts. You must focus your energy on the strategy and force structures needed to face these unconventional threats and asymmetric conflicts. There are other issues that merit attention like defence reforms focusing on jointness, acquisition, offsets, development of India's defence industrial base, terrorism, climate change and energy security. The challenge lies in producing original, high quality research studies with in a form that is useful for the policy makers.

Before I conclude, I wish to strongly emphasise the urgent need for high quality, analytical research work capable of anticipating threats, arriving at better-informed policy decisions and for defending India's vital security interests.

Five years from now, IDSA will be celebrating the 50th Foundation Day. You must set your sights on becoming not only the best in Asia, but also in the world by 2015. I assure you my full support to your endeavours and hope that you will take IDSA to even greater heights.



297. Media Report of the remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Russia-China-India trilateral meeting.

Wuhan (China), November 14, 2010.

Drawing a dramatic parallel between the territorial red lines of both countries, India told China that just as New Delhi had been sensitive to its concerns over the Tibet Autonomous Region and Taiwan, Beijing too should be mindful of Indian sensitivities on Jammu and Kashmir.

[The comparison - which is intended to drive home the depth of Indian concerns over recent Chinese attempts to question the country's sovereignty in Kashmir - was reportedly made by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in his meeting with China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Russia-India-China trilateral meeting.]

Briefing reporters about the meeting, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said the two Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations, which Mr. Yang described as being in "very good shape." As India-China relations grew, Mr. Krishna said, there was a need for both sides to be sensitive to each other's core concerns. "In that context," said Ms. Rao, "[the External Affairs Minister] spoke of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed the hope that China would be sensitive to J&K just as we have been to the Tibet Autonomous Region and Taiwan."

According to Ms. Rao, Mr. Yang said in response that China always believed the problem of Jammu and Kashmir could only be resolved through dialogue and negotiations between India and Pakistan and that there has been no change in its policy.

The Chinese Minister also said Beijing wanted to expand the political content of the relationship between the two countries. "He said both countries should see each other's growth as an opportunity and not a challenge."

[India has been objecting to the Chinese policy of issuing 'stapled' visas to Kashmiri-domicile Indian citizens. New Delhi suspended defence

exchanges with Beijing in August after an Indian general from Kashmir was denied a proper visa to travel to China on an official visit.]

On the question of a permanent seat for India on a reformed UN Security Council - a question Mr. Krishna raised in a general way without reference to President Barack Obama's recent announcement - Mr. Yang said he acknowledged there had been a fundamental change in the international situation and that consultations were needed on the question of UN reform. He added that China was willing to continue and increase its consultations with India and others on this question, a stand Ms. Rao described as "incrementally speaking, a positive development."

But she added: "To say that they have given full-scale endorsement would be inaccurate."

Also present at Mr. Krishna's meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister was Duan Yunlin, vice governor of Hubei province. Mr. Duan spoke of Hubei's economic relations with India and described his own involvement in promoting business links with Bangalore and Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Krishna said he hoped India-China bilateral trade would cross the target of \$ 60 billion but urged the Chinese side to do more to ensure a better balance.

(The above report is based on *the Hindu* story of November 15, 2010.)



298. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on "India-China relations" at Observer Research Foundation Conference on China.

New Delhi, December 3, 2010.

Ambassador Rasgotra,
Ambassador Raghunath,
Distinguished invitees,

Representatives of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year saw India and China celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. A couple of weeks from now Premier Wen Jiabao will be in India and will participate in the closing ceremony of the Festival of China in India which will bring to a close the calendar of activities organized in both China and India to commemorate this occasion. Sixty years is a short period of time in the relations of two countries whose ties date back many millennia. Ours has always been a broader engagement that took place between our peoples. Throughout history, scholars and pilgrims, traders and travellers, who "mortgaged their lives for pilgrimage" in the words of the renowned Chinese Indologist Ji Xianlin, engaged in a traffic of ideas between the two countries. The Buddhism that travelled from India to China was successfully Sinicised and survived in China as it found a place in the heart and soul of the people. It is in the context of our historical and popular relationship that we must always view and evaluate our contemporary relationship. Indeed, this was the vision that inspired Rabindranath Tagore during his sojourns in China in the early decades of the 20th Century.

2. The six decades of the India-China relationship behind us have record that is chequered. We became arbiters of our national destinies from the date of India's independence and China's liberation in the late forties of the last century, inspiring many others in Asia and Africa to independence and the fruition of national goals to end colonialism and foreign domination. This was the time when India and China in a sense, rediscovered each other, understanding the potential of the synergy between two of the largest populated nations in the world on the global

stage. The vision of our founding fathers is in many ways within our reach today as we regain our place in Asia and the world as leading global economies. The awareness and the "muffled footsteps" (to use Tagore's phrase) of historical contact between the two peoples of India and China created the basis for our well-intentioned attempt in the fifties to build a new type of relationship based on Panchasheela or the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It was an attempt which however faltered, telescoping into the troubled phase that enveloped our relationship in the sixties up until the mid seventies. The leadership in both our countries understood the untenability of any sustained estrangement between us. The last three decades have been marked by well-intentioned efforts of exploration towards establishing the framework of a stable, peaceful, productive, and multi-sectoral relationship between India and China. Contradictions are sought to be managed, and our differences have not prevented an expanding bilateral engagement and building on congruence. There are elements of cooperation and competition that form the warp and weft of our relationship. I propose to speak to you in some detail about the specifics of this engagement.

3. There are both challenges that the relationship confronts us with and also there are opportunities before it. As our Prime Minister has said, India and China will continue to grow, simultaneously, and our policies will have to cater to this emerging reality. For India, the situation is complex since China is not only our largest neighbour but also because China is today a major power in the world both from the traditional geopolitical point of view and 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 to see that scholarship in India is increasingly dedicated to looking more closely at all facets of China. As a nation, we should encourage more efforts to accelerate this intellectual drive to understand China.**

4. I personally have had an almost three decades-old relationship with China, both in our Foreign Office while handling relations with China and thereafter when I was privileged to represent my country as India's Ambassador to China. In this period, I have witnessed the transformation

that economic growth and development have helped to achieve in both countries. I made my first trip to China in the company of an Indian film delegation in the spring of 1986. We travelled to Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou. City streets swarmed with people on bicycles, and we flew in to the various places on our itinerary within China in planes that seemed ancient compared to what we had in India. There were no luxury hotels worth speaking of although economic reform had become the buzz-word. The countryside had begun to be magnetized by town and village enterprises which were elevating living standards among farmers and peasants. The trip had receded into the recesses of my memory until I saw a photograph in a recent publication of China Radio International which showed two young women - the actor Shabana Azmi and myself - standing outside a palace in the Forbidden City on a rather blustery spring day in 1986! That first trip was followed by many more, the most significant such visit being when I was a member of the official delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988. That visit made a historic and crucially important contribution to the transformation of the India-China relationship.

5. 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 GDP of roughly USD 5.5 trillion. Its people, particularly the youth, seem focused on improving their living standards in the quest for a prosperous future, and politics does not define their everyday. **China has begun to deal in the currency of global power, and its economic success is impacting its foreign, defence and security policies.** The appellation of assertiveness is frequently applied to China's profile in global affairs today. The question that I am always asked is whether our relationship with China will be one dominated by increasing competition for influence and for resources as our economic needs grow. I believe that neither of us has the luxury of seeing each other in antagonistic terms. The view that India and China are rivals to me is an over-generalization as well as over-simplification of a complex relationship which encompasses so many diverse issues. **I believe the proposition of competition and rivalry should not be**

exaggerated in a manner that it overshadows our genuine attempts to manage and transact a rationally determined relationship between India and China. The reality is that India and China 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.

6. It is true that divergences persist. There is no denying the fact that we have a disputed border. **There are legacies as well as lessons bequeathed to us by history. This is a complex problem and the cartographies that define national identity are internalized in the minds of people in both countries. At the same time we are making a serious attempt at trying to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question as the recent fourteenth round of the Special Representatives talks will testify.** The absence of a solution to the question is not due to lack of efforts but arises from the difficulty of the question, as any analyst in the audience can well appreciate.

7. **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 a well organized set of measures or what we call confidence building measures or CBMs to ensure peace and tranquility on the border.** We are currently talking to each other on establishing more such mechanisms. There is maturity on both sides to understand the complexity of the issue and to insulate it from affecting our broader relationship. This policy on both sides I think has paid dividends and has contributed towards reducing the possibility of conflict. The dividend from this policy can be seen in other areas of our relationship.

8. Another issue of concern is the management of trans-border rivers. Many of the rivers nourishing the plains of Northern India and also areas in North-east India arise in the highlands of the Tibetan Autonomous Region and are a source of livelihood and sustenance for millions of our people. We are alert to reports of China damming trans-border rivers and have sought assurances from China that it will take no action to negatively affect the flow of the rivers into India, and so that our rights as the lower riparian are not adversely affected. China has assured us that the projects on the Brahmaputra are run-of-the-river projects and

are not meant for storing or diverting water. We look forward to working closely with China in this critical area of environmental and livelihood security.

9. There is then the question of the China-Pakistan relationship. India firmly believes that a stable and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest, and we are not against Pakistan's relations with other countries. While I agree that relationships between countries are not zero-sum games, we do not hesitate to stress our genuine concerns regarding some aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship particularly when it comes to China's role in POK, China's J&K policy and the Sino-Pak security and nuclear relationship. The need for mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns cannot be denied. The issue of giving stapled visas to Indian nationals from the state of Jammu and Kashmir arises in a similar context. **We believe that the India-China relationship will grow even stronger as China shows more sensitivity on core issues that impinge on our sovereignty and territorial integrity. We hope this can be realized.**

10. Our trade with China is growing faster than that with any other country and China is our largest trading partner in goods with trade likely to exceed US\$ 60 billion this year. There is also serious discussion between the two countries on correcting the trade imbalance and we would like to see more Indian goods and services entering the Chinese market. Many Chinese companies are now well established in India and many Indian companies are also opening up in China. We in India have also worked to resolve hurdles that have sometimes been faced by Chinese companies to ensure a level playing field for all foreign investors. We also expect similar access to Chinese markets especially in the area of pharmaceuticals, IT, engineering goods, where our companies have often faced non-tariff and opaque barriers. Our bilateral investment relationship is also steadily growing. India is one of China's largest markets for project contracting. India needs an investment of US \$ 1 trillion during the next Five-Year Plan period in infrastructure. China is well positioned to participate in this process.

11. The results of our policy of engagement are manifest in many areas and are not limited to bilateral trade and investment alone. Over 7,000

Indian students study in China, and the CBSE is set to introduce Chinese in the curriculum of schools from the next academic session. India and China cooperate in multilateral forums and on global issues. We have established a practice of regular leadership visits and meetings that has resulted in high level political understanding and impetus for the relationship. This now sets the stage for us to actively consider together the next steps in the evolution of our bilateral relations; evolve a detailed framework for the resolution of the boundary issue in a manner that is politically feasible for both countries; and, seize the opportunities for cooperation that the domestic transformations of our economies and the evolving global situation have opened up. There is also an information gap that keeps our peoples from understanding each other better and which we need to bridge by concerted public diplomacy from both sides. There is much work to be done to improve perceptions within the media in both countries. Larger numbers of tourists need to be encouraged as also students and teachers.

12. The global trend towards multi-polarity and a more even distribution of power has been accelerated by the recent global economic crisis. While the immediate financial aspects of the crisis may have been addressed, its structural causes in terms of global imbalances remain unsolved. This provides an opportunity to India and China to work together on global issues. Our participation and consultations within the G-20 have shown the way in this regard. Similarly, we have partnered well in BASIC (for the climate change negotiations), and in the BRIC grouping of Brazil, India, Russia and China. We hope such cooperation will also be strengthened on the important issue of UN Reform and that we will be able to build common ground on the issue relating to the expansion of the Security Council and India's interest in permanent membership. The two countries share common positions and approaches on several major international issues of long-term significance such as the environment and climate change, energy security, food security, reform of the global financial institutions, etc. In the immediate region in which both countries are located, Asia, as well, there is common ground between India and China on combating terrorism and extremism, enhancing maritime security, and on the need for a peaceful environment to permit the domestic economic growth and development of the two countries. **An open, balanced and**

inclusive architecture to enable a transparent dialogue on these issues that concern security and stability in Asia is in the interest of both our countries.

13. As India and China continue to pursue their interests, and so long as their overwhelming preoccupation remains their domestic transformation, and both understand that this goal requires a peaceful periphery, **it is my firm conviction that the elements of competition in the bilateral relationship can be managed and the elements of congruence can be built upon.** As our interests get progressively more complex, the costs of any withdrawal from engagement will rise. **I believe this is a big relationship with the clear possibility of an ambitious agenda of mutual engagement that will be one of the most important bilateral equations of our new century.** It is in our interest to view it in a more wide-angled and high definition manner than ever before.

(Emphasis as in the original)



299. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of Chinese Premier.

New Delhi, December 13, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening. My colleague Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia), and I would like to brief you about the very important state visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, who arrives at New Delhi on the 15th of December and would be here till the 17th of December.

This would be Premier Wen Jiabao's second state visit to India. He is accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi; Minister of Culture Cai Wu; Minister for Transport Li Shenglin; Minister for Policy Planning and State Council Xie Wuzhan; Vice-Ministers; senior officials; and a large business delegation.

During the delegation-level talks the Prime Minister of India would be assisted by the Finance Minister, our External Affairs Minister Sh. S. M. Krishna, Minister of Human Resource Development, Commerce and Industry Minister, Minister for Water Resources, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Principal Secretary to PM, National Security Advisor, Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao, our Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. Gautam Bambawale, and other senior officials.

Let me briefly take you through the programme. Premier Wen arrives, on 15th at New Delhi. In the second half of the day he would visit the Tagore International School. On Thursday, 16th December, there will be the ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. EAM would call on him. Next there would be delegation-level talks and signing of agreements. The Prime Minister will be hosting a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.

Premier Wen would be making a very important address at the Indian Council for World Affairs at Sapru House on India-China Relations. This address would be at 1530 hours. Thereafter, Premier Wen will be calling on the Vice-President. He would have a meeting with Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. In the evening, he would attend the closing event of Chinese Festival in India to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations.

On Friday the 17th, Leader of Opposition would call on him and thereafter he will be departing from New Delhi.

I mentioned that this is Premier Wen's second state visit to India. He was last here in April 2005 when both sides decided to elevate our relationship to the level of strategic and cooperative partnership. Premier Wen and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh have been meeting regularly including on the sidelines of the international fora. They last met in October this year in Hanoi during the East Asia Summit.

China is our largest neighbor. We share a 4000 km long boundary with China. We also enjoy civilisational links which date back to over 1600 years. Over the years our relationship has evolved, has grown, has matured, and it has become truly multifaceted. There is consensus across the political spectrum in India for cooperative and cordial ties with the People's Republic of China. There has been high-level attention given to the relationship. We have regular high-level contacts which has enhanced mutual convergences.

Both sides have celebrated the 60th anniversary year of establishment of diplomatic relations, which falls this year, in a befitting manner. We have seen a qualitative high in our exchanges and bilateral events.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna paid an official visit in April this year to China where he held broad-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of our ties with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi. EAM also called on Premier Wen Jiabao. He also flagged off the Festival of India in China. On the other hand, the Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee visited New Delhi on the 20th of April this year to flag off the Chinese Festival in India.

As I said, this year has seen unprecedented high-level exchanges. You would recall the state visit of Rasthrapatiji to China in May this year. She was received with great warmth and courtesies and she had very good meetings with the Chinese leadership including with President Hu, NPC Chairman Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen. She also dedicated the Indian style Buddhist temple at Luoyang, Henan to India-China friendship. This temple has been built by India and is a proud symbol of the enduring cultural relationship, friendship between our two countries.

China has since evinced interest in playing a role in the revival and rejuvenation of the ancient seat of learning, the Nalanda University. We welcome Chinese interest in the matter. Politburo Standing Committee Member Zhou Yangkang paid a very successful visit to India in October-November this year as a part of party-to-party exchanges. During his visit he met Prime Minister and also Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi amongst other leaders.

Foreign Secretary was in Beijing on the 16th of November for the Strategic Dialogue. The National Security Advisor had visited Beijing for the 14th round of the SR talks on the 29th and 30th of November. I would like to underline here that both sides are committed, as per the Guiding Principles and Political Parameters that were agreed to during the state visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005, to find a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question.

This year of engagement will culminate in the very important visit of Premier Wen Jiabao. A substantial and broad-based agenda of cooperation awaits him. The canvas of our cooperation is already quite broad and includes

areas like trade, investment, science and technology, energy, tourism, culture, people-to-people, youth and media exchanges.

The economic ties constitute literally the bedrock of our relations and we expect that China would emerge as the single largest trading partner of India in goods during 2010 when bilateral trade could touch US\$ 60 billion. Our trade was around US\$ 43 billion last year, and we should see a spectacular increase during this year. Both sides are keen to further enhance trade ties and are looking at new initiatives in that direction. In January, CIM had visited Beijing for the 8th meeting of India-China Joint Economic Group. At the same time, we are in touch with our Chinese friends on the issue of the growing trade imbalance between the two countries and working towards obtaining better access for products like IT services, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products in which we are quite competitive.

A number of Indian private sector companies have already made investments in China. More investments are on the way. By the same token we would like to invite more Chinese investments particularly in the manufacturing sector. We would also like to see greater Chinese cooperation in the development of infrastructure in India. Government is planning to invest US\$ 1 trillion in development of infrastructure during the 12th Five-Year Plan period from 2012 to 2017. India would welcome a bigger role by Chinese companies in infrastructure projects particularly in areas like highways, power sector, metros, and so on.

As important is to boost people-to-people exchanges so that we have a better appreciation of each other's outlook, a better understanding of each other's strengths and potentials. One of the important initiatives that will be unveiled is to commence teaching of Chinese in middle schools in India, beginning the academic year that commences in April 2011. The Chinese side have welcomed this initiative and have offered to extend any assistance that we may require.

Already a large number of Indian students are studying in China, basically studying medicine, and also a large number of Chinese students are studying IT services, and management in India. But we would like to enhance the people-to-people exchanges, we would like to see more exchanges amongst youth, media, tourists and artistes. 2010 also saw the

largest number of Indian pilgrims visiting China for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

We have a similarity of views on a number of international issues of mutual interest, be it climate change or the Doha Round of trade talks. We regularly consult each other in important international fora like G20, BRIC, IRC (India, Russia, China) and also SCO. The 10th IRC Ministerial Meeting was held in Wuhan, China last month which was attended by our EAM. The next BRIC Summit will take place in China next year.

A number of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding are likely to be concluded, during the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao. We also expect a Joint Communiqué to be issued.

In sum, a warm welcome, a red carpet welcome, awaits Premier Wen. Both sides will be holding wide-ranging discussions on the entire array of matters - bilateral, global, regional of mutual interest. His visit is expected to give a further impetus to the multifaceted relationship between our two countries.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: Sir, when you say both countries have to strengthen the ties, it has to include the subject of terrorism as well. China has a greater influence on Pakistan. So, have we ever tried to put pressure on China or rather request China to take it up with Pakistan and put pressure on them to act against the perpetrators of Mumbai attack? Are we going to pursue this case? Are we going to raise it with China this time? Coming in the series of the most important visits like that of David Cameron, Barack Obama, German Chancellor Merkel, everyone named Pakistan and said that they should act against terror. Keeping in mind the Chinese influence in Pakistan, are we going to raise it?

Official Spokesperson: I think that is a very important question. Let me say that our concerns on terrorism which emanate from our neighbourhood are very well-known. We are engaged with Pakistan. You are aware of the last meeting that was held between the two Prime Ministers at Thimphu. Thereafter the External Affairs Minister has visited Islamabad. The Home Minister has visited Islamabad. We have been calling upon Pakistan to dismantle the terror infrastructure. At the same time we are engaged with

our international interlocutors, our friends for the simple reason that terrorism is a common concern for the mankind. Terrorism does not recognize any boundaries and there are very strong growing inter-linkages amongst terror groups. Between China and India we have a strategic and cooperative partnership. And on this very important issue of terrorism we are certainly engaged with all our interlocutors including China.

Question: We understand that there has been some movement forward on the stapled visa issue. Do you think that that issue can be resolved on this particular visit, or it is a work in progress that will take some time?

Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): Definitely that is an issue which we have raised with the Chinese side over the last many months. We do hope that the Chinese side will address this issue. Whether that will happen today or tomorrow or during the visit or after the visit, I really cannot predict. But let me also say that I am confident that the two Prime Ministers will talk to each other about all issues which are important to both countries.

Question: Mr. Prakash, you mentioned that economic ties are the bedrock of this relationship, and you also mentioned that certain agreements are expected to be signed. What are some of those?

Official Spokesperson: We do expect to conclude a number of important agreements in a number of sectors. The discussions are on. Generally, as you are aware, during these visits discussions continue till the last minute. We will be very happy, as usual, to share the details of the agreements once they are concluded.

Question: Which areas do they concern?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Let me actually point to the fact that Premier Wen Jiabao is coming with a huge economic delegation, with a huge business delegation - and I think many of you have already reported on that - and there is going to be an interaction between Indian businessmen and women and Chinese businessmen and women. It will probably take place on the 15th under the aegis of our major Chambers of Commerce and Industry. So, I think I would refer you to them - to CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM - on the question of what agreements will be signed. I think I can leave a hint that this particular visit by Premier Wen Jiabao will see

India and China cooperating closer in the financial sector especially in the area of banking.

Question: This is the largest ever delegation of Chinese businessmen or economic delegations to come to India. And also the Chinese Ambassador here said this morning at FICCI that ...(Inaudible)... on a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries to be launched. Are we going to see that? The Chinese Ambassador also said at the FICCI event that there are ten banks in China and none here. So, is that what you are referring to?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Let me start with your last question first and let me say that I am really impressed by the competitiveness and the adventure that Indian banks have shown in opening up in China. We definitely look forward to seeing more Chinese banks open up in India also.

Question: Are there any at the moment?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): No, at the moment there are not any Chinese banks operating.

Question: And there are ten Indian banks there?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): There are ten Indian banks operating in China, but operating at different levels because, as you probably know, you first have to open up a representative office in China and then there are certain conditionalities that you have to meet before you can upgrade into a branch or branch operations, and even those branch operations are permitted only in foreign currency assets. You have to meet some more requirements before you are able to upgrade your banking operations to be able to do so in Chinese currency, Yuan. So, there are ten Indian banks there but not all of them are branches. Some of them are still at the rep office stage.

Question: Are the issues related to visas for Chinese businessmen coming here and Indian businessmen going there resolved or not?

Official Spokesperson: When we are talking of greater people-to-people exchanges, when you see trade growing at a brisk pace, you see more tourism, more travel for project work and so on, it obviously stems from an environment which facilitates this movement. Visa is a matter which receives

constant attention and we are regularly taking steps to streamline the process of issue of visas. Obviously we have to be sensitive to different aspects. But keeping those in view we are steadily moving in the direction of streamlining visas.

Question: Sir, you have not answered the question on the largest delegation of businessmen that is coming.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think this is one of the largest delegations of Chinese businessmen who have accompanied their Prime Minister to India. Definitely the numbers have been growing over the few days. We first were informed that there would be about 200 Chinese business people. We are now told that there will be 400 Chinese business people. Obviously the growth of the Indian market does hold significance for Chinese businesses especially when they look around the world and look for increased profits and growth. So, obviously this is an important area of cooperation between India and China.

Question: The Chinese Envoy to New Delhi described bilateral relations this morning as very fragile, very easily damaged and not easily repaired. I wonder whether you share his assessment and how you interpret his remarks two days before the Premier arrives.

Official Spokesperson: Let me reiterate that we see this relationship as very important. I mentioned that there is the broadest consensus across the political spectrum in India for cordial and cooperative relations with China. We have a strategic and cooperative partnership. I have enumerated a number of areas where we have growing convergences. At the same time there are divergences which are natural in any relationship. But there is a maturity, there is a confidence, and there is a mechanism to address the divergences without them impacting the convergences in any way.

Question: You said that you have taken up the issue of stapled visas many a time over the past several months. What had the Chinese told? Why it has defied resolution despite our growing relationship in other areas? Secondly, Chinese Premier comes soon after American President and the French President both of whom declared support for India's bid for Security Council as well as NSG. Are we expecting similar announcements by the Chinese Premier?

Official Spokesperson: On the issue of stapled visas my colleague has just mentioned that our concerns in the matter have been very clearly articulated and our Chinese friends are very conscious of our concerns. Secondly, when it comes to India's membership of the UN Security Council, China had supported our candidature for the non-permanent seat for UNSC and you are aware that India was elected with the largest number of votes. We are certainly in touch with all our friends, our interlocutors on the question of the permanent seat in the UN Security Council for India. China has said, and it is on record, that they understand India's aspirations to play a larger role in international affairs including in the UN.

Question: Is there any progress on the border negotiations? What can you expect at this meeting?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think at every round of discussions either between the Prime Ministers or between the Special Representatives of the Prime Ministers of India and China there is progress in our understanding of each other's positions. I assume that this issue will also be discussed between the two Prime Ministers because it is of importance to both countries. I am afraid I cannot really prejudge what the outcome of their discussions would be.

Question: Mr. Prakash, in the past also India has expressed its concern over a couple of issues like the Chinese development projects in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and also Chinese nuclear aid to Pakistan. Will these two issues feature in the bilateral talks? Or will they in some way be taken up with the Chinese?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think we covered that when we said that all issues which are of importance to each side will be discussed at this meeting.

Question: After the whole visa row and a senior army officer having been denied visa in the past, military exchanges were stopped between the two countries. Will there be a change in that stand?

Official Spokesperson: Let me again reiterate what I have mentioned about this relationship. This is a very important relationship; this is a multifaceted relationship; and both sides are constantly endeavouring to enhance the convergences. As far as the defence cooperation is concerned,

for reasons that you are aware it has been paused at the moment. That is what the status is.

Question: The fact that the Chinese Premier will be going to Pakistan from here, a practice that is discontinued by a lot of leaders these days, does it bother us?

Official Spokesperson: It is the prerogative of the visiting dignitary to decide where he wants to travel. We have nothing to say in the matter.

Question: Premier Wen's visit is coming soon after India's stand in Oslo attending the Nobel Prize meeting. ... (Inaudible)... atmosphere before the visit? If a specified stand had been taken just before his visit, some critics have written, it would have helped India to raise the tempo for the visit.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): As far as the Government of India is concerned, we did not see any linkage between attendance at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo and India-China bilateral relations. So, we did not see a connect between the two. Therefore, our Ambassador in Oslo attended the ceremony.

Official Spokesperson: Absolutely. I may just say that this has always been the practice. For the Nobel ceremony it has been the practice for our Ambassador to represent India because we are invited. So, there is nothing new in this. And certainly there is no bilateral connection whatsoever.

Question: FTA or RTA, is there any possibility that the negotiations will be kicked off during the bilateral meeting with Wen Jiabao?

Official Spokesperson: Our trade and economic relations constitute one of the bedrocks of our ties. I also made a pointed mention to the fact that this year China should emerge as our single largest trading partner in goods, that we think that there is still more untapped potential and we are looking at new initiatives to further tap the potential, enhance our trade and economic relations. So, this is work in progress. The idea is to build on convergences, idea is to enhance economic and trade linkages. And both sides are in close touch with each other. We are regularly looking at initiatives to boost trade while checking the trade imbalances that are creeping in. So, all these matters are constantly on the radar screen.

Question: Mrs. Nirupama Rao in her speech to the ORF on December 3, had mentioned that there were some more CBMs in the works, and the border with China being the most peaceful thanks to 1993 and 1995 agreements. But she indicated that there were some more CBMs in the works. So, could you share with us what those CBMs are? If not, are we likely to see any announcements during this visit?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Even the introduction of Chinese in our middle schools, which was mentioned by Joint Secretary (External Publicity), at least we visualize that as a measure which will increase trust and understanding between India and China. In fact, we also look upon this as a step for preparing the younger generation of India for the world which is coming at us in the coming years and coming decades. Obviously Chinese language is going to be important. I would in fact even term this step as a confidence building measure between our two countries. I do not know if that was what the Foreign Secretary had in mind but I look at it this way.

Question: She was talking about CBMs specific to the boundary.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I have nothing else to add to that.

Official Spokesperson: CBMs with reference to the boundary is something that both sides are looking at regularly. Let us also take note of the fact that the India-China boundary has been one of the most peaceful boundaries anywhere in the world ever since 1993. So, we already have mechanisms in place, and we are in regular touch with each other to ensure that peace and tranquility prevails on the boundary as the two sides go about addressing the boundary question through the mechanism of SR talks.

Question: Regarding the permanent membership for India in the UNSC, the last we heard was in 2008 January, the Joint Statement said it. After that we have not heard any public reiteration of that Chinese position. Are you expecting a reiteration of what they said in 2008, or are you expecting an upgrade from there?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, we are certainly in touch with our Chinese friends on this very important matter for us. We believe that we have impeccable credentials to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Also a Joint Communique is likely to be issued which will give you

a feel for all aspects that have been discussed and agreed upon between the two countries during the visit.

Question: Vishnu, you are hopeful that means.

Official Spokesperson: I have said exactly what I have said, nothing more, nothing less.

Question: Will discussions on China's currency feature during the discussions this week? If so, is India ... (Inaudible)... scope the US position of restructuring the currency?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Issues of trade, and definitely the imbalance of trade between India and China will be discussed and are likely to be discussed between the two Prime Ministers, and the other dignitaries that the Chinese Prime Minister will be meeting during his stay here in India.

Official Spokesperson: I mentioned that during the visit we will be discussing all matters which are of mutual and bilateral interest, regional and global interest. After the visit the Joint Communiqué will be issued which will give a flavor of all that was discussed.

Question: Since you are going to give a very standard answer, my question is to Gautam. The presence of the Water Resources in our Delegation, is it an indication that we will be taking them to Brahmaputra and other issues very vigorously with the Chinese side?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I do not know if I am going to give an answer which is not the standard answer. Whether it comes from the JS(XP) or myself, I think you will get the same answer. The answer is that all issues which are important to each country will be discussed.

Question: Since the troop deployment on both sides across the border is increasing, is there any increasing threat perception from the Indian side?

Official Spokesperson: I thought I have just mentioned that this is a boundary which is peaceful and tranquil, and that we have enough mechanisms in place to discuss any aspect that needs to be discussed to maintain the peace and tranquility along the boundary.

Thank you.



300. Opening remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the delegation level talks with Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010

It gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to you and the distinguished members of your delegation to India.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you and the people of China for successfully organizing the 'Shanghai Expo' as well as the Asian Games this year. We were touched by Your Excellency's gesture of visiting the India Pavilion when you visited the Expo for its closing ceremony.

Excellency, this is your second visit to India, and I have no doubt that it will impart new impetus to our relationship and advance our cooperation in new areas. Your visit marks the culmination of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. Earlier this year, the President of India paid a very successful visit to China.

Since 2005, our two countries have maintained an intensive high-level dialogue. Apart from my own bilateral visit to China in 2008, I have met Your Excellency and His Excellency President Hu Jintao close to twenty times in the last five years. This shows the intensity of our interactions.

Since your last visit in 2005, both our countries as well as the international situation has witnessed many changes. The rapid socio-economic transformation of India and China has opened up new opportunities to progress our relations across all fields. A strong partnership between India and China will contribute to long-term peace, stability, prosperity and development in Asia and the world.



301. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Indian Council of World Affairs welcoming the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

Your Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao,

Ambassador Sudhir Devare, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs,

Distinguished members of the Chinese delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It gives me immense pleasure to add to the words of welcome* which Ambassador Devare just spoke.

We are privileged to have as our guest Premier Wen Jiabao deliver a major address. His visit to India symbolizes the rendezvous between 1.3 billion Chinese people and 1.1 billion Indians. It will set the terms of engagement between the two fastest growing economies in the world. It embodies the determination of the leaders of the largest Asian nations and contiguous neighbours to forge stronger political trust, maturely address differences and build global partnership. Little wonder, therefore, that interest in Premier Wen's visit is not limited to our two countries. How India and China interact with each other, and jointly with the rest of the world, is a topic of immense contemporary importance.

Very few people can speak about India-China relations as authoritatively and as comprehensively as Premier Wen. As Head of the Government of China for nearly eight years, he has presided over a period of unprecedented intensification of bilateral ties, personally steering our relations from strength to strength. It was during his previous visit in April 2005 that India and China established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. Many of the initiatives and much of the progress in our relations benefited from the wisdom and sagacity

* The meeting was organized for the visiting Chinese Premier to address the Indian Council of World Affairs.

of Premier Wen and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, and their shared vision of partnership.

The relationship that our leaders have envisaged for India and China is multi-dimensional. It encompasses vigorous political exchanges, wide-ranging government-level dialogues and consultations, across-the-board functional cooperation, mutually beneficial economic and commercial engagement, widespread people-to-people intercourse and strategic cooperation in regional and multilateral initiatives. As countries availing of historic opportunities for economic and social development, India and China see no contradiction in each other's rise. We increasingly realize that it is important to leverage each other's growth and development for our own prosperity and progress. As inheritors of ancient civilizations, the modern nation-states of India and China have the maturity and wisdom to deal with any differences through dialogue and diplomacy. Both of us have an abiding commitment to the Panchsheel principles that we jointly initiated, and realize the importance of mutual sensitivity to each other's core concerns and interests. Therefore, I am confident that we will jointly write an even brighter chapter in our history in the years ahead, with both assuming rightful place in the comity of nations.

As Vice President of the Indian Council of World Affairs, I am delighted that Premier Wen has set aside time in his busy schedule to reach out to scholars, media and the general public of India through his address at this Institute. As someone witness to the meeting between our two leaders this morning, I can say that he shares our own optimism about the strength and potential of India-China relations. I am as eager as all of you to listen to Premier Wen's lofty vision for our partnership and his prescription for attaining that.

With these words, ladies and gentlemen, I invite His Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, to address this audience.



302. Joint Communiqué issued during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

1. At the invitation of H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, is on a State visit to the Republic of India from 15 to 17 December 2010. Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and will call on Smt. Pratibha Patil, President of India. Leaders of the two countries had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest in a sincere and friendly atmosphere and reached broad consensus.

2. The two sides agreed that as the two largest developing countries in the world, India and China shoulder important and historical responsibilities of ensuring their comprehensive and sustainable economic and social development. They also make a vital contribution to advancing peace and development in Asia and in the world at large. India-China relations go beyond their bilateral scope and have acquired global and strategic significance.

3. The two sides welcome each other's peaceful development and regard it as a mutually reinforcing process. They believe that their growing relationship offers increasing opportunities to advance their cooperation. There is enough space in the world for the development of both India and China and indeed, enough areas for India and China to cooperate.

4. The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the comprehensive and rapid progress of India-China relations in the last ten years, and reaffirmed their commitment to abiding by the basic principles and consensus concerning the development of India-China relations set out in the Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China in 2003, the Joint Statement of India and China in 2005, the India-China Joint Declaration of 2006 and A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of India and China of 2008. The two sides decided to enhance strategic communication, advance functional cooperation, broaden cultural exchanges, and deepen and enrich the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity on the basis of the Five

Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, mutual respect and sensitivity for each other's concerns and aspirations.

5. Reflecting this partnership, the two sides decided to establish the mechanism of regular exchange of visits between Heads of State/ Government. They welcomed the opening of the telephone hotline between the Prime Minister of India and Chinese Premier and agreed on regular consultations between the two leaders on issues of importance to both countries. They also agreed to establish the mechanism of annual exchange of visits between the two Foreign Ministers.

6. While expressing satisfaction at the growing quantum of bilateral trade and investment ties, the two sides agreed to further broad base and balance trade and economic cooperation, and identify new opportunities to realize the vast potential for future growth. Towards this objective, the two sides:

- a) Positively viewed the growing opportunities in the economic relationship and agreed to establish a Strategic Economic Dialogue to enhance macro-economic policy coordination, to promote exchanges and interactions and join hands to address issues and challenges appearing in the economic development and enhance economic cooperation.
- b) Set a new bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2015. The two sides agreed to take measures to promote greater Indian exports to China with a view to reduce India's trade deficit. This includes support for Indian participation in China's national and regional trade fairs, advancing of trade facilitation, enhancing exchange and cooperation of pharmaceutical supervision, stronger relationships between Chinese enterprises and Indian IT industry and speedier completion of phyto-sanitary negotiations on agro products.
- c) Agreed to expand cooperation in infrastructure, environmental protection, information technology, tele-communications, investment and finance on a priority basis to draw on each other's strengths and pursue mutual benefit and win-win results. India welcomed Chinese enterprises to invest and participate in India's infrastructure

development such as in roads, railways and in the manufacturing sector. The two sides agreed to encourage greater mutual investment and project contracting cooperation between businesses of the two countries, appropriately handle economic and trade frictions and differences and jointly oppose protectionism in all forms. They constituted an India-China CEO's Forum to deliberate on business issues and make recommendations on expansion of trade and investment cooperation.

- d) Concluded a Memorandum of Understanding between the Reserve Bank of India and China Banking Regulatory Commission to increase banking and financial cooperation. India and China also agreed to grant permission to the banks of the other country to open branches and representative offices. Modalities will be worked out by the concerned authorities.

7. Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the celebration activities of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China in 2010. The two sides declared 2011 as the "Year of India-China Exchange". The two sides further decided to encourage greater exchanges between the civil society organizations, youth, media, scholars, think-tanks, artists and cultural personalities. The two sides agreed to continue youth exchange activities in the next five years. China will invite 500 Indian youth from various fields to visit China within the year 2011. Memorandum of Understanding on Media Exchanges as well as the Programme of Cultural Exchanges between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of India for the year 2010-2012 were signed. Both sides agreed to discuss compiling an encyclopedia on India-China cultural contacts.

8. Both sides recognized the importance of educational exchanges, including promoting wider knowledge of each other's languages. In this context, the Chinese side welcomed the decision by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) of India to introduce Chinese as a foreign language in the curriculum of schools in India from the next academic session (April 2011). China will offer support for training Chinese language

teachers and providing Chinese language training materials. The two sides declared the establishment of the India-China Outstanding College Students Exchange Programme and would work out the modalities of the Programme through consultations. To facilitate and strengthen intercollegiate and student exchanges, the two countries agreed to consider the finalization of an agreement on mutual recognition of degrees and diplomas.

9. The two sides noted the good cooperation between China and India in the field of trans-border rivers. The Indian side appreciated the flood-season hydrological data and the assistance in emergency management provided by the Chinese side. The two sides reiterated that they will promote and enhance cooperation in this field.

10. The two sides reiterated their firm commitment to resolving outstanding differences including the boundary question at an early date through peaceful negotiations. They reiterated that resolution of the boundary question is one of the ten-pronged strategies agreed by leaders of the two countries. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the Boundary Question agreed in 2005 and the process of negotiations being undertaken by the Special Representatives and resolved to actively seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution from the political and strategic perspective. Pending the resolution of the boundary question, the two sides shall work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas in line with the previous agreements.

11. Both countries called for continued international adherence to the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol including that of "common but differentiated responsibilities". Both sides also appreciated the joint efforts of India and China in the international negotiations towards arriving at fair and balanced climate agreements with the aim of further enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol according to the mandate of Bali Roadmap. Both sides appreciated bilateral cooperation in the area of mitigating and adapting to climate change and agreed to strengthen such cooperation. They welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries on Cooperation

in Green Technologies. China appreciated India's hosting the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Bio-diversity Convention in 2012.

12. Both sides underlined their unequivocal opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there is no justification for any act of terrorism anywhere. They committed themselves to countering terrorism through joint efforts that include disrupting the financing of terrorism. They also recognized the need to implement all relevant UN resolutions, in particular UNSC resolution 1267, 1373, 1540 and 1624.

13. India and China, being each other's neighbour, have a shared interest in the stability, prosperity and security of the wider region. They agreed to intensify their dialogue on various aspects pertaining to this region and work together on realizing their common goals. The two sides believed that as members of the Asian family, stronger neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between India and China help foster a peaceful and stable regional environment that promotes equality, mutual trust and mutual respect. India and China expressed their commitment to assisting Afghanistan to become a peaceful, stable, prosperous nation. They emphasized the importance of a coherent and united international commitment to Afghan-led initiatives.

14. The two sides reaffirmed their support for the multilateral cooperation mechanisms in Asia and their positive view on each other's participation in the cross-regional, regional and sub-regional cooperation processes in Asia. The two sides agreed to broaden cooperation within the framework of the East Asia Summit, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Russia-India-China trilateral cooperation mechanism and the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Both sides agreed that EAS is making a meaningful contribution to building an open, inclusive and transparent architecture in the Asia-Pacific region. Both sides agreed to work together on projects which strengthen bonds between the peoples of East Asia. In this context, China welcomed India's efforts to revive the Nalanda University. Both sides appreciated the work of the Nalanda Mentor Group and the progress made so far. India welcomed China's contribution of US\$ 1 million for the Nalanda University.

15. The two sides expressed their commitment to promoting the multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes. They supported the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons, and called on the international community to move forward together to achieve the goal of global nuclear disarmament. The two sides reaffirmed their firm opposition to the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space.

16. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of maritime security, unhindered commerce and freedom of navigation in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law. In this context, they agreed to work together in tackling piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

17. Recognizing common interests and similar concerns on major regional and international issues, the two sides decided to enhance their coordination and cooperation in multilateral forums. China attaches great importance to India's status in international affairs as a large developing country, understands and supports India's aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations, including in the Security Council. China welcomed India's election to non-permanent membership of UN Security Council during 2011-2012 and both countries agreed to deepen consultation within the Council. Multilateral issues such as climate change, the Doha Development Round of WTO, energy and food security, international financial and economic reform are a particular focus for closer cooperation. The two sides recognized that as the global economy stabilizes and recovers, China and India would strengthen communication and consultation within the G20 framework, jointly facilitate the improvement of global economic governance and advance economic globalization towards balanced development and shared benefits. They agreed to enhance cooperation within the BRIC framework.

18. Premier Wen Jiabao invited Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to visit China during 2011 and Prime Minister Singh accepted the invitation with pleasure. The dates of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Agreements signed during visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

December 16, 2010

Sl. No.	Name of the MOU/Agreement	Chinese Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Programme of Cultural Exchange for the years	H.E. MR. CAI WU Minister of Culture	SHRI S.M. KRISHNA Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs 2010-2012
2.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Green Technologies	MR. ZHU ZHIXIN Deputy Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission	SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China on Media Exchanges	H.E. MR. ZHANG YAN Ambassador of China to India	SMT. NIRUPAMA RAO Foreign Secretary
4.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China on Provision of Hydrological Data on the Sutlej River in Flood Season by China to India	MR. HU ZHANGYUE Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs	SHRI D.V. SINGH Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
5.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Reserve Bank of India and the China Banking Regulatory Commission	MR. WANG ZHAOXING Vice Chairman, China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC)	SMT SHYAMALA GOPINATH Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India
6.	Memorandum of Understanding between Export-Import Bank of India and China Development Bank Corporation	MR. GAO JIAN Vice Governor, China Development Bank Corporation	SHRI T.C.A. RANGANATHAN Chairman & Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India

New Delhi
December 16, 2010



303. Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the ongoing visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. You are aware that Premier Wen Jiabao is currently on a state visit to India. Yesterday and today he has had meetings with the Prime Minister of India. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao is here to talk to you about the visit, the meetings and the exchanges. We also have our Ambassador of India to Beijing Dr. S. Jaishankar to the right of Foreign Secretary. And to my left is Shri Gautam Bambawale, our Joint Secretary (East Asia). I would like to invite Foreign Secretary to kindly make her opening remarks.

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu. Ladies and gentlemen, we have just completed the talks between the two Prime Ministers - the Prime Minister of India and the Premier of China. This was followed by discussions over lunch. Six agreements were signed. Many of you were witness to that and you have all the details. The Joint Communiqué has been issued and many of you have already seen it. I thought I would begin by describing the atmosphere in which the talks and in fact the visit took place.

Our Prime Minister and Premier Wen Jiabao are meeting for the eleventh time. They have a strong personal chemistry, a very positive rapport, and this permeated the talks they held during this visit. Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in April 2005 in many ways is seen as a turning point in our ties. The personal relationship between the two Prime Ministers was also reflected when our Prime Minister hosted a private dinner in honour of Premier Wen Jiabao last night.

Since 2005 when Premier Wen was last here, the relationship between India and China has undergone a major transformation. The political understandings reached then and in subsequent visits have created a framework in which our cooperation has grown significantly. Both in the Joint Communiqué and the six agreements signed this morning, you can see that we are working together in many more areas than before.

The visit was, therefore, an opportunity for the two sides to take their cooperation to new levels and set out more ambitious goals.

Let me highlight some of the more important outcomes that have been agreed upon. Reflecting the growing relationship, it was agreed that our leaders meet more regularly. In fact, you are well aware that the Foreign Ministers of the two countries are going to have annual meetings from now on. Premier Wen has invited our Prime Minister to visit China possibly next year. Of course, that will have to be worked out but what the Chinese Premier told our Prime Minister was that he would very much welcome his visit to China next year.

You also know that the hotline between the two Prime Ministers, which has now been operationalised, will help set up direct communication between them. Today such personal interactions, you will all appreciate, are a very important part of diplomacy particularly between countries like India and China who are driving many changes in the global order today.

The rapid expansion of our economic cooperation has been one of the major achievements of the last five years. Trade has actually tripled since 2005. We have now set for ourselves during this visit an ambitious target of reaching a turnover of US\$ 100 billion by 2015. Moreover, we see the need for a more integrated approach to various economic opportunities. To that end, a Strategic Economic Dialogue has been established.

A CEOs Forum has also been constituted so that the two Governments get inputs from our business leaders on taking the relationship forward. An agreement between the banking regulators of India and China will now enable Branch opening by our respective banks. In short, we are now creating an enabling environment to reach the next economic frontiers.

While trade has expanded, many of you are also aware of our concerns on market access and trade imbalances. This was discussed candidly and constructively with the Chinese side who assured us that they will work to address trade problems. The trade figures in the coming months will hopefully speak for themselves.

A number of initiatives in the field of civil society indicate how broad our interaction with China is today. They will create broader connectivity and higher levels of comfort. In particular I draw your attention to the decision to introduce Chinese as a foreign language for study in the CBSE curriculum from next year. The media exchanges agreement, expanded youth exchanges, and a compilation of a Cultural Contacts Encyclopedia are also significant.

There was a detailed and useful exchange of views on a range of political issues - bilateral, regional and global. You will note that these are reflected in the Joint Communiqué. I refer to the paragraphs on trans-border rivers, peace and tranquility on the border, climate change, terrorism, Afghanistan, multilateral mechanisms, disarmament, maritime security, and the United Nations.

I must also add that the broad approach which is also articulated in the Joint Communiqué is of India and China having enough space and enough areas to cooperate. That cooperation takes place on the basis of mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns and aspirations.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to take questions.

Question: Madam, paragraph 12 in the Joint Communiqué says, "They also recognized the need to implement all relevant UN resolutions, in particular UNSC resolutions 1267, 1373, 1540 and 1624." In the light of the fact that just a couple of days back JuD Chief Hafiz Saeed has held an open rally in Pakistan and the fact that now it appears in the Joint Communiqué as well, what sort of cooperation do you expect from China in this regard?

Foreign Secretary: In the discussions that the two Prime Ministers had, obviously they talked about the situation in the region and also the relations between India and Pakistan. Our concerns about terrorism emanating from Pakistani soil were expressed, as also the fact that relations between India and Pakistan will really move forward in a substantive manner, once these concerns that we have, these very legitimate concerns, about terrorism and about terrorist groups, and

terrorist leaders of such groups pursuing an agenda which is very anti-Indian, is stopped.

That was clearly put forward and also the fact that the need is very much there for China to also look at the real concerns that India has, and the fact that it is only when terrorism is properly addressed and the forces of terrorism are defeated that we will have a stable region. And that affects China also because Premier Wen referred to the terrorism that they face in Xinjiang. And he expressed great sympathy for the victims of the Mumbai attacks and how concerned they have been about the fact that Mumbai had come under attack like that. So, in that context we spoke about, in the context of what is happening in the UN Security Council and 1267 Committee, the need to effectively curb and prevent the activities of organizations like the Jamaat-ud-Dawa was raised. This was a conversation I think which moved in a very open and candid manner where we were able to express our concerns quite clearly, articulate them very clearly. I think the Chinese Premier was given a very clear understanding. I am sure it enabled him to have a much clearer understanding of India's concerns in this regard.

Question: Madam, just one follow-up on that. What was the Chinese response to our concerns on terror, which you said we brought up in a big way, and particularly about these UN Resolutions? I am asking this because they are still holding out on Masood Azhar being added to 1267. So, while in the Joint Statement they say one thing, is it practically being reflected in what they are doing? Also, did the issue of stapled visas come up and what was their response?

Foreign Secretary: On terrorism I think I have explained myself quite clearly. In some detail I referred to the conversations that Prime Minister had with Premier Wen on this issue. So, I do not need to go into that in greater detail. On the stapled visas issues, in fact Premier Wen Jiabao brought it up himself and he said that China takes our concerns on this issue very seriously. And he suggested that the officials of the two sides should have in-depth consultations with each other so that this issue can be resolved satisfactorily.

Question: What consultations?

Foreign Secretary: On the issue itself.

Question: It is up to them.

Foreign Secretary: Yes, of course, in a sense the ball is in their court. There is no doubt about that. I do not deny that. But I wanted to emphasise that he himself brought this up even before we raised it. Of course, we intended to raise it with him but he brought it up in the course of the conversation and spoke about how they took this issue and the issue of our concerns very seriously. I think that is something that you have to take note of, the fact that he said that.

Question: How has the Chinese Premier responded to these major Indian concerns - the Brahmaputra dam, India's candidature for permanent membership of UNSC?

Foreign Secretary: On the UN Security Council permanent membership for India, again the two Prime Ministers had a detailed discussion. The Chinese Premier said, they have said this earlier also, that they understand our aspirations and our ambitions to play a greater role in the United Nations including in the UN Security Council, and that China particularly supported the interests of developing countries in this regard on the issue of membership of an enlarged Security Council, and that India is the biggest developing country outside the Security Council and China is in the Security Council. So, they very much paid attention to that particular aspect. That is where the issue stood.

On the issue of cooperation in water resources, on the issue of the run of the river project that they are building at Zangmu on the Brahmaputra, he once again said that this is not designed to affect the interests of people living in the lower reaches of the river, and that whatever they would do in terms of development in the future also would take into account the concerns and the interests of people living in the lower reaches of the river. That he said. And I wanted to add that we have suggested that there is need to enhance our cooperation on trans-border river issues over and above what we are doing now. We have an expert-level mechanism where they provide hydrological data on flood management, emergency management. We have it for the Brahmaputra,

we have renewed it for the Sutlej today. But over and above that we have suggested to them that we should enhance our cooperation on trans-border issues and both sides will discuss this further. That is where it stands.

Question: The Chinese Premier will be visiting Pakistan tomorrow. Did our Prime Minister tell the Chinese leader to use China's enormous influence over Pakistan to expedite 26/11 probe? And also did we convey our concerns over the Sino-Pakistan nuclear deal for building two nuclear reactors?

Foreign Secretary: The fact that Premier Wen is going to Pakistan after India, you should not see this as in any way connected to what we are doing in the India-China relationship. We just have to look at the Communiqué and I think it really speaks for itself. There is evidence here of a multidimensional, well-evolved relationship that India and China have been able to achieve. And this does not compare with any other relationship really because it is the narrative of two of the largest developing countries, two neighbours who have consciously worked on building a relationship despite the complex issues that still remain to be resolved - I refer to the boundary question between the two countries. There is a conscious attempt by both sides to expand the scope of the relationship and the Communiqué speaks for itself. We are really moving from one level to a higher level with each visit, with each such engagement.

On the issue of Pakistan, I answered in the first question about how our concerns about terrorism from Pakistan were expressed very clearly. China's assessment on the situation in Pakistan was also conveyed to us. Of course, I am not going to discuss confidential assessments but certainly we were able to have a very good exchange of views on what is happening in our region, particularly in the context of the terrorism in Pakistan, the kind of turbulence that we have seen coming out of that country.

On the issue of the nuclear reactors, I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that both countries stated their commitment to nonproliferation objectives and to expand their dialogue on these and related issues in

bilateral and international fora. So, we already have a means, a mechanism, a way to handle these issues, and that is how we intend to tackle it.

Question: Do you disagree with Chinese assessment that your bilateral relations are fragile, easy to break, difficult to repair?

Foreign Secretary: You are referring to the statement that Ambassador Zhang Yan made two days ago at a Business Seminar. I think that India-China relations, if you go by the record of the last three decades at least, I would in fact argue that they have become stronger, that the foundations of this relationship have become much more stable. It is true that there is a certain tendency perhaps to regard - I know this happens in the media - that certain angles of the relationship are focused on and given a certain emphasis and a certain prominence. But we who are actually participating in this process of trying to develop India-China relations understand that this interaction between India and China as it has grown over the years has become far more stable and the foundations are far stronger than they were twenty years ago or thirty years ago. So, I see this as a process of gradual evolution. And I certainly do not subscribe to any, what shall I say, extreme judgments about fragility or the fact that one issue on which we have a difference or one issue of complexity can shake the relationship at its very foundations. I do not think that is really plausible. Having said that, I am in no way trying to detract from the professional capacities of the Chinese Ambassador, he is an excellent diplomat and I have always valued my interaction with him.

Question: Any positive movement on resumption of defence contacts between India and China?

Foreign Secretary: What we have agreed, I think what both sides have understood is that both countries should endeavour to create a basis for defence exchanges to continue without constraints.

Question: How do you do that?

Foreign Secretary: You watch this space!

Question: Madam, this is in continuation to the question on stapled visas.

Foreign Secretary: I think I have answered stapled visas.

Question: But was there a stern message that was sent out in terms of the way External Affairs Minister sent out a statement when he went to China saying that Jammu and Kashmir is to India what Tibet is to China?

Foreign Secretary: Our position in the matter is well-known to the Chinese. Premier Wen Jiabao is fully informed of our position in this regard. It was very clear in the discussions that we had last night and this morning.

Question: Madam, we have read this communiqué. Can you say that China and India both are trying to maintain status quo? Otherwise can you tell us what are the steps forward, one or two major achievements? How will you rate this particular visit?

Foreign Secretary: When you have a relationship where we have regular summit meetings, where our Foreign Ministers meet regularly, where we have a number of dialogue mechanisms, you are talking of a relationship that is functioning all the while. It is not that you take one visit as a kind of an expedition or you have to reach a point that you have not reached before. I would say that this is a gradual process and with each visit of this nature, and the communiqué explains that very well, more significance and more substance is added to the relationship. That is how I look at it.

Question: We have been hearing about the hotline for I do not know how long. Is the hotline now working? Can they call? Is it operationalised?

Foreign Secretary: It is operationalised. Believe me, it has been operationalised.

Question: When was it activated?

Foreign Secretary: About three-four days ago.

Question: The hotline is between who and who?

Foreign Secretary: It is between the two Prime Ministers.

Question: One boilerplate phrase which was there in the last three Joint Statements is not here in this one which is India reiterating its commitment to one China policy and Tibet is an integral part. Should we read anything into the fact that this is not here in the Joint Statement?

Foreign Secretary: The issue did come up in the discussions. Premier Wen Jiabao spoke about it, and we reiterated our position, the position that we have always stated through the years.

Question: But did they ask for it to be in the statement? How come it is not there?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe that really became a bone of contention, let us put it that way, because they understand our position very well. I think what Premier Wen said today was they appreciated the fact that we have been careful about not allowing anti-China political activities on our soil.

Question: My question relates to the fact that leaders of two big countries meet and they do not take even a single question. Is the relationship so fragile..?

Foreign Secretary: Let us put it this way. This is not a relationship made of porcelain china.

Question: The question is, is it not odd that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Premier Wen Jiabao did not take any questions after that meeting?

Foreign Secretary: Do not read too much meaning into that. Frankly, there is a Joint Communiqué, you saw the agreements being signed. And from our side we are trying to give all the information that is required, that you might be interested in in connection with the visit. Put it that way.

Question: He is probably a little nervous of the Indian media? Is that so?

Foreign Secretary: You should ask the Chinese side? Are there any Chinese correspondents present here?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, the next question goes to him.

Question: Yes. You have mentioned that the two countries have set a higher target for the trade in the next five years. So, during the talks of Premier Wen and Prime Minister Singh, was there a mention about the negotiation about regional trade arrangements or even the free trade zones?

Foreign Secretary: No, we did not go into the question of the regional trading arrangement. As you know, a feasibility study has been done. But as of now that is where the matter stands. To your listeners, since you come from China Radio International, I think our Chinese friends must know and should know that there is a big imbalance in trade between our two countries. Now the trade target is going to reach US\$ 60 billion this year. It is very impressive. It has grown phenomenally. But there is an imbalance in that trade. And in fact the trade deficit for India has been growing. So, we have very legitimate concerns in this regard. We would like more market access. And I hope you report this really. We would like more market access, and we would like our pharmaceuticals, we would like our agro commodities, and we would like our IT services, in all of which we are brand leaders internationally, to come into China. So, please take that message.

Question: We have regular annual summit level meetings with the Russians, the French and several other countries, but with China only with Foreign Minister level talks. Of course, one is not talking about RIC and so on. But is that likely to happen in the near future?

Foreign Secretary: Let me put it this way. We do not have a kind of a rigid timetable on how many summits there will be, whether it is annual or biennial. But the trend is certainly pointing in a direction that would suggest, and we can revisit this next year around the same time, that our leaders are going to meet much more frequently. And it definitely would suggest that there will be many many more bilateral summits than before, by that I mean each leader visiting the other country. For instance, next year China is hosting the BRIC Summit, as you know, it is China's turn, and India is a member. That will be an occasion also when the leaders will meet because our Prime Minister will in all likelihood travel to Beijing for that meeting.

Question: *Madam, did the prime minister compare the question of Kashmir and Tibet during his talks i.e. as Tibet is sensitive issue for China, Kashmir is for India?*

Foreign Secretary: *I have already replied to your question in detail. The question of Kashmir, stapled visas, terrorist threat from Pakistan which are facing for a long number of years-on all these issues there was a lot of detailed discussion with the Chinese Premier. Our position on Kashmir is our core concern. The Chinese authorities, the Chinese Government, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and their top leadership are fully aware of our position on these issues. They have been left in doubt about that.*

Question: Did the Dalai Lama come up at all?

Foreign Secretary: I have already answered the question on Tibet.

Question: Madam, could you please tell us if there was a specific issue about the valuation of Chinese currency? Did it come up as a part of the discussion? If yes, could you please share some details?

Foreign Secretary: We did not talk about the valuation of the Chinese currency. At the delegation-level talks PM was accompanied by a number of Cabinet Ministers from our side. Finance Minister was there, External Affairs Minister was there, the Commerce and Industry Minister was there, the Human Resource Development Minister was there, and the Water Resources Minister was there. During the delegation-level talks, Finance Minister spoke about our cooperation with China in the G20, reform of international financial institutions, currency issues in the larger sense, the quantitative easing policies. So, there was a good discussion on these issues.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.

(Text in italics is translation of Hindi text)



304. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the closing ceremony of Festival of China in India.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

Your Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today on the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the Festival of China in India and the festivities associated with the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

The Festivals of China in India and of India in China have played a crucial role in increasing awareness and consciousness about each other's countries and cultures.

We have been touched by the response of the people of China to the Festival of India in China. The people of India have on their part watched with admiration the Shanghai Expo and the spectacular conduct of the Asian Games in China. Through this Festival, the people of India have had a glimpse of the richness of China's culture and pageantry.

India and China are two great ancient civilizations that have flourished for thousands of years. The constant exchange of ideas, scholars, goods and scriptures has enriched our relationship through the ages, and finds a strong resonance in modern times.

Contemporary India-China relations are a product of this long evolutionary process of historical contacts, and the underlying emphasis of both civilizations on traditions and values; the arts and culture; dialogue; the spirit of adventure and the unyielding quest for progress and development.

Six decades ago, as young nations, India and China rediscovered each other and understood each other's aspirations. The development of sound relations with China has since then been a constant feature of India's foreign policy.

As the economic weight of the world shifts towards Asia, the steady development of India and China have opened new opportunities for the global economy. Our shared interest in creating a more equitable world order has transformed our relations beyond its bilateral dimension to a strategic and global partnership. There is enough space in the world for both India and China to grow and fulfil the development aspirations of their respective peoples.

As we draw the curtain on the celebrations of the 60th anniversary, we also open our hearts and minds to usher in the next decades of India-China friendship and cooperation. China is India's largest neighbour. We must significantly enhance our understanding of each other through greater exchanges in all fields, whether cultural, tourism, sports, students or scholars. We must close the information gap between us and learn about each other's achievements directly rather than through third sources.

India-China cooperation will be the keystone of the Asian century that is unfolding before us. On this occasion I take this opportunity to applaud the personal role played by Premier Wen Jiabao in the advancement of our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. This has laid the ground for the future growth of India-China relations.

Thank you.



305. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted in honour of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

New Delhi, December 16, 2010.

Your Excellency Premier Wen Jiabao,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome Premier Wen Jiabao and members of his distinguished delegation to India.

Excellency, you are a friend of India, and the architect of the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership established during your landmark visit to India in 2005. Your personal commitment to expanding and strengthening our bilateral ties is deeply valued by the people of India.

Your visit, Excellency, is a fitting culmination to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China.

India and China are young nations but ancient civilizations. Our history abounds in exchanges of scholars, monks, pilgrims, traders, crafts persons, travellers and ideas. These exchanges have enriched our societies. They have given strength and resilience to our relations in modern times.

Since your last visit to India, Excellency, the world has witnessed significant changes. India has been engaged in the task of socio-economic transformation. We have a mutual stake in each other's progress and prosperity. We have lot to learn from each other's development experiences.

Excellency, our relationship has transcended the bilateral dimension and has assumed global and strategic significance. The growing interdependence of nations provides both the opportunity and the obligation for India and China to cooperate together to meet the challenges facing the international community.

The fact is that when India and China, representing more than two and half billion people speak in one voice, the world listens.

Excellency, India-China relations have achieved a high degree of maturity that serves the interest of our two peoples. As the Asian century unfolds, we must work together to bring peace, stability and development to our peoples, to the region and to the world at large. India stands ready to play its part in this important and noble enterprise.

Excellency, the people of India admire the Chinese people for the rapid strides they have made in all fields. Let us pledge to work sincerely for the rapid development of our ties in the second decade of this century for the common good of the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join me in raising a toast to:

- the good health and well-being of Premier Wen;
- the prosperity and happiness of the Chinese people; and
- long-lasting friendship between India and China.

Thank you.



306. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for India Tonight Programme on CNBC TV-18.

New Delhi, December 21, 2010.

Interviewer (Shri Karan Thapar): Hello and welcome to India Tonight to an exclusive interview with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao on India-China relations in the wake of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit. I want very much, Foreign Secretary, to spend a significant amount of time of this interview talking about India-China relations. But let us start with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit. The press seems to have had mixed reviews of the outcome. How does the Government view the visit?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): The Government sees this visit as part of a continuum, part of a process, part of a process of evolution in the relationship. Secondly, I would offer the opinion and view that this visit has had a further stabilising effect on the relationship. When our leaders meet and when they discuss issues that concern the relationship it provides for greater clarity, higher resolution, if one were to use an optics-related term, in terms of the way forward. And, I think it is important always to have a long-term perspective about this relationship.

Interviewer: Let us look at some of the issues that would have cropped up. To begin with, unstapled visas. As you said, the Chinese themselves brought up the subject. According to reports in The Hindu, the Chinese had ... (Inaudible) ... in Beijing that they view this as an administrative, not a political issue. Where do things actually stand today?

Foreign Secretary: As I mentioned earlier, Premier Wen Jiabao brought it up himself even before we could raise it, and we intended definitely to raise it with the Chinese. And the first point he made was that they understood that this was a serious issue. They understand the seriousness and the importance that we attach to this issue because we wanted results. We cannot accept the status quo on this. Therefore, what he told Prime Minister was that we need to sort this out, we need to sit down and discuss this, and let us get our officials to look at this more intensively with a view to resolving it as soon as possible. That is where the matter stands at the moment.

Interviewer: So, you are optimistic that this will be settled and it will be settled reasonably quickly.

Foreign Secretary: Well, that is our intention that it should be settled because the more you allow it to fester and there is a lot of public debate surrounding this issue, and I am sure the Chinese see that there is an impact of this on the relationship. It has not had a good impact on the relationship.

Interviewer: A second issue that would have come up would be India's claim to permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. The Indian Express has said that in his private conversation Prime Minister Wen said China would not be an obstacle to India seeking a permanent seat. But none of that was actually in the Joint Statement. So, have you got an indication of support more than we have had in the past from the Chinese?

Foreign Secretary: Whenever Premier Wen and our Prime Minister have discussed this issue, the signals that we have received from the side of the Chinese and particularly from Premier Wen have been that they are looking at this issue with a lot of interest, and they are absorbed in the debate that is developing on this issue both in the United Nations and both within the countries concerned who aspire for permanent membership. So, I think they understand that this particular issue about permanent membership is very important for many of the aspiring members including India. There are other countries also, as you know, who are interested in permanent membership. So, in that context, my reading of the issue is that at the moment of course the issue has not as yet acquired that critical mass and momentum for it to be placed before the UN General Assembly for a vote or for an ultimate decision. But when it comes to that, and hopefully we will see momentum in that direction, the signals that we are getting from China are firstly that they see that the aspirations of a country like India to play a greater role in the United Nations including its Security Council are worthy of support. And ultimately my own reading is that when it comes to the crux of the matter, when it comes to the ultimate decision, China is unlikely to stand in the way.

Interviewer: So, you are actually optimistic that when it comes to the crux, they would not be an obstacle?

Foreign Secretary: Because when it comes to the crux you should have that groundswell of support and movement.

Interviewer: They would not want to stand against the groundswell.

Foreign Secretary: That is what I am saying.

Interviewer: On the question of terror, from the Joint Statement there is no mention of 26/11, there is no mention of bringing the culprits to justice in Pakistan, or Pakistan not indulging in anti-India terror. Your Ministry has suggested - in the briefing this is done - that this was in a sense obliquely covered by reference to UN Security Council Resolution 1267. And in your own press statement, according to the Business Standard, you said Prime Minister Wen expressed great sympathy for the Mumbai attacks and that Chinese people have felt great concern for the victims of Mumbai attacks. Why there was not some of this in the Joint Statement?

Foreign Secretary: The fact that it did not find mention in the Joint Statement, I would suggest that you look at it in the larger context. China and India do have a dialogue on counter-terrorism issues. Premier Wen did bring this up in the conversation with our Prime Minister. Of course, you have to be realistic about the relationship also. China and Pakistan have a very close strategic consensus on many issues, and the depth of that relationship is known to all of us. So, we have a very realistic appreciation of where we stand with China on a number of these issues. But the fact is that with China the relationship that we have been able to build up over the last few years and the dimensions that this relationship has come to acquire have included a very useful discussion on counter-terrorism also.

Interviewer: One of the things that everyone picked up was that the Joint Statement perhaps for the first time after 15-20 years does not mention India's commitment to a One-China policy, it does not recognise or reaffirm India viewing Tibet as part of Chinese territory. Is there significance to that omission?

Foreign Secretary: I mentioned in my press conference that it was not really a bone of contention when we were drafting the communiqué.

Interviewer: They did not demur at all?

Foreign Secretary: They did not demur at all. It did not really figure in the discussion. Well, you can read a number of meanings into that. First of all, every communiqué and every statement that we have made so far jointly with the Chinese has referred to the One-China policy. And in fact there is a mention of all these previous statements in the joint communiqué that we concluded this time.

Interviewer: Which is a sort of ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: So, in a sense there is a reference to understandings and positions expressed in those earlier documents.

Interviewer: It is not expressed in the document.

Foreign Secretary: Yes, in this particular joint communiqué it does not find a mention.

Interviewer: So, how do you read this? What is the significance?

Foreign Secretary: I see it as an assumption on the Chinese part that they understand India's long-stated position on these issues, that there is really no need to reiterate it because it is assumed that the One-China policy has not changed.

Interviewer: The press has interpreted this to mean that India would like some significant recognition by China of India's total sovereign claim on Kashmir. And if that is not forthcoming, then we discreetly held back our recognition and reaffirmation either One-China or Tibet as China.

Foreign Secretary: I think there have been a lot of dramatic assumptions that have been expressed through various sections of the media and a number of opinion makers, or at least analysts have alluded to what you have just said. But obviously in any relationship there has to be mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. In fact, one of the principles of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which find reference in the latest document also, is mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Interviewer: So, there was a message here, subtle and discreet, but there was a message to the Chinese.

Foreign Secretary: And the message that we have been putting across not just subtly, very clearly and candidly to the Chinese is that yes on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and particularly on the stapled visa issue which directly seems to question our sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir, we would like more positive statements of support from China.

Interviewer: On the question of Jammu and Kashmir, something that has emerged in the papers shortly after Prime Minister Wen Jiabao left India is the fact that the Chinese seems to only accept 2000 kilometres as the border between the two countries, not 3500, and the missing 1500 is in fact right along Aksai Chin. Does that concern you?

Foreign Secretary: First of all let me say that this is not a position that we came across yesterday or day before yesterday. We have been aware of it for some time. Obviously there are differences of perception, there are divergences between China and India on the length of the border. A lot of it has to do with their conception of the border in the western sector. And that is where the whole issue of Jammu and Kashmir comes in. It is an issue, it is a problem, it is a divergence between India and China. But the question I will pose to you is, "How do we address this issue?" We have a mechanism in place to discuss the outstanding question of the boundary. We have an ongoing discussion with China. And I think both countries need to engage each other more closely on these issues with a view to reducing these divergences.

Interviewer: I want actually to ask you a question about the Special Representatives.

Foreign Secretary: But let me add we certainly do not agree with their perception of the boundary being limited to just 1900 kilometres. In our view it is about 3500 kilometres.

Interviewer: I want to now talk about the Special Representatives and the progress or the lack of progress that they are making. But very quickly, is this another indication from the Chinese that they do not recognise Kashmir as Indian sovereign territory and that is why the 1500 kilometres which has disappeared, which is all in Kashmir, is now being recognised as part of the border.

Foreign Secretary: It is really up to the Chinese to clarify that issue. I think it would be in nobody's interest for this to become an obstacle in the relationship. And that is why we say the ball is in the Chinese court when it comes to stapled visas, when it comes to clarifying their position in such matters. Obviously, it would be in nobody's interest for such an issue to acquire dimensions which create more divergence between the two countries.

Interviewer: Is this in the context of the stapled visas, in the context of China's increasing involvement in POK, another development that worries is about the Chinese overall attitude to Kashmir?

Foreign Secretary: I think you have to search even more deeply in this. And I think our vision in this sense must be directed westward and looking at the China-Pakistan relationship. And there is every indication, and the Chinese also leave us in little doubt about this in terms of their actions and statements, about the depth and substance of the China-Pakistan relationship. It is a strategic relationship that has acquired momentum over the last five decades directly after the India-China conflict over the border in 1962. And it shows no signs of diminishing. We are completely aware of this. It is not that we have sought to turn a blind eye to it when we have engaged the Chinese. What is important now is that we are directly raising issues of concern with the Chinese side in a very candid and in a very forthcoming way. And that is when it comes to discussions on the length of the border, when it comes to discussions about the western sector of the boundary where, mind you, we engage with each other on a day-to-day basis along the Line of Actual Control in a peaceful way.

Interviewer: What I detect from what you are saying is that there is a more upfront assertiveness in India.

Foreign Secretary: Well, there is much more confidence about asserting our positions.

Interviewer: Let us then very briefly come to the border talks that have been held by the two Special Representatives. The media seems to be convinced that the Chinese are either rethinking or perhaps even resigning from the 2005 agreement that settled areas would not be disturbed. Is that actually the case?

Foreign Secretary: I would not make those stark conclusions. We have had the agreement on Guiding Principles and Political Parameters for the settlement of the boundary question way back in 2005, and those agreements still hold. There is nothing to suggest any resiling from those principles.

Interviewer: Any rethinking on Beijing ...?

Foreign Secretary: I would disagree with that. I think it is more a question of the fact that we are getting down to working out a framework for a boundary settlement. And obviously it is extremely complex. You know the discussions that have been held from 1960 onwards on this question of the boundary.

Interviewer: Let us then come to the economic dimension of this relationship. The two countries are hoping to achieve US\$ 60 billion worth of trade this year. You have set a target of US\$ 100 billion for 2015. But at the same time you have a worrying trade deficit which is just over US\$ 19 billion. Can you achieve US\$ 100 billion without the trade deficit becoming even bigger?

Foreign Secretary: Before I go into the problem of the trade deficit - and we just discussed the boundary question and the divergences with China on these issues - where is the relationship going to develop in very substantive terms in the future? The record of the last few years would suggest the economic relationship, the people-to-people relationship, the connectivity between the two countries. So, this is really the future of the relationship, You are going to have discussions to resolve outstanding issues, as I said, on the boundary, but where do we move forward on the economic and trade relationship? And that is where the imbalance comes in. I saw Dr. Amit Mitra's very well-argued article the other day about the imbalance being unsustainable. And that is the message that we have made very clearly to the Chinese. They have to open the market to our IT services, to our pharmaceuticals, to our agricultural commodities.

Interviewer: But are they prepared to do that because that is how they secure the trade surplus?

Foreign Secretary: Absolutely. Well, when Premier Wen was here and you saw his public statements on the issue, I think he made the effort - I

think in all honesty we should acknowledge that - to convey to the Indian public that China took this issue seriously and they intended to work towards reducing this. So, they will have to walk the talk on this really.

Interviewer: Once again, the ball is very much in China's court.

Foreign Secretary: I think so. I think the ball is in China's court. But Indian business is doing well in China today. We have a number of our big names doing good business in China and there is that dimension also of the relationship.

* * * * *

Interviewer:..... Foreign Secretary, let us then come to the bigger canvas of India-China relations. On the one hand China is India's single biggest trading partner - you are hoping to target US\$ 100 billion in 2015 - but on the other China supports Pakistan over Kashmir, it would not criticise Pakistan's use of terror as an instrument of policy, it bends laws to supply Islamabad the nuclear reactors, it seems to want to check India's emergence as a leading power, it disputes our sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh. What sort of a relationship do we have?

Foreign Secretary: Karan, I think it is a question of finding the right responses and charting a course that preserves and protects India's interests given the scenario that you just mentioned. On the trade front I have mentioned to you what we want from China and what we intend to engage them about as far as reduction of the trade imbalance is concerned. On the other hand there is the strategic aspect of the China-Pakistan relationship and all the attendant complexities that it brings to bear even on the discussions on the boundary question, I would try to bring that out. I think the public in this country also needs a more informed debate on China. I think there has to be an element of sobriety also when we look at how we view the relationship with China. This is when we look at the way forward.

Interviewer: Two quick questions. People like Brajesh Mishra often sound concerned about the possibility that Beijing and Islamabad may work together thus posing for India the unique problem of two troublesome neighbours on the north and the west. How does your Ministry view that possibility?

Foreign Secretary: That is a situation obviously that would not be in our interest. And how do we work to prevent that? I think we have to think smartly about dealing with such scenarios. I think we run the risk very often in this country of reducing the relationship with China to one issue or another issue and then developing scenarios around it. I think we need a much more comprehensive appreciation of what the challenges are in this relationship and how do we address these challenges. And, to my mind the best way to do that is to proceed along the lines that we have been going in the last two and two and a half decades, which is more dialogue, more engagement, more leadership level confidence in dealing with each other. I think we have set a certain paradigm for this relationship and I believe it is the right paradigm.

Interviewer: What about the fact that today China is the world's second biggest economic power. It is heading fast towards becoming in fact the biggest. Some people say that by 2050 it would probably replace America as the biggest super power. Does that concern you?

Foreign Secretary: It should concern every Indian and I think it should really spur us on to narrowing this divide or this gap in the race with China. It should not be a relationship defined by competition or rivalry alone because it does not suit either country. Look at the stakes involved. Look at the tasks before us in terms of our development. Look at the miles that we have to cover. So, I think we have to understand as we move forward that we must make use of the opportunities we have to understand China better, to engage it in a way that defends our interests. It is not that we are going to resile from our basic positions and that our security will be hampered in the process.

Interviewer: To what extent is the popular appreciation of the relationship with China hampered by a lingering trauma of ... (Inaudible)... from 1962? To what extent is that holding India back?

Foreign Secretary: You know Karan, I have thought about this and I know there is a generation of Indians that still thinks of 1962 and in many ways our opinions and images of China - the scratches on our minds as it were - to use a term from Harold Isaacs - are very much defined by the trauma of 1962. But, there is a whole new generation of Indians and Chinese that has grown up after that. I would say issues like stapled visas, or this whole

debate that has surrounded the possibility of China building dams on the Brahmaputra, or the reports that surface from time to time about how the Chinese look at the border, these are issues that are affecting the public psychology on China today, even much more than 1962, I think.

Interviewer: In which case let me put this to you, some people say that India and China are wary rivals who will perhaps cooperate when their interests converge but will be suspicious of each other when they do not. Would you accept that as an interesting way of viewing the relationship?

Foreign Secretary: I think there will be competition in this relationship and there will be collaboration also. There will be areas of collaboration, areas of cooperation. And, I think the challenge is to find the right balance and maintain a kind of steady equilibrium in taking the relationship, the dialogue particularly with China forward so that we are able to articulate our concerns, we are able to tell the Chinese where we stand on issues of absolutely fundamental interest to us, and, at the same time trying to build greater mutual confidence in this relationship.

Interviewer: So, the keynote is to strike the right balance.

Foreign Secretary: Exactly.

Interviewer: A pleasure talking to you, Foreign Secretary.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you, Karan.



INDONESIA**307. Press Release issued by the Cabinet Secretariat of the approval by the Union Cabinet to open a Consulate General of India in Bali (Indonesia).****New Delhi, November 4, 2010.**

The Union Cabinet today approved the opening of the Consulate General of India (CGI) at Bali in Indonesia and creation of four India-based posts including one post of Consul General in the level of Joint Secretary and six local posts.

The opening of the Consulate General of India in Bali will strengthen India's traditional bonds with Bali and also improve its protocol, commercial and consular presence in the island. This will provide impetus to commercial interaction between India and the target region in Indonesia.

The CGI in Bali will also be beneficial to the local PIO community, which comprises over 230 families within Bali itself, apart from some more Indian and PIO families in neighbouring East and South Kalimantan.

The proposed Consulate will entail an annual recurring expenditure of about ` 1,77,01,569/- per anum. In addition, there shall be one time expenditure of Rs. 33,02,344/-.

Background:

An Indian Cultural Centre was established in Bali in 2004, which has done exemplary work in propagating yoga, Indian culture and performing arts. With the increasing popularity of Bali as a holiday destination, the number of Indian tourists going to Bali has also swelled to about 20,000 every year. This has put enormous pressure on the meagre resources of the Indian Cultural Centre, in Bali.



JAPAN**308. Joint Statement between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Planning Commission of India on the occasion of the Fourth Meeting of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue.****New Delhi, April 30, 2010.**

H.E. Mr. Masayuki Naoshima, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, met in New Delhi on the 30th of April, 2010 for the fourth ministerial-level meeting of the Energy Dialogue between Japan and India.

The two Ministers welcomed the progress made in Working Group discussions by Japanese and Indian officials on energy efficiency, renewable energy, coal and electricity and power generation and the Japan-India Energy Dialogue steering committee meeting.

The two Ministers noted with satisfaction India's formal joining of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) in September 2009, and confirmed the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency.

Recognizing that energy policy can also contribute to addressing climate change, the two Ministers welcomed the Copenhagen Accord. The two Ministers reaffirmed their determination to collaborate closely in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change towards an Agreed Outcome to be adopted at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties in Mexico in 2010.

In the meeting, the two Ministers reached a conclusion on the following cooperation, outlined below from (1) to (4), in order to build a cooperative relationship between the two countries in the energy sector through concrete and pragmatic projects.

(1) Cooperation in the energy conservation sector

- (i) As a follow up to the Joint Statement issued at the Third Meeting of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue, the two Ministers reviewed the progress made in discussions on the Regional Energy Efficiency Centre (REEC) Project, reaffirmed the significance of this project in promoting energy efficiency on a practical level in India, and decided to proceed through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), National Productivity Council (NPC) and Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) for its establishment in Chennai. Capacity building, such as training of trainers and dispatch of experts, will take place by the end of 2010, following the completion of ongoing construction work and the installation of training equipment at the Centre. The Japanese side expressed its willingness to positively consider possible cooperation in other similar initiatives upon receipt of specific proposals from the Indian side.
- (ii) The two Ministers welcomed the progress in NEDO's ongoing commercial-scale model projects for a coke dry-quenching system, diesel generator fuel-switching, and sinter cooler waste heat recovery. Annual CO₂ reductions of approximately 255,000 tons can be expected through implementing these projects. It is hoped that further large scale deployment of these technologies will make a large contribution to the fight against global warming. India will work towards their deployment by utilising the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) and other measures.
- (iii) The two Ministers welcomed the progress of the feasibility study by NEDO regarding the potential for applying heat pump and heat storage technologies to urban buildings. The two sides recognized that a project to demonstrate such technologies would be useful and could lead to large reductions in energy use in the urban area if widely deployed. It is hoped that these energy-saving technologies together with the Energy Service Companies (ESCO) business model for promoting energy conservation will be mutually reinforcing.
- (iv) The two Ministers welcomed the Asia ESCO Conference held by NEDO and BEE in January 2010 in New Delhi. They welcomed that the Conference would help to promote the dissemination of ESCO

within the Asian region and further encourage investment of Japanese ESCOs in the Indian market.

- (v) The two Ministers welcomed the implementation of NEDO's energy conservation diagnosis programme in the cement and steel sectors, the flagship project of the Asia-Pacific Partnership (APP).
- (vi) The Indian side expressed its appreciation for the assistance from Japan (Energy Conservation Center, Japan) with regard to the following ongoing activities as part of energy conservation capacity-building programmes: a) the acceptance of trainees from India's energy conservation agencies designated by BEE or local governments; b) the provision of training programmes on ESCO for officials involved in India's energy conservation policies regarding ESCO and concerned enterprises; and c) the dispatch of experts for small-group activities on energy conservation and the introduction of an energy management manual at India's small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Indian side noted that Japan's cooperation in these areas has been reflected in the formulation of India's National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency. The Japanese side expressed its commitment to the cooperation in these areas through the continued provision of training programmes and dispatch of experts.
- (vii) The two Ministers welcomed the renewal of the MOU on cooperation in energy conservation, signed by ECCJ and India's Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA). Based on the MOU, energy conservation management technology in the industrial sector has been transferred through the dispatch of experts and provision of training programmes, and the programme for preparing an energy diagnosis manual for the textiles industry has been launched to improve diagnostic capability. In order to promote this programme, the Indian side agreed to establish an implementation framework by PCRA and concerned industrial associations, while the Japanese side confirmed its continued cooperation through the dispatch of experts and the provision of training programmes.
- (viii) The two Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the technical training programme provided by the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) to foster Indian energy managers has been extremely useful and hoped that they will continue to play an important role.

- (ix) The Indian side welcomed the participation of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Japanese Business Alliance for Smart Energy Worldwide in India's Energy Tech Expo in December 2009 and the International Engineering & Technology Fair (IETF) in February 2010, with a view to facilitating commercial-based technology transfers between Japan and India and providing further opportunities for business matching. Besides, the Indian side welcomed the exhibit of NEDO at the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) to be hosted by India.
- (x) The two Ministers also welcomed the progress of the Japanese ODA Loan Project "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project", extended by JICA through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), with synergetic JICA technical training programme focusing on energy efficiency financing instruments in order to promote energy conservation activities all over India.

(2) Cooperation in the electricity and coal sectors

- (i) The two Ministers welcomed the formulation and completion of the action plan on high-efficiency and low-emission coal technologies by Japan and India, in the context of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change (MEF), which was finalized in December 2009.
- (ii) Several efforts on technology transfer aiming at improving the efficiency of India's domestic coal use and reducing environmental impact are making progress. With regard to the commercial-based model project for high-efficiency coal preparation to reduce the ash content of coal in India, the two Ministers welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding by NEDO and the Ministry of Coal of India as well as the progress in the construction

of necessary facilities. The two sides decided to continue discussions on possible cooperation in the area of coking coal washing.

- (iii) The Japanese side conveyed its decision to conduct a pre-primary study for improvement of efficiency and environment of coal-fired power stations in India by dispatching experts and providing advice on modifications. The two Ministers welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding of the study on improving the thermal efficiency of coal-fired thermal power plants in India and reducing their environmental impact by the Japan Coal Energy Center (JCOAL) and India's Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- (iv) The two Ministers welcomed the continuation of the training programme regarding the transfer of Clean Coal Technology (CCT) since fiscal year 2001. They also welcomed the fact that a total of 92 Indian trainees had been accepted by Japan by fiscal year 2009.
- (v) In the area of electricity generation, the two Ministers welcomed the progress in the training programme on thermal power technology by JICA and the implementation of the study on enhancing the efficiency of operating thermal power plants in India's NTPC Ltd.
- (vi) The two Ministers welcomed the first India-Japan Joint Venture manufacturing plant for supercritical pressure boilers and turbine generators, which will be operational shortly. They expressed their hope that the JV, set up with financial support from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), will make a significant contribution to meeting India's fast-growing electricity demand and improving India's power generation technologies.
- (vii) The Indian side welcomed Japan's Technical Mission to India on coal mining safety in February this year. The areas of cooperation proposed by India are: (a) development of integrated underground communications system (b) instrumentation for monitoring of mine gases and fires (c) detection of partings

between adjoining water-logged unapproachable workings and (d) rescue equipment and operations.

- (viii) The Indian side welcomed the proposal of the Japanese side to hold the Clean Coal Seminar on Japan-India cooperation in areas such as low-carbon coal-fired power plants in India this year.

(3) Cooperation in the renewable energy sector

- (i) The two Ministers welcomed the progress of the joint research and development project, proposed by NEDO, regarding technology for evaluating the operating life of solar cells, as one of the activities of the APP's Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation Task Force. The project involves installing multiple solar panels of the same kind in Japan and India and comparing their life evaluations under actual load conditions. The necessary facilities have been installed in India and demonstrations have started.
- (ii) The two Ministers welcomed the joint project by NEDO and the Indian Institute of Technology (Hyderabad) to study a stable electricity supply system for industrial parks through the introduction of Micro Grid and Smart Grid technologies.
- (iii) The two Ministers noted that Smart Communities and Eco-friendly Townships along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, which aim to develop next-generation energy infrastructure utilizing technologies such as solar energy, smartgrid, smart urban transport, water management, recycling, etc. and IT technology from Japan, are important from the energy perspective. The two Ministers welcomed the progress made under this initiative. The two Ministers noted that a microgrid using mega-scale solar energy could be a good area for energy cooperation as part of this initiative, and NEDO will conduct a feasibility study in this area under METI's instructions.
- (iv) The Indian side welcomed the planned implementation of a training programme on new energy for Indian officials involved in policymaking by Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ).

(4) Cooperation in the oil and natural gas sectors

- (i) Japan and India welcomed the steady implementation of the joint statement signed by METI of Japan and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) of India as well as the six MOUs concluded between the two countries' implementing agencies based on the joint statement.
- (ii) In accordance with their MOU, the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) and India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh have made steady progress in their cooperation, including holding of the second meeting on exploration cooperation in India and third countries.
- (iii) In accordance with their MOU, JOGMEC and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) of India have made steady progress in their cooperation, including holding of the second meeting on methane hydrate in Tokyo.
- (iv) In accordance with the MOU concluded between Japan's METI and India's MOPNG, the two ministries have made steady progress in their cooperation, including holding of the seminar on oil stockpiling technology in New Delhi by the two countries' stockpiling implementing agencies --- JOGMEC and India's Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB)/Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL).
- (v) The two Ministers highly evaluated the results of the joint research project by the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) and the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of MOPNG on Recent Volatility in Oil Prices and its Impact on the Asian Economy. They also hoped for the further development of cooperative activities under the MOU including joint research and its contribution to the enhanced stability of the energy market.
- (vi) The two Ministers welcomed the renewal of the MOU signed by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association of India and ECCJ as well as the progress in cooperation based on the MOU, such as the dispatch of experts.

The two Ministers recognized the need to facilitate cooperation between the industries of the two countries' in order to expand bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis. In this context, they took note of the successful holding of the Third Japan-India Energy Forum in India in February 2010 by NEDO and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India.

Based on the Joint Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Yukio Hatoyama and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, released on 29 December 2009, the two Ministers reiterated the important role of nuclear energy in meeting the growing energy demands in both countries in a safe, sustainable and non-polluting manner. The two Ministers decided to establish a Nuclear Energy Working Group under the Energy Dialogue to exchange views and information on their respective nuclear energy policies from the energy, economic and industrial perspectives. They welcomed that the first meeting of the Working Group is being held right after the Energy Dialogue.

The two Ministers emphasised that bilateral cooperation under the framework of the Japan-India Energy Dialogue will not be limited to those activities mentioned above and will continue to deepen further. They decided to hold the Fifth Ministerial Meeting in Japan at a mutually convenient time in 2011.

**For the Planning Commission
of India
(Montek Singh Ahluwalia)
Deputy Chairman,
Planning Commission**

**For the Ministry of Economy,
Trade and Industry of Japan
(Masayuki Naoshima)
Minister of Economy,
Trade and Industry**



309. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India - Japan 2+2 Dialogue.**New Delhi, July 6, 2010.**

The 1st India - Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi on July 6, 2010. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao and Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar, while the Japanese side was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kenichiro Sasae and Vice Defense Minister Kimito Nakae.

2. The Prime Ministers of India and Japan had agreed to these 2+2 consultations at Senior Officials level in the Action Plan to advance Security Cooperation of December 2009. Japan is the first country with which India has such 2+2 consultations.

3. Each side provided the other with an exposition of its defence and security policies in the framework of their respective security environments. In this background, the two sides reviewed the India - Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the Action Plan to advance such cooperation.

4. The two sides discussed non-traditional threats to security and decided to hold the next meeting of the India - Japan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at an early date. Ways to strengthen cooperation in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and holding of joint naval exercises were reviewed.

5. The two sides exchanged views on the regional and international security situation.

6. The next round of the India - Japan 2+2 dialogue will be held in Tokyo in 2011.



310. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India - Japan Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, July 6, 2010.

India - Japan Foreign Office Consultations were held at New Delhi in the afternoon of July 6, 2010. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, while the Japanese side was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kenichiro Sasae.

2. The two sides reviewed progress on India-Japan flagship projects such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and expressed satisfaction on the steady momentum in implementation of these projects. The Indian side thanked Japan for its assistance in the establishment of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.

3. The Indian side expressed the hope that Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Katsuya Okada would visit India at an early date for the next round of the India - Japan Strategic Dialogue.

4. The Indian side noted with appreciation the removal of several Indian entities from the Japanese End User List, thereby promoting High Technology Trade between the two countries. The two sides also noted with satisfaction the commencement of negotiations on an India-Japan Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the conclusion of which will enable Japanese companies to participate in the civil nuclear energy sector in India.

5. India and Japan will continue to cooperate in their efforts to reform the United Nations Security Council, including in the G-4 framework.

6. The two sides looked forward to the Annual Summit between the Prime Ministers of India and Japan in Tokyo later this year.



311. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on the visit of Foreign Minister of Japan.

New Delhi, August 20, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good morning to you.

My colleague who needs no introduction Mr. Gautam Bambawale, JS (East Asia), and I would like to brief you on the forthcoming very significant visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan.

His Excellency Katsuya Okada, the Foreign Minister of Japan will be arriving tomorrow on an official visit for the Fourth Strategic Dialogue with his Indian counterpart, Hon'ble S.M. Krishna. He would be calling on the Prime Minister, where-after there would be the delegation level talks. It would be followed by a press interaction. The FM of Japan would be meeting the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. The day after tomorrow, on the 22nd, he has also some engagements including a likely meeting with the Minister of State for Environment and Forests.

The Foreign Minister of Japan would be assisted by the Japanese Ambassador in New Delhi; the Director-General of Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs from the Japanese Foreign Office; and a number of other senior officials. The External Affairs Minister would be assisted by Shrimati Nirupama Rao, the Foreign Secretary; our Ambassador in Tokyo; Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale; and other officials.

The mechanism of the Strategic Dialogue at the Foreign Ministers level was instituted in December 2006 during the visit of our Prime Minister. The third round of the Dialogue was held in June last year in Tokyo when EAM visited Japan.

Within the framework of Strategic and Global Partnership which was unveiled in December 2006, during the visit of the Prime Minister of India, we now have a number of key dialogue mechanisms between the two countries to concretize, to deepen our multifaceted bilateral relationship. The Strategic Dialogue between the two Foreign Ministers is one of the very vital such mechanisms.

Another key element of our bilateral Strategic and Global Partnership is the practice for the two Prime Ministers to have an annual summit meeting alternately in Japan and India. Soon after assuming office Prime Minister Hatoyama had visited India for the fourth annual summit meeting with the Prime Minister of India in December last year. During the visit, a Joint Statement was signed between the two Prime Ministers on the new stage of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years. I would also like to add here that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Naoto Kan met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on the 27th of June in Toronto, practically within days of Prime Minister Kan assuming office, when both sides reiterated their resolve to enhance our mutually beneficial Strategic and Global Partnership.

The practice of high-level exchanges has gained momentum in the recent years. Just to cite a few instances, the National Security Advisor visited Japan in October as Prime Minister's Special Envoy when he also called on the then Prime Minister Hatoyama. Our Defence Minister, Raksha Mantriji, visited Japan in November 2009 when it was decided that India and Japan would have annual meetings at the level of Defence Ministers. Within the framework or consequent to that decision, the Defence Minister of Japan Toshimi Kitazawa was in India on the 29th April - 1st May this year when he also called on the Prime Minister of India.

Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao was in Tokyo in December for discussions with her counterpart. Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who is known as one of the key architects of the modern -day relationship between India and Japan visited in March this year. He had a meeting with the Prime Minister. We had another significant meeting of the fourth round of the India-Japan Energy Dialogue, and the third round of Japan-India Policy Dialogue between the METI Minister (the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment of Japan) Mr. Masayuki Naoshima and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission in New Delhi on 29th April - 1st May 10. These are just a few key exchanges that have taken place in recent months, which would give you a sense of the quality and the level of the dialogue between the two countries. The 4th round of the Strategic Dialogue is taking place in this background when we are witnessing an all-round progress in our ties. I would like to briefly elaborate.

Our trade and economic ties are a vital component of this relationship. As per official Japanese statistics, in 2008-09 our bilateral trade was more than 12 billion dollars. Japan has now become our sixth largest investor in India. In recent years Japanese investments have shown a marked increase. In the last ten years actual Japanese investments have already exceeded four billion dollars, of which a sizeable proportion happened just in the last two to three years. Already, 627 Japanese companies have business operations in India and over a 1000 have rep offices.

It is also quite significant, that successive surveys since 2007 of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have identified India as a most preferred long-term investment destination for Japan amongst all countries in the world. Recognizing the tremendous potential, recognizing the strides that we are making, the two sides are in the process of negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) the thirteenth round of which was held in Delhi recently.

Japan has also been extending very valuable assistance to us, which we greatly appreciate, for a number of flagship infrastructure development projects. Amongst them are the dedicated freight corridors, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, the IIT in Hyderabad and so on. We are also the largest recipient of Overseas Developmental Assistance (ODA) from Japan in the last few years. In 2009-10, the Japanese ODA grant was more than 218 billion yen. We greatly appreciate Japanese support and we have been putting it to very good use.

Ours is a multifaceted relationship encompassing practically all areas of interest including the very vital sector of energy. As I mentioned, we already have a Ministerial-level dialogue the fourth round of which took place in April-May. Japan is one of the world leaders in cutting-edge technologies. We are quite interested in collaborating with Japan in green technologies including clean coal, renewable resources of energy and technology for enhancing energy efficiencies.

I may also add that on the 25th of June this year, FM Okada announced the commencement of negotiations on civil nuclear cooperation between India and Japan. The first round took place in Tokyo on 28th and 29th June.

Again, in October 2008, during the visit of our Prime Minister, a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was signed. And during the visit of PM Hatoyama in December last year, an action plan on security cooperation was issued. We now have regular defence exchanges, port calls, consultations between the two sides on matters of maritime security, marine environment, anti-piracy, security of sea lanes of communication, coastguard cooperation, and so on. We have also instituted a practice for our Defence Ministers to meet every year.

The first round of the Two-Plus-Two Dialogue was held on the 6th of July, 2010 which was led by Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary at this end and their Japanese counterparts. Steps are similarly being taken to enhance people-to-people contacts and parliamentary exchanges. Beginning 1st of January 2010 we initiated the practice of visas on arrival to visitors from Japan plus some other countries.

That is the broad canvas that we see of the bilateral relationship. During the fourth round of Strategic Dialogue, EAM and Foreign Minister Okada will have wide-ranging discussions on bilateral matters, on regional and multilateral issues of interest. Their discussions would also be preparatory to the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India to Japan.

As two major democracies and economies in Asia, Japan and India share common values and economic complementarities. That is spurring cooperation in various areas which I have just enumerated between our two countries.

Thank you. My colleague and I would be happy to address a few questions.

Question: Today the Japanese Foreign Minister has said in Tokyo that he wants a clause that Japan will get out of the Nuclear Cooperation Treaty, if India detonates a nuclear device. Is India agreeable to this clause?

Joint Secretary (EA) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): I do not think I have any comment to make on that because I do not want to negotiate in public through the media. That is something we will take up with our Japanese counterparts, if at all they make this point to us, when we

have the next round of discussions on civil nuclear cooperation between India and Japan.

Question: With the negotiation with Japan on the civil nuclear cooperation, what is their stand on this ...(Unclear)... regime? Are they insisting on any convention like CSC? How do they look at it?

Joint Secretary (EA): I am afraid my reply is the same. I do not want to negotiate through the media; I do not want to negotiate through a public forum. As far as the civil nuclear cooperation issue is concerned, we greatly appreciate the position of the Japanese Government where on 25th of June, as Joint Secretary (XP) told you earlier, they publicly announced the formal commencement of negotiations between our two countries on agreement for cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Those negotiations are currently on. Let me say that there is no timeline which has been laid down for the conclusion of these negotiations. But both sets of negotiators, are working towards a good agreement which will be a win-win situation for both India and Japan.

Official Spokesperson: Also please do appreciate that we have had one round of discussions so far and discussions are ongoing. Here I may also add that we are appreciative of the support that the Japanese side provided to us at Vienna, which enabled a unanimous decision to be taken by the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Question: When is the next round of negotiations going to be held? And also what is the status of CEPA? Are we confident that ...(Inaudible)... Prime Minister ...(Inaudible)... by the time?

Joint Secretary (EA): As Vishnu just mentioned, both sets of negotiations are currently ongoing. The first round of negotiations or talks on civil nuclear cooperation took place in Tokyo on the 28th and 29th of June. The dates for the next round of talks have not really been set. But they will happen sooner rather than later. Obviously, we are hoping that the Japanese negotiating team will come this time to India. When that happens, we will let you know.

As far as CEPA is concerned, I think both Governments are placing a lot of importance on its conclusion. There is another round of negotiations which

is scheduled to take place in Tokyo in the first week of September when our Chief Negotiator the Commerce Secretary visits Tokyo. I do not want to prejudge what the outcome of those negotiations will be. But let me just add once again that both Governments in India and Japan are looking forward to a successful conclusion of this very important agreement between our two countries.

Question: *There are some functionaries in Japan who are opposing this deal; do you think it will impact the relations existing between the two?*

Official Spokesperson: *As I told you and if you observe, our relations are getting progressively strengthened and they are getting strengthened in different sectors, both sides-the Indian as well as Japanese sides give them a lot of importance; and this is a process which is constantly on the increase.*

Question: How do you view the recent reports in the media, particularly in the Indian media, of Japanese functionaries like Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki expressing concern? One understood that Indian Government and Japanese Government have already gone through this entire exercise and probably we were much beyond these very nascent sort of reservations, objections, etc.

Joint Secretary (EA): You are right. We have seen these viewpoints expressed in Japan. But we are also aware that there are certain sensitivities in Japan on this entire nuclear issue. After all Japan is the one country which has actually been the target of such weapons. So, we appreciate the fact that there are these viewpoints out there in Japan. But I think it is for the Government of Japan to handle these views. The Government of Japan has taken a decision to move ahead, which they formally announced on the 25th of June, and I am sure they did that after considering all the different viewpoints which may be there out in Japan, just as the Government of India considers various viewpoints in India on any matter including on civil nuclear cooperation.

Official Spokesperson: And also to add that India and Japan share a common goal of a world free of weapons of mass destruction. India strongly believes that such an arrangement should be comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory, and verifiable. So, we are on the same page there.

Question: There are reports about the Pakistan Foreign Minister accepting Indian aid, which they announced in New York. Can you tell us about it?

Official Spokesperson: You are aware that on the 13th of August, EAM called Foreign Minister Qureshi. Yesterday, the Prime Minister spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Gilani to condole the loss of life, loss of property, the devastation and the deaths caused due to the huge floods in Pakistan which is our neighbour. EAM had offered and Prime Minister reiterated that offer, for providing relief material and also said that we are willing to do more. Foreign Minister Qureshi has conveyed acceptance for India's offer to provide relief material. And we welcome the decision by Pakistan to accept the offer of assistance that has been made. It is a goodwill offer, in the spirit of solidarity and goodwill for the people of Pakistan. We believe that India and Pakistan share a common destiny and also that it is a common interest for both our countries to work towards having a cordial and cooperative relationship.

Question: Was the assistance offered in terms of money or was it in terms of relief material for five million dollars?

Official Spokesperson: If you look at the Press Release that was issued on 13th August, it says that Government of India has offered assistance of five million dollars for provision of relief material to Pakistan to assist in the flood relief efforts.

Question: We are continuously seeing reports that the damage caused by the floods in Pakistan is growing by the day. Does the Indian Government intend to increase, add to the five million dollars that you have offered to Pakistan?

Official Spokesperson: Yesterday, in his telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Gilani, Dr. Manmohan Singh the Prime Minister of India said that we are willing to do more. We are pained at the loss of life, the damage to property in Pakistan; and in this hour of need India is willing to offer a helping hand.

Thank you.

(Text in italics is translated from the original text in Hindi)



312. Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan.

New Delhi, August 21, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Welcome to the press interaction. First, the External Affairs Minister of India Mr. S.M. Krishna will make an opening statement. Next, the Foreign Minister of Japan His Excellency Katsuya Okada would be making a statement.

May I invite the External Affairs Minister to please make his opening statement?

External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna):

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Okada,

Members of delegation

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

Foreign Minister Okada and I have just concluded the 4th round of the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue. It has been a pleasure to welcome Foreign Minister Okada on his first official, bilateral visit to India as the Foreign Minister of Japan.

Earlier today, we had a productive exchange of ideas on how to further strengthen the many dimensions of the India-Japan Strategic & Global Partnership. We discussed ways of further consolidating the excellent political, economic, security and people-to-people relations that India and Japan enjoy.

We affirmed the fundamental and inherent strength of India-Japan relations, which is demonstrated in the continuing logic of our Partnership which has withstood changes in Government in both our countries. We agreed on the pivotal role of economic cooperation in steering our ties forward. We recognized that both sides have a mutual stake in each other's prosperity and progress. I thanked Japan for their continuing Official Development Assistance to India as well as their assistance to flagship infrastructure projects like the Dedicated Freight Corridor, the

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the establishment of IIT-Hyderabad. FM Okada reiterated Japan's commitment towards these projects.

I conveyed to Foreign Minister Okada our appreciation of Japan's decision to commence negotiations on a bilateral Agreement on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. As you are aware, the first round of negotiations was held in Tokyo on June 28-29 this year. We agreed that the negotiations will continue quickly and that we will jointly work towards a good Agreement which will result in a win-win situation for both India and Japan. We do not intend fixing set a time-line for the conclusion of such an Agreement.

I thanked the Government of Japan for removing 11 Indian entities from their End User List. This will provide a big boost to High Technology Trade between India and Japan.

We exchanged views on the evolving regional architecture in Asia and agreed to work together in ensuring that such an architecture is open and inclusive. As member-nations of the East Asia Summit we welcomed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers decision to move towards the inclusion of the United States and Russia in the EAS.

We also agreed to continue and enhance our consultations within the G-4 process for reform of the United Nations including its Security Council. I have accepted Foreign Minister Okada's invitation to meet with other G-4 Foreign Ministers in New York in September this year on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly Session.

We also discussed regional issues of interest to both India and Japan. We also agreed to enhance dialogue between the Foreign Offices of our two countries on several regions. We decided to embark on a new Dialogue on Africa, with a view to synergizing our developmental efforts in that continent.

We discussed global issues like climate change, non-proliferation and disarmament. I conveyed our willingness to Foreign Minister Okada to work with Japan to ensure a balanced, comprehensive, equitable and effective outcome in the UN-led process on climate change at COP-16 in Mexico. On disarmament issues, I conveyed that India and Japan share the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. We are ready to work with Japan to achieve

such an objective in a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and verifiable framework.

Foreign Minister Okada invited me to Japan for the next round of the Annual Strategic Dialogue. I have accepted his invitation with pleasure and look forward to visiting Japan at a mutually convenient time next year.

Thank You.

Foreign Minister of Japan (Mr. Katsuya Okada): Today, together with External Affairs Minister Krishna, we held the fourth round of the Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue. We were able to engage in an extremely useful exchange of views on the efforts to further consolidate our bilateral relations and on numerous regional and international issues.

On economic cooperation, as Minister Krishna just mentioned a while ago, we agreed that with regard to the Dedicated Freight Corridor project and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project we shall continue to implement these projects steadily. In the meeting I stated that India already is the largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance, and that we shall continue to firmly work with each other on this economic cooperation in the days ahead as well.

As the Minister has just mentioned earlier with regard to East Asia Summit, we also confirmed that we shall welcome the inclusion of both the United States and Russia. We also exchanged views with regard to such countries as Afghanistan, Pakistan and North Korea.

Having said all that, broadly speaking we concentrated notably on the following three points in our discussions - first economic area, second civil nuclear cooperation, and thirdly UN Security Council reforms. First with regard to our economic relations, I said that thanks to the efforts made by both our countries we have seen a notable deepening in the economic relations between our two countries in recent times; and yet they still fall short of their potentials and, therefore, we really need to further redouble our efforts to raise our economic relations.

I said that it will certainly not be beyond our imagination if say trade and investment relations or people-to-people contacts between our two countries in the economic sphere grew ten-fold from the present level. In

this connection I made two specific suggestions. The first is to establish an Economic Ministerial Meeting.

The second point I have made was with regard to Economic Partnership Agreement. We believe that the negotiations on EPA should be finalized by the time Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Japan. We exchanged views in our meeting today on the remaining issues.

I would also like to speak of the second subject which is the civil nuclear cooperation agreement. I first expressed my appreciation for the efforts that have been made to date by India for nuclear nonproliferation and towards a nuclear weapons free world. Having said that, I also stated very candidly that the decision to launch the negotiations for the nuclear cooperation agreement was probably one of the toughest decisions that I had to make as Foreign Minister amongst the numerous decisions that I have made so far.

The background to that is that Japan is the only country that has experienced atomic attacks and against the policy of seeking a nuclear weapon free world. And would it not run counter to that policy of Japan to seek a nuclear weapon free world, if we are to engage in nuclear cooperation with a country, India, that is not a member to NPT?

Considering that domestic criticism in Japan is high, I asked for consideration on the part of India so that this philosophy of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation would be contained in the nuclear cooperation agreement. In addition to that I also conveyed to Mr. Krishna that Japan also attaches importance to the efforts that India makes and will be making towards an early conclusion and ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as well as efforts towards Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty talks.

Let me turn to the third point which is the reform of the UN Security Council. As External Affairs Minister has already mentioned, indeed I did make a proposal that the G4 Foreign Ministers gather on the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting in September to discuss this matter. I suggested that this question of the UN Security Council reform should be considered as an important part of global governance issue. We reaffirmed that Japan and India shall cooperate with each other in

order to realize these reforms. And I look forward to cooperating very closely with India on specific ways and means shall I say in approaching African countries in this regard.

I might also add that in the meeting that I had earlier today with Prime Minister Singh, I also gave an outline of these three points.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Excellency, thank you very much.

The two Ministers would be very happy to take two questions from each side. You may like to address your question to either of the Ministers but please indicate whether the question is for the External Affairs Minister or for the Foreign Minister. Also, please introduce yourself and your organization. You are requested to kindly restrict your questions to India-Japan relations. The first question goes to the Japanese side.

Question (Japanese Media): I would like to ask questions with regard to economic relations. You mentioned that in the meeting you suggested that the Economic Ministers meeting be held. I wonder first of all what sort of themes you have for the Ministerial meeting, their framework, and when likely the first meeting would take place? Secondly on EPA, I understand that promoting EPA is one of the major pillars of the Democratic Party of Japan Administration's growth strategy. I want to know what will be the strategic significance of finalizing EPA talks between Japan and India by the time Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Japan, and the likely impact that it would have on the Japanese economy. Thirdly with regard to the remaining issues, I wonder how you intend to settle those issues within the coming several months? Are you going to make some political judgment towards that settlement? These are all questions for Minister Okada.

Foreign Minister of Japan: First with regard to Economic Ministerial meeting. In fact, just next week I shall be attending a similar Economic Ministerial meeting between Japan and China as Chair. So, the idea is to establish a similar gathering between Japan and India as well. In this connection I also suggested that one possibility might be to combine or have private business people attend as well. This after all is just a proposal that I made today, and I appreciate it if the Indian side would be kind enough to consider this possibility.

The question with regard to EPA was, will it really be effective? My answer to that would be, well the effects could be unfathomably deep. Some problems do remain. However, my understanding is that the talks are proceeding relatively smoothly. Ultimately, I think the matter may have to be put to a political decision. Just yesterday, Ministers concerned in the Japanese Cabinet gathered and to some extent discussed this Japan-India EPA. After returning to Japan I shall again discuss these remaining issues with my colleague Ministers. But I hope that we shall be able to make our political decision so that when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Japan we shall be able to have an agreement.

What I said to Prime Minister Singh was that we really have to raise the Japan-India economic relations one step or two steps above the current level, one stage or two stages above the current level. I believe that this EPA will serve as an important means to do that.

Official Spokesperson: Due to paucity of time I would earnestly request you all to please restrict yourself to one question either to the External Affairs Minister or to the Foreign Minister.

Question (Indian Media): My question is to the Foreign Minister of Japan. What specific commitment on nonproliferation issue do you expect from India before the Indo-Japanese nuclear deal is finalized? Also is it true about the reports that Japan is insisting on a clause which says if India tests again the deal will be over?

Foreign Minister of Japan: It is really about negotiations of the agreement that will be proceeding from now on and, therefore, I believe it is best not for me to say anything definitively. Having said that, I look forward to engaging in in-depth discussions with the Indian side regarding the formulation or wording so that the philosophy of nonproliferation and disarmament will be built into the agreement. I do not think we can say, we can suggest that India refrain absolutely from conducting any nuclear tests. But if such a thing were to happen, then I think Japan will have no option but to state that we shall suspend our cooperation.

Question (Japanese Media): I would like to ask these questions for Minister Okada with regard to the nuclear cooperation agreement. Minister Krishna earlier mentioned in his opening remarks the discussions regarding peaceful uses of nuclear energy. I wonder, Minister Okada, if you could explain

what sort of discussions you had, and also essentially what sort of exchange of views did you have on this matter. Secondly, have you got any rough idea as to when you wish to conclude the nuclear cooperation agreement?

Foreign Minister of Japan: I was not entirely clear about the purport of the question. But these are discussions now on the nuclear cooperation agreement and as such it goes without saying that we are discussing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As for timeline, I would say as soon as possible. But we have not really set any specific deadline.

Question (Indian Media): My question is addressed to Indian Foreign Minister. Sir, how do you plan to first of all address Japan's concern on the testing of a nuclear device? If I may drift from this, China has also expressed concern over the meeting of Dalai Lama with the Prime Minister. Can you just clarify on both?

External Affairs Minister of India: The very fact that Japan has commenced negotiations with India in order to work out a bilateral agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the first round of negotiations were held in Tokyo, and we will continue a follow-up on that as quickly as possible. And as I mentioned in my opening statement, there is no timeline for the conclusion of any such agreement.

With reference to the visit of Dalai Lama, the Indian position has been stated and repeatedly. And it is unequivocal and it is categorical. I have mentioned this to my esteemed friend the Chinese Foreign Minister that Dalai Lama is an honoured guest in India, and he is a spiritual leader, and he has been held as such by millions of Indians, and we do not encourage anyone to get into political or other activities which will concern the relationship between two countries. It has also been made abundantly clear that Tibetan Autonomous Region is a part of the People's Republic of China. I think that should bring down the curtain on any controversy on this question.

Official Spokesperson: The interaction now draws to a close. Thank you for your presence.



313. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's three-nation (Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam) visit.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and wonderful to see you all. You are aware that Prime Minister is departing on Sunday on a very important three-nation tour of Asia which will take him to Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy are here to brief you on this very important visit. I would also like to introduce two of my colleagues who are here. To my left is Mr. Gautam Bambawale, our Joint Secretary (East Asia), and to the right of Secretary (East) is Mr. Suresh Reddy, Joint Secretary (ASEAN).

May I now invite Foreign Secretary to please make her opening remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Smt Nirupama Rao): Friends

On October 24, the Prime Minister will embark on a significant three-nation Asian tour covering Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam.

As you are well aware, India enunciated its 'Look East' policy in 1992. Our strategy was to qualitatively enhance synergies and civilizational linkages with the dynamic East and South East Asian region. Over these past 18 years we have made visible progress in attaining these goals. There are dimensions to India that encapsulate an identity that is South Asian, that is South-east Asian, that is East Asian. India, is now a member of the East Asia Summit and holds annual Summit meetings with the ASEAN. Our relations with Japan stand transformed. The Indian economy is getting increasingly integrated with those of its East Asian partners. PM's three nation Asian tour is organically defined by this process.

PM will first visit Japan for his Annual Summit with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan. He arrives in Tokyo on the evening of October 24th. On Monday October 25, PM and Smt. Gursharan Kaur will have an audience with their Majesties, The Emperor and Empress of Japan.

The same evening, PM will hold extensive discussions with Prime Minister Naoto Kan both in restricted and delegation level sessions, on bilateral, regional and global issues. The Prime Ministers are expected to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement or CEPA. The agreement signifies the economic alignment of two of the largest economies in Asia and would lead to a marked increase in our business and economic ties. CEPA is a win-win proposition for both our countries.

Prime Ministers Singh and Kan will also discuss Japanese involvement in major infrastructure development projects in India, such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese ODA, of which we are very appreciative.

India-Japan consultations are expected to cover bilateral security cooperation that has been progressing well in the context and framework of the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation and the Action Plan on Security Cooperation signed last December in New Delhi. High Technology Trade and Energy Cooperation including renewable and civil nuclear, are also subjects that are receiving high level attention.

India and Japan have a similar outlook on a host of regional and global issues, including UN reforms, regional integration within East Asia and the rejuvenation of Nalanda University. Fellow G 4 countries, we have been engaged with the comity of nations in ushering-in earliest expansion of UNSC, both in permanent and non-permanent categories.

Some important documents are likely to be signed. PM Kan will also host a banquet in honour of PM and Smt. Gursharan Kaur.

Prime Minister *inter alia*, will meet a number of Japanese dignitaries including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, as well as, former Prime Ministers Mori, Abe and Fukuda, besides DPJ Secretary General and former FM Okada. He will address a Business event organized by Nippon Keidanren. As such, PM will have a full program in Japan which will advance our Strategic and Global Partnership.

On the second leg of his tour, the Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Malaysia from 26 to 28 October, at the invitation of the Prime Minister

Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. The latter had earlier been on a State visit to India in January this year.

India and Malaysia have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly ties. Malaysia is also home to one of our largest overseas Indian-origin communities of about 2.1 million, constituting 8% of the country's population, besides some 150,000 skilled and semi-skilled Indian workers. Thousands of our students study in each other's country. As such to enhance people to people ties, an Indian Cultural Centre was opened in Kuala Lumpur in February 2010.

Malaysia is our second largest trading partner in the ASEAN region. Malaysian investors are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination. Malaysian construction companies have a good presence in India and have already completed 52 construction projects worth US\$ 2.34 billion. 35 more projects are in the pipeline. To give our economic engagement a strong impetus, the Prime Ministers are expected to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement or CECA.

PM will have in-depth discussions with his counterpart on all facets of bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister's other engagements include an audience with the King and Queen of Malaysia and meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister. Both Prime Ministers will launch the CEOs' Forum signaling their strong expectation that business and industry on both sides, will foster a closer and deeper economic engagement. PM will deliver the Khazanah Global Lecture 2010, pay a visit to 'Little India' and will attend an Indian community reception hosted by the High Commissioner.

A number of agreements are likely to be signed during PM's visit. India and Malaysia are striving to give a strategic orientation to their partnership and crafting broad based ties focusing on key sectors like IT, infrastructure, health & medicine, biotechnology and energy. Prime Minister's visit will further this process.

Prime Minister will travel to Hanoi (Vietnam) on the third and final leg of his Asia tour, for participating in the 8th India-ASEAN Summit and 5th East Asia Summits on 30th October 2010.

The India-ASEAN Summit will take place in the forenoon, when Prime Minister will hold discussions with his 10 ASEAN counterparts. Our relationship has indeed come a long way. The India-ASEAN Trade-in-Goods Agreement became operational on 1st January, 2010. We expect to complete negotiations on the Trade in Services and Investment Agreement soon. To give a fillip to our economic engagement an India-ASEAN Trade Fair and Business Summit is planned at New Delhi in March, 2011. The India-ASEAN Plan of Action for 2010-15, is proposed to be adopted during the Summit. A series of events are also being contemplated next year leading to the first ever India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in India in 2012.

The 5th East Asia Summit will also be held on 30th October. It would deliberate on the issues of (a) Energy, Environment, climate change and sustainable development (b) Financial Cooperation (c) Pandemics (d) Natural Disaster Mitigation (e) Education and (f) Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) and Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The leaders will also exchange views on regional and international issues and on the future cooperation in EAS. They are expected to invite US and Russia to attend EAS as the 'Guest of the Host' with formal entry at Summit level scheduled for 2011.

Prime Minister would take this opportunity to, inter alia, brief the EAS leaders on the Nalanda University Project, which is now ready to take-off after the acquisition of land and passage of the Nalanda University bill in Parliament. The Summit will adopt the 'Hanoi Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit'. All EAS leaders will also pay a courtesy call on President of Viet Nam H.E. Nguyen Minh Triet who will host a lunch in their honour.

On 29th October, the preceding day, Prime Minister will have a number of bilateral meetings with ASEAN and EAS leaders, besides attending a gala dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, for all the visiting Heads of States and governments.

Let me pause here. I hope you have got a good feel of the packed schedule of engagements of the Prime Minister. Secretary (East) and I will now be happy to take your questions.

Question: What is the status of nuclear dialogue between India and Japan? Is the nuclear agreement expected during the visit?

Foreign Secretary: We have had two rounds of discussions on the subject of cooperation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the Government of Japan. In fact, the second round of discussions was just held this month, in October. We intend to take these discussions forward. From both sides there is political resolve that we should continue our discussions in this regard and seek to build more common ground. In fact, the first two rounds have been very useful and have covered a lot of ground. We will not be signing an agreement on this during the visit because we need to have a few more rounds of discussions.

Question: How large is the delegation and who all are accompanying the Prime Minister?

Foreign Secretary: External Affairs Minister will accompany our Prime Minister on his visit to Japan. Of course, Prime Minister will be accompanied by senior officials including the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; the National Security Advisor, the Foreign Secretary, and other senior officials. While EAM will accompany the Prime Minister to Japan, the Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Anand Sharma will be present during the Malaysia visit.

Question: Madam, why are India and Japan not signing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement? Could you give us a flavor of the CECA negotiations with Malaysia? Also, could you give us a flavor about the CEPEA?

Foreign Secretary: On the CEPA negotiations with Japan, we have been able to conclude the negotiations. But there are some internal processes that Japan has to go through before the CEPA is signed by the two Governments. There is a fairly complicated and lengthy process, but they have already begun that and the legal scrubbing of the documents is also taking place on both sides. Obviously we will be very happy to announce the conclusion of the negotiations. But actual signing will have to await the completion of some formalities on the Japanese side.

On the CECA with Malaysia and the CEPEA on the East Asia Summit, I would like to request Secretary (East) to respond.

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Regarding the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Malaysia, after Prime Minister Najib's visit to India in January this year both Prime Ministers directed their officials to intensify negotiations on CECA in Goods, Services and Investment as a single undertaking. Between March and October this year, the negotiators have met on seven separate occasions to work out the parameters of this agreement. We expect a positive outcome to be announced during Prime Minister's visit. We believe that this will be a high quality and a mutually beneficial arrangement. There will be clear advantages for our exports in both goods and services. It would be premature at this stage to disclose all the details. But we are very optimistic. As I told you, it will be a comprehensive agreement. I am informed by the negotiators that they are making good progress. I think there would be some formalities to be completed before it can be finally adopted.

On the CEPEA that stands for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia, this is a wider FTA being contemplated to include the ten ASEAN countries and the six partners which are China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. This has been initiated along with another arrangement for the ASEAN Plus 3. And four Study Groups have been set up by the ASEAN to study different technical issues such as tariffs, customs and other issues in order to take the progress forward. The decision taken at the last Economic Ministers' meeting held in August 2010 in Hanoi, and before that in August 2009 in Thailand, was that both processes would progress together and that they would be looking at both these arrangements together. So, we are confident that this arrangement will move forward and that CEPEA will become one of the widest trade arrangements in Asia.

Foreign Secretary: And to give you some more information on CEPA with Japan, as you know we have such agreements with Singapore and the Republic of Korea. This will be the third such agreement that we propose to conclude. It is the most comprehensive of all the agreements that we have been able to conclude so far. It covers more than 90 per

cent of the trade and a vast gamut of services, investment, IPR, customs and other trade-related issues. It will not only open the Japanese market for Indian products and vice versa, but also facilitate movement of natural persons between the two countries. We expect the complementarity between the two economies to be further harnessed as a result of this agreement. As our Prime Minister has said, agreements of this nature like what we have with Singapore, with Republic of Korea and now that we hope to have with Japan, would contribute to the creation of what Prime Minister has referred to as the Asian Economic Community.

Question: Is there a plan for a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Chinese Premier? Also, how do you look at the growing Chinese influence in the East Asia region? Do you see rivalry or confrontation with the growing Chinese power in this region?

Foreign Secretary: There will be a meeting between our Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier. It is planned to be held in Hanoi during the East Asia Summit.

As far as your second question is concerned, I am not going to give you the answer you want! Obviously, as we have said on many occasions, there is space enough for India and China to grow and to coexist and to work with each other. That is the outlook, as we see it, for the future.

Question: Regarding the CEPA with Japan, are you disappointed that you are not signing the CEPA agreement with Japan?

Foreign Secretary: I think what is important to underline is that we have concluded the negotiations. These have been complex negotiations. The fact that we have been able to conclude these complex negotiations I think is a development of great satisfaction. We have a very positive feeling about the conclusion of the negotiations on both sides. Of course, as far as the Japanese system is concerned, the Japanese Ambassador here in Delhi and also the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo has explained to us that there is a certain process that you have to go through statutorily in the Japanese system to get these agreements approved. So, that is the reality and we have to always deal with realities

in diplomacy.

Question: When was the last time that an Indian Prime Minister visited Hanoi, Vietnam?

Secretary (East): I will get back to you on that question. I do not have the exact answer.

Question: Who are the members of the economic delegation accompanying PM?

Foreign Secretary: There will be eight to nine CEOs from the Indian side and they will be led from the Indian side by Mr. Mukesh Ambani.

Question: Madam, talking about this bilateral meeting between Prime Ministers of India and China, in the last few months we have had a whole host of issues with China including that of the stapled visas. What are we going to be discussing at this moment? Also, are we going to seek added clarifications on their strategic shift towards Jammu and Kashmir?

Foreign Secretary: I think it would be premature for me to go into the nature of the discussions that will take place between the two Prime Ministers. Let me just say that China and India are important Asian countries. They are neighbours of each other. As is always the case, when two large neighbouring countries meet we have a lot of issues to discuss. The relationship with China has matured, has evolved, has grown in the last few years. So, the agenda of discussion at such meetings is always a rich and textured one.

Question: From a purely Indian viewpoint what is the significance of the US and Russia participating in the East Asia Summit?

Foreign Secretary: From the Indian viewpoint we welcome the inclusion of the United States and Russia as entrants to the East Asia Summit. We have always favoured an open, balanced and inclusive regional architecture for the Asia Pacific region. We believe that these two countries, Russia and the United States, with their participation will bring even more value and richness to the discussions and the nature of cooperation and dialogue within the East Asia Summit.

Question: Madam, in the past we had seen that we had signed an FTA with Thailand and it did not really mature. Now we are having individual Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements or cooperation agreements with other ASEAN countries, and simultaneously we are having a CEPEA also. When we are having individual agreements with different countries and then an overarching CEPEA, how does one look at this?

Secretary (East): I think you have to look at this in three separate ways. The first is the question of the individual bilateral free trade agreements which may or may not be CEPAs or CECAs. CEPAs and CECAs will mean that it is a free trade agreement in goods, services and investments. You can have separate FTAs in goods or in the services and investment as well. As far as the CEPEA is concerned, as I explained earlier, it is for ASEAN Plus 6. As far as our existing Free Trade Agreement in Goods with ASEAN is concerned, that is for India Plus the 10 ASEAN countries only. What we are endeavouring to do is to complete the free trade agreement in services and investment with the ASEAN countries, which all of us have made a commitment should be completed by March 2011. This was agreed to by the Commerce Ministers at their meeting in August.

As far as the bilateral CECAs or CEPAs are concerned, as you know, we have concluded one with Singapore, first of all the ASEAN countries, though actually we signed the framework agreement with Thailand. You are quite right. In the case of Thailand we had an early harvest scheme of 82 items which came into effect and which led to a quantum leap in trade. At the time when we were on the point of concluding the Free Trade Agreement in Goods, it was overtaken by the fact that the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods was coming in. So, Thailand also being a signatory to the Free Trade Agreement in Goods has benefited from signing the FTA in Goods with India. However, there is interest in concluding the separate bilateral agreement with Thailand which should be an ASEAN Plus, in other words ASEAN FTA Plus, to give something additional to both sides. The indication which we have is that our Commerce Ministry would like to see comprehensive agreements in future with all the ASEAN countries for bilateral arrangements; it should

not just be free trade in goods. I know that Malaysia certainly is in the pipeline, as we have discussed, and should be concluded definitely in 2011. I think some timelines have been agreed to both for the conclusion and the implementation of the CECA in Malaysia. I think the other countries which are also expressing interest are Indonesia and some of the others. This is the position as it presently is with reference to the ASEAN Plus 6, ASEAN Plus India, and the bilateral FTAs in the region.

Question: There was a report about the MEA trying to stop the Dalai Lama from receiving an honorary Ph.D. Is that correct?

Foreign Secretary: I have seen the newspaper report you are referring to. Of course, you know that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a very respected religious and spiritual figure for millions of us Indians. The matter that you referred to, which is the subject of the newspaper report, is receiving our attention. I do not want to comment on it further, but it is receiving our attention.

Question: Madam, I have two short questions. It is perhaps exactly the fifteenth day from the day Enforcement Directorate had written to Mumbai RPO to serve a notice to Mr. Lalit Modi to revoke his passport and perhaps try and bring him back to India. Has he responded to that notice, Madam, and what natural course of action will follow for revocation of his passport? I have one more question. Before the start of the Commonwealth Games there was an email from the Indian High Commission in London that was shown by Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, which was supposed to be forged. Is any inquiry under way in the MEA to that effect to cooperate in the Commonwealth Games inquiry?

Foreign Secretary: As regards the first question you raised about Mr. Lalit Modi, yes, it is true he is a holder of a passport issued by the Regional Passport Office in Mumbai. I think the passport was issued sometime in July of 2008. We received a request from the Directorate of Enforcement in Mumbai on the 5th of this month, asking us to revoke the passport of Shri Modi in public interest in general and in the interest of a thorough investigation into the alleged irregularities that he had committed. Accordingly, Shri Modi was issued a show-cause notice on the 13th of October calling upon him to explain as to why action under

the relevant section of the Passports Act of 1967 should not be initiated against him. Why I am going into this is there is a certain procedure that we have to go into under the law. And as per the provisions of this Act, a person is given 15 days' time to represent his case from the date of the issue of the notice. On the 15th of October the Director of Enforcement in Mumbai provided Shri Modi's alternative address in Mumbai to the RPO, and accordingly a copy of the notice has been forwarded by the RPO Mumbai on the 15th of October itself to the alternative address. RPO Mumbai has confirmed that Shri Modi has not responded to the notices issued to him till date - that is as of yesterday, I have not been able to check the position as of today - and a reply is awaited from him. If no reply is received within the stipulated period, further action would be obviously initiated by the RPO as prescribed under the rules.

As regards the question on the Commonwealth Games, as you are aware, our Prime Minister has ordered a probe into various aspects concerning the Commonwealth Games and the preparations that went into it. These investigations are currently under way. I would not like to pronounce on the matter until the findings of these investigations are ready for disclosure.

Question: There are reports that the Taliban are being escorted to meet Mr. Karzai. Is there any link between the Taliban and Afghan Government? Is it a concern for India?

Foreign Secretary: On the links that you refer to, obviously you must pose this question also to the Afghan authorities. I do not think it would be proper for me to give you the opinion of the Afghan Government on this matter. But as far as the Taliban are concerned and as far as the groups that have indulged in terrorism and extremism and have targeted vulnerable sections of Afghan society are concerned, India's views are very clear. At the London Conference early this year in February when they spoke of reintegration and reconciliation, certain redlines were drawn as to how this whole process should be carried forward, and that it should be predicated on these groups giving up violence, subscribing to the values of the Constitution of Afghanistan, giving up terrorism, giving up recourse to arms as a means of solving problems and any differences that they have with the Afghan Government. We are obviously alert to the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a close neighbor of India. The situation in

Afghanistan impacts all of us because we are very clear in the enunciation of our position that we would like to see the forces of democracy, of economic growth and development, women's empowerment, regional stability, to be strengthened as a result of the efforts that the international community is making in Afghanistan.

Question: Next Tuesday, the United Nations General Assembly is going to discuss and vote on a resolution condemning the United States blockade on Cuba. What will India's position be in that regard?

Foreign Secretary: I have not been informed of the latest position in this regard. Obviously, we have always taken the position that sanctions against any country affect the ordinary people of the country concerned; and that we should always, when we take a view on the imposition of any economic measures against any country, be conscious and sensitive to this aspect.

Question: Madam, there are reports that Dawood Ibrahim has undergone surgery in Pakistan. Any information on that and what is India's stand?

Foreign Secretary: No, I have not checked with the surgeon!

Question: Madam, though we have seen a lot of reports about David Headley cropping up in recent days now, Mr. Krishna said a few days ago that prior to 26/11 no specific information was given to us on what Headley was doing. This morning we did an interview with Robert Blake who said in fact that all information was shared with India, even whatever specifics there were. So, what is going on here? Who is not telling the truth?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to set up a truth commission on this. But what I want to say is that I saw the interview with Assistant Secretary Blake. I saw it just before coming here. I think you have to look at the sequence of events here. In the last few months obviously you are all aware that once the Headley case surfaced, we have had interaction and exchanges with the Americans on the investigations into that case. So, that is one part of the sequence. But before 26/11, and that is what External Affairs Minister was referring to, we did not have anything more than very general, nonspecific information on these warnings and threats that had apparently been surfacing.

Official Spokesperson: I take it there are no more questions. Thank you.



314. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japanese media prior to departure for Tokyo.**New Delhi, October 24, 2010.**

Que-1: Could you describe India's strengths in areas of trade, investment and services? Is there any specific field in which you want to strengthen bilateral cooperation - for example, steel production or automobiles? Improvement in infrastructure is key for India's economic growth. What will the Indian government do to attract Japanese investments?

Ans: In recent years, the policy framework relating to investment, taxation, foreign trade, finance, capital markets and regulatory systems has evolved to make Indian industry more productive and globally competitive. As a result, India's share in the global flows of goods and services has grown steadily. Today, India offers a growing and vibrant market, young work force, and an attractive destination for foreign investors. New policies are enabling public-private partnership in the development of critical infrastructure like roads, ports, airports and power.

Japan is the major economic partner of India, and the economic and technological powerhouse of the world. Strengthening the bilateral economic partnership is central to India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership established in 2006. It is heartening that India is now recognized as the best long-term investment destination by Japanese companies. We welcome Japanese investments in India. We have concluded negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which will boost our trade and economic ties manifold.

Our Government places the highest importance on improving the investment climate for foreign investors in India. We recognize the multiplier effects of improving infrastructure on the growth of Indian economy. We are upgrading our infrastructure for which the Japanese Government is extending valuable assistance through ODA. Japanese companies are partnering with India to build metro rail services in several cities. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project as well as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project will open up vast opportunities for Japanese businesses for mutually beneficial cooperation. I would encourage Japanese investors to come to India and become part of our ambitious development plans.

Que-2: Economic reform and deregulation in India has slowed down noticeably during the last few years. Are you prepared to accelerate the process and go ahead with key reforms such as opening up multi-brand retail to FDI? Some Japanese companies, planning to set up factories, face difficulties in obtaining land and handling complicated tax system. They end up shelving their plans and moving their investments elsewhere. What is government doing to remove such bottlenecks.

Ans: We are in the midst of a major socio-economic transformation. Our economy has grown at an average annual rate of over nine percent in the last few years. We have managed sustained growth despite the global economic slowdown. The Government of India is committed to economic reforms as the principal instrument of economic transformation and inclusive growth. There is an increasing appreciation that calibrated and sustained change is better than abrupt about turns. A number of steps have been taken to simplify the FDI regime. All regulations and guidelines have been consolidated into one comprehensive document, which is reviewed every six months. Government have also started stakeholder consultations on opening up additional sectors to greater inflow of FDI.

The policy framework relating to land, environment and resettlement and rehabilitation remains under constant review. We have formulated the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007. The Government of India is committed to improve the efficiency of the tax system by eliminating distortions in the tax structure, introducing moderate levels of taxation, expanding the taxable base, promoting equity while enhancing revenues and simplifying taxation provisions. The new Direct Taxes Code has been unveiled with these objectives and is expected to come into effect shortly. Efforts are also underway to reform the indirect tax regime by introducing a country wide Goods and Services Tax, based on a consensus between the different stakeholders.

Que-3: How crucial is Japanese nuclear technology in furthering of India's energy plans? Regarding the civil nuclear negotiations, do you still believe that an agreement can be hammered out soon?

Ans: Developing countries like India seek new energy sources to sustain high rates of economic growth. We see nuclear energy as a vital component of our global energy mix. Our nuclear industry is poised for a major

expansion and there will be huge opportunities for the global nuclear industry to participate in the expansion of India's nuclear energy programme. We would like Japan to be our partner in this initiative. We are aware of the advanced capabilities of Japanese firms in this field and the important role they play in the global supply chain. We are negotiating an Agreement on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with Japan. I am confident that we will be able to conclude an agreement which will be a win-win proposition for both of us. We have not laid down any deadline for concluding these negotiations.

Que-4: Japan is putting the condition that it will annul the nuclear cooperation if India goes for another nuclear test. Is India agreeable to this condition in the agreement? How does India rate its nuclear non-proliferation record? Can India sign NPT?

Ans: Since negotiations are continuing on the bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement, I do not wish to comment on specific details. Both countries would benefit from an agreement that provides a long-term and stable basis of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This will contribute towards our energy security requirements and will also help in the global efforts to combat climate change.

India's position on the NPT is well-known. India has an impeccable non-proliferation record which has been recognized by the international community. We are committed to maintaining our unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. India has been steadfast in its support for global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework. We are ready to work with Japan and other like minded countries in realizing the vision of a nuclear weapon free world.

Que-5: In recent days, China has had frictions with Japan and other South East Asian countries. How do you see this situation and is there any impact on India? Many of Japanese people are worried by China's aggressiveness and its territorial claims. China is also said to be building what is called "the String of Pearls" around India. Will India counter Chinese aggressiveness or accept it as a reasonable phenomenon?

Ans: The Asian region is witnessing an unprecedented period of sustained economic growth in recent years. Countries in the region are engaged in

improving standards of living of their people, and overcoming the effects of the global economic downturn. We all are trying to respond and readjust to global trends towards multi-polarity and managing the regional environment in Asia in a manner which enhances peace, security and overall development of our societies. It is incumbent on all countries of the region to build cooperative partnerships and work towards an open and inclusive regional architecture. Inter-state relations must be based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence. It is in this context that we also approach our relations with China, with whom we have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership.

Que-6: India's influence has been growing all over the world. Where does India see itself in the global political and economical arena in near future? And what do you expect from Japan in this endeavor? During Bush Administration, India had set up a mechanism of trilateral talks with China and Russia in an effort to break the uni-polar world order system. What kind of world order is India seeking?

Ans: We seek a global order which is conducive to the rapid, sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development of India. India has been playing a constructive role in responding to changing global realities. We have been working with the likeminded countries to address the major challenges of our times such as poverty eradication, terrorism, food and energy security and climate change.

As major nations in Asia sharing common values of democracy, rule of law and shared interests of peace and prosperity in Asia, it is important for both India and Japan to work together at the bilateral, regional and global levels, including in the United Nations and G-20.

Que-7: What India's strategy on UNSC reforms and to become a permanent member? Is there a time schedule and what are your expectations from G4? P5 countries do not want new members of UNSC to get a veto right. Is India agreeable?

Ans: The reform of the United Nations Security Council to reflect contemporary global realities is an integral part of the ongoing UN reform process. The proposal led by the G-4 countries for reform of the Security Council, including by expansion of its permanent and non-permanent

membership and improvement in its working methods, enjoys a high degree of support and acceptance among the UN members. Early reforms are of utmost importance to enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the Council.

Que-8: India has announced its target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20-25 percent 2050. China plans to a reduction of 40-45 percent. Can India do better or would it be unrealistic? What other major cooperative initiatives are being taken to tackle climate change?

Ans: We have declared a voluntary target of bringing down, by 2020, the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20-25%, over the level in 2005. We take the challenge of Climate Change seriously and are ready to play our part based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities contained in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We have put in place an ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change. We are pursuing a multi-pronged strategy of mitigation. This includes ongoing plans to enhance the share of renewables in our energy mix, with a target for solar power alone, of 20,000 MW of grid connected capacity by 2020. We are also pursuing a variety of measures in the power, construction, and transport sectors to increase our energy efficiency.

The national circumstances and development challenges differ among countries. A look at the per capita CO₂ emissions will indicate that the situations of China and India are not comparable. 40% of our people lack access to commercial sources of energy. There are many steps that have to be taken concurrently as part of a global effort to address climate change, including adequate access to technology and financial resources.

Que-9: The war in Afghanistan is a grave challenge for USA, NATO and also for Japan. What can India contribute towards solution of the conflict? Do you endorse early withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan? Would you like to deepen dialogue with Pakistan to improve bilateral ties and peace in Afghanistan?

Ans: Our links with Afghanistan are historical and civilisational, spanning several centuries. We have an interest in a stable, secure and peaceful Afghanistan, which can pursue its nation building efforts free from outside interference.

We welcome the role of the international community in supporting the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. On our part, we have pledged more than USD 1.3 billion in assistance to Afghanistan. Our assistance is Afghan-led and Afghan owned and lays particular stress on capacity building and human resource development. It has been widely welcomed by common people across that country and we will continue with it.

Pakistan has an important contribution to make in Afghanistan by denying support and sanctuary to terrorist and extremist groups that are working against the interests of the Afghan people, and by allowing the people of Afghanistan to determine their destiny freely and independently.

Que-10: What more can be done by India and Japan, in addition to strengthening economic relations? India's first moon mission Chandrayaan- I carried payloads for different countries. ISRO is now trying to commercialize its operations. Japan space programme is also similar. Is there any scope for bilateral cooperation here?

Ans. Besides deepening our trade and economic partnership, India and Japan are cooperating in several other areas. Space can certainly be one of them. In the field of education, Japan is assisting us in establishing the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. We would like to see more Indian students in Japanese Universities and greater thrust on people-to-people exchanges. This would serve as a bridge between our two countries and enhance mutual understanding. We have already embarked on a policy of visa-on-arrival for Japanese tourists, hoping to welcome many more of them to India. We wish to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 2012 in a befitting manner.



315. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the business luncheon hosted in his honour by Nippon Keidanren.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

I am truly delighted to once again be in Tokyo after almost two years. I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Yonekura on his assumption of onerous responsibilities as the Chairman of Nippon Keidanren.

I also thank him for his generous opening remarks and for the opportunity he has provided me to address this gathering.

Distinguished guests,

The last time when we met, the global economy had just entered its worst crisis since the great depression of the nineteen thirties. The world's leading developed countries were pushed into a severe recession, triggered by an unprecedented meltdown of the financial sector. Capital flows to emerging market economies dried up. Stock markets crashed worldwide.

Fortunately the world responded in a very timely manner. At the global level, India joined with other major economies in constituting the G-20 as the premier forum for decision-making on international economic issues. Thanks to the collective efforts of G-20, the world economy has gradually stabilized even though the recovery is still fragile. However, circumstances remain difficult even today. The recovery as I said is fragile and demand in industrialized countries remains weak. Protectionist sentiments have increased because of high unemployment.

Given the severity of the crisis it was inevitable that India would also be affected. Our economy slowed down from the 9 % growth rate it had achieved in the four years before the crisis of 2008 to 6.5% in 2008-09. But we responded with concerted measures to revive and sustain economic growth through a range of fiscal and monetary policies. I am happy to report that as a result our growth recovered to 7.4% in 2009-10 and is now projected to be 8.5% in the current fiscal year that is

2010-11. It is my expectation that we will return to a 9 % growth path in 2011-12.

I am confident that the strong fundamentals of the Indian economy will enable us to achieve our objective of double digit growth in the coming years. I do not underestimate the many challenges we face in achieving such high levels of growth. We need to close the infrastructure deficit, especially in the fields of power and transport and communication. This is a major constraint on our development and we shall give high priority to infrastructure development and modernization in the years ahead. We will rely on both public investment and public private partnership to achieve our infrastructure targets. We will also invest in education, health and rural development to ensure that growth is inclusive and broad-based.

Most of our investment is financed by domestic savings. I am happy to say that India's saving rate has increased to around 35%. I am confident that it will rise to 40% of GDP. However domestic savings will have to be supplemented by foreign capital so that total domestic investment can be higher. During the last three years India has received cumulative Foreign Direct Investment worth over 100 billion US dollars. We have seen a slow down in recent months but I see that as being temporary.

We are determined to continue the process of economic reforms that will create a favourable investment environment and facilitate higher investment flows. We are continuing the process of reform of both direct and indirect taxes and hope to unify in due course all indirect taxes into a single Goods and Services Tax. We are pursuing reforms in the financial sector, capital markets, higher education and skill development.

Let me now turn to the question of what Japan and India can do together. Japan has always been viewed with great admiration by the people of India.

The Government and the people of India deeply appreciate the generous assistance which Japan has provided to us for building economic and social infrastructure. India has been the largest recipient of Japanese

ODA since 2003. The highly successful Delhi Metro project has been followed by ODA assistance for Metro projects in Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai. The Dedicated Freight Corridor project between Delhi and Mumbai, launched with Japanese ODA support, is designed to transform India's freight logistics.

Today, more than ever, India's buoyant economy, young population and large market combine well with Japan's technological prowess, manufacturing skills and financial resources to create a win win situation for both our countries. I strongly believe that we can and must synergize our complementary strengths to impart momentum to Asian as well as global economic growth and prosperity.

We have witnessed a steady expansion of trade and investment relations between our countries in recent years. Bilateral trade has made a robust rebound in 2010 and should exceed 20 billion US dollars by 2012. However, you will agree with me that India-Japan trade is still at a low threshold, apart from being unbalanced.

I am happy to note that Japanese Foreign Direct Investment in India has grown substantially in the last three years. Much of this has been due to mergers and acquisitions. We welcome greater Japanese participation in Indian industry through Foreign Direct Investment. We seek the creation of new capacity in India's manufacturing and infrastructure sectors and freer flow of high-end technologies.

It is a welcome sign that the number of Japanese companies with an established business presence in India has more than doubled in the past four years.

Friends,

I have long believed that India and Japan must work together to create a business environment conducive to much greater two-way trade and investment flows. It was with this perspective that we launched negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement almost four years ago. I am happy to share with you that our efforts have finally succeeded and a mutually beneficial agreement is ready to be concluded.

India's capabilities in the services sector and the knowledge economy are well recognized as is our global success in the Information Technology sector. Collaboration in this sector with Indian IT companies has brought significant benefits to our partners in Europe and America. We hope that Japanese companies will also take advantage of these opportunities to enhance their efficiency and competitiveness through expanded partnerships with India's IT sector.

We also expect that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement will create new opportunities for India's pharmaceutical industry in the Japanese market, helping to meet Japan's growing demand for high quality and relatively inexpensive generic medicines.

I have already mentioned that India's infrastructure deficit poses a major constraint on manufacturing growth and can adversely impact FDI flows. During India's next Five Year Plan from 2012 to 2017, we envisage financial outlays of over one trillion US dollars on infrastructure projects. Private investment will play a large role in achieving this target. We would welcome a much greater role by Japanese industry in the development of economic infrastructure in India.

Japan is our partner of choice in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project. This is a mega project covering a length of over 1480 km across six States of India. It has the potential to become the hub of our new bilateral economic engagement in the area of manufacturing. Some of the notified investment regions are almost the size of Singapore in terms of their area. We welcome in particular the involvement of Japanese companies in the development of "smart communities" in the DMIC area.

With India's rapid economic growth, the demand for energy has been rising rapidly. Japan, as a global leader in energy efficient technologies can play a significant role in helping us meet India's energy needs in an environmentally friendly manner. We seek Japanese technology and investment in conventional as well as new and renewable energy.

Nuclear energy can provide our growing economy with a clean and efficient source of power. Cooperation in this area will enable Japanese

companies to participate in India's ambitious nuclear energy programme.

Dear Friends,

The weight of global economic power is shifting inexorably towards Asia. I am confident that irrespective of the current slowdown Japan will remain Asia's most advanced industrialized nation for decades to come and will exert considerable influence on the global economy. India is participating fully in the rising tide of economic expansion in Asia. It is my hope that India and Japan will continue to work together for the creation of a broader Asian Economic Community.

In my more than four decades in public life, I have had the privilege of working closely with Japanese statesman and captains of Industry, during this period, I have steadfastly nurtured the vision that Japan must be an important partner in India's economic development and transformation. Together we can contribute to global stability, prosperity and development.

As I stand before this distinguished gathering of leaders of Japan's business and industry, I sense a new enthusiasm and a vibrancy that gives me reason to believe that my long held vision will be realized. I invite you to repose your faith in India. I assure you that we will spare no effort to make Japanese business welcome. Together, we can ensure the long term prosperity of our two peoples for the greater benefit of countries in our region and the world.

Thank you.



316. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction with Japanese Prime Minister.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Kan,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

I wish to begin by thanking Prime Minister Kan and the Government and people of Japan for the warm welcome extended to me and members of my delegation. It is always a pleasure to be back in this beautiful city.

Prime Minister Kan and I have just concluded very productive and fruitful discussions.

The tradition of regular high level dialogue is the hallmark of the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership. Our annual Summits have set the pace and direction of this partnership, which rests on the firm foundation of shared values of democracy, rule of law and respect for fundamental human freedoms.

Our two Governments have concluded negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This is a historic achievement that signals the economic alignment of two of the largest economies in Asia. It will open up new business opportunities and lead to a quantum increase in trade and investment flows between our two countries.

I suggested to Prime Minister Kan that we redouble our efforts in progressing major infrastructure projects in India such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor project and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project. Both these are proceeding on schedule and will have a transformational impact on our two economies.

I conveyed to the Prime Minister our gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for the Official Development Assistance to India.

We discussed ways to expand High Technology Trade between India and Japan. I hope that Japan will make its export control regulations for

such trade easier and predictable. We appreciate the Japanese government's decision to cooperate with India on civil nuclear energy.

I also conveyed our satisfaction with the High-Level Energy Dialogue between our countries through which we are partnering in the development and utilization of new and renewable energy sources.

We reviewed the implementation of the Action Plan on Security Cooperation signed last December. Our Defence Ministers have agreed to meet annually. Prime Minister Kan and I discussed the possibility of further deepening our strategic partnership.

The year 2012 will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. We discussed ways to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner including through expanded people-to-people exchanges, especially amongst our youth.

We have agreed to enhance our cooperation, both bilaterally and within the G-4, in the reform of the United Nations, and especially of the Security Council. We will continue to work together on global issues such as climate change, the Doha round of trade negotiations and the G-20.

We will continue to work closely within the framework of the East Asia Summit and the region as a whole.

I have invited Prime Minister Kan to visit India next year for our Annual Summit. I look forward to welcoming him in Delhi.

Thank you.



317. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception jointly hosted by the Embassy of India, Japan-India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010

Your Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of Japan-India Association,
Your Excellency Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Acting President of the Japan-India
Parliamentary Friendship League,

Your Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe,

Your Excellency Mr. Katsuya Okada,

Ambassador H.K. Singh,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over the past four decades, I have had the pleasure of visiting Japan on several occasions and in various capacities. Each time I have experienced the friendship and warmth of the people of Japan.

As Prime Minister, I have been privileged to witness the steady transformation of India's relations with Japan. The Strategic and Global Partnership established between India and Japan continues to grow and holds tremendous potential to bring greater prosperity and progress to our two nations.

I am particularly happy to be here in this new and modern premises of the Chancery. This project is one of our most ambitious embassy construction projects overseas and it is fitting that it should be in the city of Tokyo.

I am extremely happy to see so many of my dear friends in the gathering this morning. I would like to pay tribute to the leadership of former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori whose strong personal commitment helped open a new chapter in bilateral ties a decade ago. The Japan-India Association

has been in the forefront of promoting friendship and closer ties between our countries for over a century.

I would like to thank former Prime Minister Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Acting President of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League for his important role in building a broad-based political consensus on strengthening of India-Japan ties among members of the Japanese Diet.

I express my gratitude to former Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe for being here this morning. It was under his leadership that we established our Strategic and Global Partnership in 2006.

I am grateful to Mr. Katsuya Okada for his Party's support to India-Japan relations.

I am overwhelmed by your presence here this morning and on behalf of the people of India thank you for friendship. It is because of your collective efforts that we have raised our partnership to unprecedented heights.

Dear Friends,

I would also take this opportunity to commend the significant contributions of the Indian community in Japan. India takes pride in your achievements and lauds your efforts to build bridges of friendship and understanding between our two countries.

I look forward to my discussions in Tokyo over the next two days. I am optimistic that we will make concrete progress in all areas of our cooperation. This will benefit not only our two countries but also the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

I have great pleasure in dedicating this Chancery building to the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan in the 21st Century.

Thank you.



318. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's engagements at Tokyo.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you and welcome to the Indian Media Centre. You are aware Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh arrived yesterday for an official working visit to Tokyo. Today Prime Minister had a number of very important engagements.

Foreign Secretary of India Shrimati Nirupama Rao is here to brief you about the engagements of the Prime Minister. She is joined by the Ambassador of India to Japan Mr. H.K. Singh, Media Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Harish Khare and Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale.

Foreign Secretary will be making an opening statement, and thereafter she will be happy to take a few questions. Madam, the floor is yours.

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the media. As all of you have been following the Prime Minister's engagements here in Tokyo today, I will not go into too exhaustive detail because you obviously have all the facts in this regard.

Let me say that our Prime Minister has had a very productive, a very busy, a very rewarding day here in Tokyo today. He has had very comprehensive discussions with the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Naoto Kan. This morning, Prime Minister and Shrimati Gursharan Kaur had an audience with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Foreign Minister Maehara called on the Prime Minister in the morning. As you also know, Prime Minister laid a plaque at the new Chancery Building of the Embassy of India here in Tokyo dedicating it to the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

Prime Minister was, as you know, felicitated at the Chancery by the Japan-India Association and the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship

League. Three former Prime Ministers of Japan were present at the event including Mr. Mori, Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Abe. Also present and representing the Democratic Party of Japan was Secretary-General Okada at the same function. Prime Minister addressed a luncheon meeting hosted by the Nippon Keidanren and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the discussions that the Prime Minister had today, the point that was consistently emphasized by both sides was that both India and Japan believe that there is every need to develop a strong, a vigorous and all-encompassing relationship between the two countries. When I say all-encompassing I refer to political, economic, security. And as the leaders mentioned, there were no impediments to the development of these relations.

The expansion of the economic relationship was, of course, stressed with the focus on infrastructure development. The idea of a Minister-level economic dialogue has been proposed by the Japanese side, and we have welcomed this idea. We look upon it very positively. This is a structure of dialogue that I believe Japan has with China. Japan having broached this idea to us and given the fact that our relationship has such strong foundations and has been growing so positively in all areas and especially the economic area, we felt that this is an idea that deserves close and positive attention.

Prime Minister described the development of India-Japan relations as a project close to his heart. As you know, at the press conference also and at the banquet speech he gave, he spoke of the sky being the limit when it comes to the development of India-Japan relations, the enormous possibilities that exist for cooperation in trade, in technology, in services, in investment. Of course, with the conclusion of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, all these areas of cooperation will become even more tangible and translated into concrete action. The unique complementarities for instance that exist between Japanese capital and technology and the young labour force in India is one of the ideas that was articulated. All in all, what was stressed was that India and Japan can build a multifaceted relationship between themselves in so many areas.

I think we should probably take this discussion forward through a question and answer format. I know that all of you have a lot of questions to ask. So, I think I will stop here and take your questions and we can throw greater clarity on today's meetings in that process.

Question: Madam, the Joint Statement obviously covers a gamut of issues but I would like you to put the discussions on the nuclear agreement in perspective. There is emphasis on concluding it at an early date. Is the sense of urgency more from India's side or from Japan's side? In the morning we got the impression that the Prime Minister is more or less reconciled to a deferment of the agreement when he said that he is not going to force it keeping in mind the sensitivities of Japan. So, could you just put it in perspective?

Foreign Secretary: I will certainly do that. I think the conclusion you have drawn certainly does not correspond to the actuality or the reality or the state of play - let me put it that way. I would like to put this in perspective. The impetus or the idea to strengthen or to look at the possibilities of civil nuclear cooperation has been amply expressed from both sides. There is enthusiasm on the part of Japan and there is enthusiasm on the part of India to take this project forward. We have had two rounds of very productive and very useful discussions so far in Tokyo and in Delhi. The next round of discussions will take place in Tokyo in the third week of November. So, there is a certain momentum to this process, and let me add that it is a very positive momentum. The impression that you have that somehow this is being deferred or this is being slowed down would not be the accurate impression. Obviously, negotiations of this nature are complex; they are delicate; they are sensitive. The very nature of the subject would imply that you have to look at the issue in terms of its various complexities, and both sides are fully equipped to do that. The political resolve, as I mentioned a few days ago in Delhi, has been very clearly stated by both Governments - the political resolve to strengthen cooperation in this area, and come to an ultimate agreement.

Question: Madam, I would like to draw your attention to the Joint Statement. While you have spoken about maritime security and similar issues, you have spoken about bilateral and multilateral exercises.

I just wanted to know when they begin. And if you say multilateral, which other countries are potentially involved and where these exercises could take place?

Foreign Secretary: The Joint Statement encapsulates again the political resolve. I mentioned that both sides want a strong, vigorous and all-encompassing multifaceted relationship. Obviously you are looking at cooperation in the security sphere also. India and Japan have established a system for cooperation in security. You are aware of the Declaration on Security Cooperation of 2008, the Action Plan on Security Cooperation of last year. We have a Defence Minister-level dialogue. There has been an exchange of visits at the level of the Defence Ministers. We have had the Two-Plus-Two Security Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministries on both sides. There is a regular exchange of visits at the level of Chiefs of Staff of the defence forces of both countries. And, Navy to Navy cooperation is a very important segment of this exchange and this interaction. This has been happening for some years now. So, the Joint Declaration that we have seen concluded today takes this aspect of cooperation and expresses the resolve of both countries to build upon it, to have further exercises both bilateral and when it comes to multilateral, of course, each one would be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the need, depending on the situation, and depending on the areas that we need to cover. So, I would not be able to tell you specifically which regions these will be conducted in. You understand that. These are on the planning board for some time. The two navies consult each other. There is an interaction between the two Governments, and then you come to a decision on where these exercises will be conducted. This is an ongoing process let me say.

Question: Madam, on the nuclear cooperation energy working group and so on, there is a mention here saying that both Prime Ministers are exploring the possibility of developing in recycling of rare earths which is coming in the context of China holding Japan for ransom recently. Does this mean that India is going to help Japan look for another source of rare earths? Is it going to be India or is it going to another country?

Foreign Secretary: Let me first of all preface my remarks by saying that this is a very India-Japan centric process. We are not looking at what third countries are doing or saying about this. We have worked in the area of rare earths or rare earth elements. India and Japan have worked together since 1952. We are now moving to implement long-term cooperation in the form of joint ventures in this area. So, that is what this statement is referring to.

Question: Madam, my question is quite similar to the question already asked. Is India kind of using arm-twisting tactics with Japan over giving the rare earths to Japan and in the hope of wanting Japan not to ask it to sign the CTBT?

Foreign Secretary: I am sorry, if you are looking for drama and theatre in this you are not going to find it. This is going to be very functional. This is going to be need-based. Obviously when you develop joint ventures in the field of rare earths you will be looking at technology also that Japan can provide in this area so that you can build up the Indian industry, which is a matter naturally of benefit to us as a country. But if you are looking at arm-twisting, as you called it, and this being used as a bargaining chip for Japanese action on another front, that is not the way these relations are being transacted. There is a very high degree of mutual trust between our two democracies which are governed by the rule of law with so much in common. That is the ambience in which such cooperation is being transacted.

Question: Madam, in the morning the Prime Minister's address at Nippon Keidenren, he specifically mentioned two aspects drawing the attention of Japanese businesses. One he said that FDI from Japan into India is more into M&As. So, if you look at 2008-09, roughly about 80 per cent of foreign investment from Japan was through mergers of just two companies. So, there was not really foreign direct investment on the ground creating capacities in manufacturing industry. Second, he talked about bilateral trade. Even in bilateral trade, Japan is in huge favour in terms of surpluses. So, last four years if you look at bilateral trade data, Japan's exports to India are almost double of what India exports to Japan. I just wanted to check out whether there has been any specific talk on

this aspect of trade because at the end of it, a large part of it is CEPA and economic agenda on the talks.

Foreign Secretary: But the CEPA is such a momentous development in itself when you look at the potential. You rightly pointed out that at this moment we have not been able to attain the potential that we could possibly have in our hands when it comes to trade between India and Japan. The CEPA is about that. Through the CEPA you are going to be able to attain the potential because it covers 90 per cent of the trade between the two countries. It talks of services, it talks of investment, it talks of movement of natural persons. So, CEPA is the future and that is the future of India-Japan trade and economic relations. That in itself is a very positive development. When you look at investment, of course, you need to step up obviously FDI from Japan into India but that is happening also in pharmaceuticals, in telecom, in steel. Beginnings have been made and that is why I think in the last year, maybe the Ambassador can corroborate that, in 2008-09 Japanese direct investment in India had overtaken Japanese direct investment in China.

Question: This was what the PM specifically pointed out. This has largely come from acquisitions and not from actual investment.

Foreign Secretary: It is true there has been M&As from Japan but look at the manner in which Japanese business is moving into India. The number of business visas and employment visas that are being given to Japanese businessmen to come into India, the number of Japanese businesses that have opened office in India, I am not talking of rep offices I am talking of actual operating presence in India, the number is over 728. So, all these are pointers, these are all reference points which speak of a future that is going to be very exciting in this relationship.

Question: I just got information that today both Prime Ministers exchanged views about China for about ten minutes. What did you talk about? What kind of information did the Prime Minister of India express towards each Naoto Kan?

Foreign Secretary: They did refer to the relations that each country has with China, how important these relations are from a strategic,

security and economic point of view, how both countries desire a peaceful and productive relationship with China, and how it is essential to engage China in closer and more open dialogue. Both countries feel that. And we cited the examples from each relationship. And the Japanese Prime Minister was interested in knowing from our Prime Minister about the development of our relationship with China - I am talking of the development of our relationship - and the fact that trade has grown, the economic interaction has grown. And while issues still exist which need to be resolved - Japan has issues to resolve with China, India has issues to resolve with China when it comes to in your case your maritime boundary issues, in our case our land boundary issues with China - and the fact that there are systems in place and we mentioned from our side that we have a very well-functioning system to discuss these issues, these differences with China in a peaceful and in an engaged way. Both sides felt that this is the best way to engage China and to draw it into a more productive discussion in order to resolve these issues peacefully.

Question: When you said about that CECA would result in a large degree of access to Indian services, besides the visas can you give some specific examples of exactly how we will be able to access service markets in Japan?

Foreign Secretary: I am talking in terms of movement of our IT professionals, our engineers, our tourism professionals, our nurses and caregivers. There will be openings for access to the Japanese market for such people also.

Question: Madam, of late we were given to understand that Japanese have been pressing the Indian Navy more particularly to become the part of Malabar. Is there any progress on that front? And Indian Navy even is more keen to have them in Malabar.

Foreign Secretary: We did not talk about the Malabar exercises today. The two sides spoke of, as I said, developing an all-encompassing relationship that would cover all these areas. The Joint Declaration, of course, refers to this in some detail. Security cooperation is one of the pillars of the relationship. But we did not discuss Malabar exercises.

Question: May I just build on my Japanese colleague point of view? Recently as you may have heard from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the increasing number of population it seems to me is trying to rely on India as a sort of counter power against China. How do you react to this growing sentiment? Was there any discussion similar to that during the exchanges between your Prime Minister and his Japanese counterpart?

Foreign Secretary: I think I put it in context when I answered the question just now. You have to look at these three countries - India, Japan and China - as three of the largest economies of Asia. Two of us - India and Japan - are democracies. China has followed another political system. But in the case of both India and Japan, China is the neighbor. We have a long land boundary with China, and you are very contiguous to China in terms of the very short stretch of ocean that separates you. So, it is a reality; it is a fact of life that both our countries will have to develop very in-depth relations with China as time goes by. The growth of the Chinese economy, China's emergence as a global power, its military modernization, its ability to project its influence in the region when it comes to our respective neighbourhoods, these are all issues that will require a close analysis, a study, and understanding because of dealing with the rise of China, we would of course - both our countries would, I think - our wish is to see the peaceful rise of China. I think that was expressed by both Prime Ministers. And how do we attain that vision of the future? It is I think by engaging China, drawing it into a more productive dialogue, developing structures of cooperation with China, I think that is the way forward. It requires deep analysis, it requires close engagement, and it will require a lot of patience.

Question: Madam, was there any discussion on the Nalanda project?

Foreign Secretary: In the context of the East Asia Summit and the fact that the Nalanda University project is very closely linked with the discussions that we have had in the East Asia Summit, this subject did come up. The Japanese Prime Minister and the Japanese Government are very appreciative of the initiative that we have taken in this regard. Prime Minister mentioned it also in his banquet speech this evening

when he said that we would like to see more Japanese cooperation and involvement in this project. And Japan has expressed itself very positively about this involvement.

Question: Madam, para 14 of the Joint Statement talks of 'transport and industrial development corridor in the peninsular region of India'. Could you flesh that out?

Foreign Secretary: You now, of course, have the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. One of the issues that is linked with it is the development of similar infrastructural projects in peninsular India, in the southern part of India. That would link our infrastructure, our industries, our technological base with Southeast Asia. We have of course the Mekong-India corridor also. So, we are envisioning the possible linkages that we can develop through the establishment of such corridors which have the infrastructure, which have the technological base, which have the manufacturing and industrial capability, and export potential, so that linkages that can be developed with Southeast Asia.

Question: Madam, as you rightly pointed out, Japan and India want to study the rise of China in a very positive manner. Are we intending to have an institutional mechanism to study that rise of China in a positive manner?

Foreign Secretary: I think at the academic level in both countries already there is this exchange and there is this cross-fertilization of ideas that is taking place. At the level of the Foreign Offices, at the level of the consultations that we have between the Foreign Ministries we discuss the regional situation. For instance, nobody asked me whether Afghanistan was discussed. We did discuss Afghanistan also. Like that we discussed China. So, we have a mechanism already in place between the two Foreign Ministries to discuss regional issues of interest, and obviously China would be one of those issues.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. Have a good night!



319. Joint Statement of 'Vision for India - Japan Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade' issued during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Japan.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

1. The Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, is currently paying an Official Working Visit to Japan for the Annual Summit of the Prime Ministers on 24-26 October 2010 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Mr. Naoto Kan. The two Prime Ministers held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest on 25 October 2010.
2. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the fundamental identity of values, interests and priorities between Japan and India. They reaffirmed the political commitment in both countries cutting across party lines and popular desire for upgrading bilateral relations, and valued their cooperation for sustained peace and prosperity in a changing and dynamic Asia and the world. In this context, they expressed their common desire to further consolidate, enhance and expand the Strategic and Global Partnership between them through the second decade of the 21st Century.
3. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of political exchanges, dialogue and policy coordination at all levels. They positively evaluated Ministerial-level annual dialogues and exchanges between Foreign Minister, Defense Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and External Affairs Minister, Defense Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and noted that all these exchanges were successfully accomplished in 2010. They also supported the establishment of a Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue between India and Japan to give strategic and long-term policy orientation to their bilateral economic engagement, taking into account the regional and global context and to coordinate economic issues of cross-cutting nature, including infrastructure development and financing. They welcomed the launch of the '2 plus 2' dialogue at Sub-cabinet /

Senior Official level and the launch of a dialogue on Africa at the official level in 2010 as a reflection of wider policy consultation and coordination on foreign policy and security issues.

4. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on a balanced and mutually beneficial India - Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). They directed their relevant authorities to work towards early entry into force of CEPA and its smooth implementation. They expressed optimism that India-Japan CEPA will deepen their economic engagement, in terms of trade in goods and services, investment and cooperation and contribute to mutual prosperity. They hailed CEPA between these two leading economies of Asia as an important step for regional integration. They noted with satisfaction the recent growth in Japanese foreign direct investment (FDI) into India and hoped that CEPA and the Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures, the latter signed today, will further facilitate the presence of Japanese businesspersons in India.

5. The two Prime Ministers underlined the vital importance of economic cooperation, including Japan's Official Development Assistance to India and Special Economic Partnership Initiatives, in strengthening India-Japan partnership. Prime Minister Singh expressed his appreciation to the Government and the people of Japan for Japan's generous role in India's development. The two Prime Ministers aimed for early completion of both phases of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor in India in a parallel manner with Japan's financial and technical assistance, and noted with satisfaction the progress on the Phase II of the Corridor with the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Engineering Services for Phase II in July 2010. They expressed their desire to accelerate progress on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). Prime Minister Kan expressed his intention to enhance Japan's involvement to DMICDC (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation) through the efforts of related organizations such as JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and AOTS (Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship). The two Prime Ministers positively appraised the efforts from both sides to develop the Corridor in an eco-friendly manner as "Smart Communities" and welcomed the progress of cooperation in the field of urban development. They took note of the

potential of the DMIC project to enhance physical connectivity across Asia. They encouraged greater investment from Japan into India including in the infrastructure sector over the next decade to realize this vision, and asked their respective sides to engage in dialogues on public-private partnership on DMIC. Prime Minister Singh appreciated Japan's decision on the extension of the period of technical cooperation programme, Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM) Programme. The two Prime Ministers hoped that this programme will contribute to the development of manufacturing sector in India.

6. The two Prime Ministers welcomed India-Japan cooperation in development of new and renewable energy, and clean coal technology and enhancing energy efficiency in India's power sector and encouraged the India-Japan Ministerial Level Energy Dialogue to facilitate pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation in other related areas to further strengthen energy security. In this context, they also welcomed the establishment of a Nuclear Energy Working Group under the Energy Dialogue in April 2010 to exchange views and information on their respective nuclear energy policies from the energy, economic and industrial perspectives. They further welcomed the exchange of information between the nuclear energy industries of the two countries including through business missions. The two Prime Ministers recognized the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries' industries in expanding bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis, including through the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). Recognizing the importance of rare earths and rare metals for future industries, the two Prime Ministers decided to explore the possibility of bilateral cooperation in development, re-cycling and re-use of rare earths and rare metals and in research and development of their industrial substitutes.

7. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the commencement of negotiations between India and Japan on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in June 2010. They affirmed that cooperation in this sector will open up new opportunities for further developing the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership. They encouraged their negotiators to arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement for civil nuclear cooperation at an early date.

8. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress made in 2010 on facilitation of trade in high technology between the two countries. They asked the relevant authorities to maintain dialogue on high technology trade including respective export control systems and realize its full potential keeping in mind the strategic partnership between the two countries.

9. The two Prime Ministers decided to steadily expand security and defense cooperation between India and Japan. They aimed to cooperate to enhance their capacity in responding to security challenges such as maritime security which entails safety and freedom of navigation and counter-piracy, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and response, inter alia, through bilateral and multilateral exercises, information sharing, training and dialogue. In this context, they welcomed the launch of India-Japan Shipping Policy Forum and mutual exchange of schedules of escort operations by the Indian Navy and Japan Self-Defense Forces in the Gulf of Aden. They instructed relevant authorities to realize the full potential of the Action Plan to advance Security Cooperation signed in 2009, based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between India and Japan.

10. The two Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. Prime Minister Kan condemned terrorist attacks in and against India, such as the bomb blast in Pune on 13 February 2010 and in Kabul on 26 February 2010, in which Indians as well as other nationals were targeted. They decided to enhance greater cooperation in combating terrorism through information-sharing and counter-terrorism training as well as utilizing the India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. They recognized the urgent need to finalize 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. Japan welcomed India's membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and India appreciated Japan's support towards this.

11. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress made in Science and Technology cooperation, including the India-Japan Cooperative

Science Programme. In order to realize full potential of cooperation in this field, they encouraged their respective authorities to promote the cooperative research in the strategic and high technology areas such as Green Innovation and Life Innovation. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the establishment and the holding of "Committee on India-Japan ICT (Information and Communication Technology) strategy for economic growth" and "India-Japan ICT regulatory policy talk". They shared the view that they will further enhance business tie-ups, R&D collaborative activities and policy cooperation in the field of information and communication technology through close bilateral cooperation.

12. The two Prime Ministers recognized the importance of strengthening cultural, academic and people-to-people exchanges between India and Japan to reflect their strategic partnership and popular goodwill. They hoped that the signing of the Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures will further facilitate the movement of people between India and Japan. Prime Minister Kan appreciated India's provision of the Visa on Arrival facility for Japanese tourists in India on experimental basis for 2010. They reiterated their commitment to collaborating in the development of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH) through various contributions from Japan including through Official Development Assistance and encouraged the relevant authorities to work towards early creation of physical infrastructure for IITH. They welcomed the on-going exchanges between IITH and Japanese academia and industry, including the visits of the students and young professors of IITH to Japan within the framework of Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) programme and the kick-off of Information Network for Natural Disaster Mitigation and Recovery under Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). They also welcomed the fact that the collaboration for the development of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur is enhanced with the cooperation of Japanese universities and companies.

13. The two Prime Ministers decided to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan in 2012 in a befitting manner. They directed their officials to bring out a

calendar of exchanges and events, aimed at bringing the two nations closer, to mark this important anniversary.

14. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit (EAS) as an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum, striving to strengthen global norms and universally recognized values and promoting peace, stability and prosperity across East Asia, of which India and Japan are key members. In this context, they welcomed the recent decision of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to invite the United States and the Russian Federation to join as members of the EAS. They also supported existing achievements such as Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) and its three-pillar approach for regional cooperation. They welcomed Japan's Concept Paper "Initial Steps towards Regional Economic Integration in East Asia: A Gradual Approach". They also welcomed ERIA's "Comprehensive Asian Development Plan", and recognized the importance of hard infrastructure and industrial policy in the Mekong-India Corridor Study, whose implementation could be further discussed between relevant authorities and entities. They discussed ways for enhancing greater economic integration and connectivity between India and the East Asian region. They encouraged their officials to examine studies undertaken by ERIA and other think-tanks in the East Asia region relating to transport and industrial development corridors in the peninsular region of India. Prime Minister Singh noted with appreciation Japan's initiative for an East Asian Community, in which India is expected to play an important role. Prime Minister Kan welcomed India's initiative to revive Nalanda University and expressed Japan's continued support to this initiative which will strengthen the cultural and civilizational bonds between the countries in Asia.

15. The two Prime Ministers expressed their commitment to assisting Afghanistan to become a stable, democratic and pluralistic nation free of terrorism and extremism. They emphasized the importance of a coherent and united international commitment to Afghan-led initiatives. Prime Minister Kan expressed that such a commitment encompasses security assistance, including assistance towards Afghan National Police, reintegration of insurgents, and development. Prime Minister Singh emphasized the importance of strengthening and adequate

training of the Afghan National Security Forces so that they can defend the sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan. They concurred that the process of reintegration should not deviate from the principles expressed in the Kabul Conference. The two Prime Ministers pledged to explore opportunities for consultation and coordination on their respective civilian assistance projects, including those projects implemented in the neighboring countries, that advance Afghan leadership and ownership and build civilian capacity.

16. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Kan 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. They supported the strengthening of international cooperation with a view to addressing the challenges of nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation and expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit of April 2010, including the establishment by Japan of the Integrated Comprehensive Support Center for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Security to be established in Japan and the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership to be established by India. 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. They further reiterated that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. They also underscored the importance of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of further strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation efforts. They decided that both countries will enhance cooperation in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through close dialogues, including at regularly held bilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation meetings as well as at the Conference on Disarmament.

17. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of a positive result for the current climate change negotiations at the forthcoming conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Mexico, and reaffirmed their determination to work together towards this conference. They stressed that the outcome should

be reached in an inclusive and transparent manner and should effectively address the challenge of climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC. They decided that the Copenhagen Accord should contribute positively to such an outcome. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral discussions on climate change on various occasions, including a possible establishment of a framework of comprehensive bilateral cooperation.

18. Prime Minister Singh congratulated Japan for hosting the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) on Biodiversity in Nagoya on 18th-29th October 2010 and wished it a successful outcome, including the adoption of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. As prospective host of the next meeting of COP on Biodiversity in 2012, India looks forward to a close working relationship with Japan during its Presidency and beyond Nagoya.

19. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to realize a comprehensive reform of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories which has commanded the maximum support from UN member states in the text-based intergovernmental negotiations in the UN General Assembly. They shared their view that both countries would participate actively in these negotiations and decided to accelerate their efforts, bilaterally as well as in close cooperation with the G4 and other like-minded countries, to achieve a meaningful result during the current session of the General Assembly, so as to make the Security Council more representative, legitimate, effective, and responsive to the realities of the international community in the 21st century.

20. The two Prime Ministers recognized that a positive outcome of the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) of trade talks will be instrumental in economic recovery. They reaffirmed that a prompt, ambitious and balanced, as well as successful conclusion of the DDA would bolster the credibility of the multilateral trading system. They appreciated the momentum to rejuvenate the DDA negotiations and resolved to work together towards bridging the remaining negotiating gaps.

21. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the role of the G-20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and reiterated their commitment to work together and with other partners to pursue urgent and effective implementation of G-20 Summit decisions. They reaffirmed the importance of their cooperation for the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. They expressed their commitment to reform financial sector so as to prevent recurrence of financial crisis. They expressed support for the reform of the international financial institutions (IFIs) including IMF within the internationally recognized time frame to enhance their legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to eschewing protectionism in all its forms covering trade in goods and services as well as investment and financial flows.

22. Prime Minister Singh expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality of Prime Minister Kan. Prime Minister Singh extended an invitation to Prime Minister Kan for the next Annual Bilateral Summit in India in 2011 at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channels. Prime Minister Kan accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister
of the Republic of India

Mr. Naoto Kan
Prime Minister of Japan



After the meeting between the two prime ministers, Foreign Secretary Mrs. Rao told journalists: "In the discussions, the point consistently emphasised was that both India and Japan believe they need to develop a strong, vigorous and an all-encompassing relationship in political, economic and security spheres." She termed the economic pact an alliance between Japanese technology and capital and a young Indian labour force. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Japanese counterpart Naoto Kan, during restricted and delegation-level talks, resolved to continue the talks on a civil nuclear agreement. They instructed officials to ensure the smooth implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and accelerate discussions on the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), to which both countries are aspirants as permanent members. Ms. Rao said: "Both discussed the need for open and transparent dialogue with China... they agreed that engaging China in more productive dialogue and developing structures of cooperation is the way forward. It requires deep analysis, close engagement and lots of patience... the reality is that both will have to develop in-depth ties with China." On the cooperation in the nuclear field, while Japan was keen on some sort of Indian political commitment on moving closer to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty regime, India reportedly pointed out that its civil nuclear agreement with Japan cannot be materially different from the agreements signed with other countries.

320. Joint Declaration between Leaders of India and Japan on the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

1. We, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Naoto Kan, held a meeting in Tokyo on 25 October 2010, and discussed the importance of a close and broad economic partnership between India and Japan.

2. Having confirmed the progress made thus far in our work, we now declare the successful conclusion of negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and Japan (hereinafter referred to as the India-Japan CEPA). We expressed our intention that the India-Japan CEPA will be signed at the earliest at Ministerial level, on completion of necessary formalities by both sides. We noted with satisfaction that India and Japan have succeeded in rendering the India-Japan CEPA truly comprehensive, as indicated by its name, by including fields that range from Trade in Goods, Investment, Trade in Services, and Movement of Natural Persons to Intellectual Property, Competition, Improvement of the Business Environment, Bilateral Cooperation and so forth. We also expressed our determination to put the India-Japan CEPA into effect soon after its signing and the completion of necessary procedures in each country.

3. The India-Japan CEPA will elevate the Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan to a new level. The India-Japan CEPA will develop areas of potential mutual complementarity, further strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, and promote economic development by increasing the cross-border flows of goods, persons, investment and services. It will also strengthen the foundation for the economic development of India and Japan through closer cooperation between the two countries in various fields. We hope that through the India-Japan CEPA's implementation, India and Japan will be able to make maximum use of respective competitive advantages to promote

the development of both economies. This will bring about increased prosperity and stability to the peoples of both countries, and thus, contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Asian region and the international community.

4. The India-Japan CEPA is also expected to foster new business opportunities, enhance competitiveness of the private sectors of both countries, and encourage closer partnership between those private sectors, from SMEs to infrastructure-related enterprises. We affirm the intention of the two Governments to support private sector efforts to fully utilize their potential.

5. We, representing the Governments and peoples of both Republic of India and Japan, in order to upgrade our Strategic and Global Partnership to a higher level for the mutual benefit of our citizens, and to lay a solid foundation for the peace, stability and prosperity of the two countries, the Asian region and the international community, hereby sign this document, affirming our firm determination to continue working for the further expansion and strengthening of the economic partnership between India and Japan.

Done at Tokyo on 25 October, 2010

(Dr. Manmohan Singh)
Prime Minister of the
Republic of India

(Mr. Naoto Kan)
Prime Minister of Japan



321. Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Japan.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010

MEMORANDUM ON SIMPLIFYING VISA PROCEDURES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

The Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as "GOI"), and the **Government of Japan** (hereinafter referred to as "GOJ")

Considering the desire of both countries to strengthen their friendly relations;

Desirous of facilitating the contacts between nationals of both countries;

Have mutually confirmed their intentions to take or maintain the following measures to simplify their respective visa procedures subject to the laws and regulations of their respective countries.

1. Measures related to Business Visas in India and Temporary Visitor's Visas for Businessmen in Japan

- (a) Each side may issue multiple entry visas valid for up to 5 years to each other's businessmen who travel to the other country on a temporary visit for business purposes on receipt of a letter of request from a duly recognized company or employer of each country or on a request from recognized chambers of commerce and industry and business organizations of each country, such as Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India (ASSOCHAM) and government recognized business and trade promotion councils in India and NIPPON KEIDANREN in Japan subject to the following:
 - (i) The stay in India during each visit should not exceed 180 consecutive days;

- (ii) The stay in Japan during each visit should not exceed 90 consecutive days.
- (b) Each side may issue entry visas to each other's businessmen who are not covered under (a) above as follows:
 - (i) The Indian side may issue multiple entry business visas valid for up to 6 months with the period of stay up to 180 consecutive days to nationals of Japan who travel to India on a temporary visit to establish industrial or business venture, to explore possibilities of setting up industrial or business venture, for purchase or sale of industrial or commercial products, or for purpose of trade and other short term business related activities (not employment).
 - (ii) The Japanese side may issue single entry temporary visitor's visas valid for 3 months with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days to nationals of India who travel to Japan on a temporary visit for business purposes such as trade, short-term business projects and other short-term business related activities (not employment).
- (c) The Japanese side may issue multiple entry temporary visitor's visas valid for up to 3 years with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days on each visit to family members (spouse and children) of the Indian businessmen mentioned in (a) above.
- (d) Neither conversion of business visas to employment visas in India nor change of immigration status of persons who enter Japan with temporary visitor's visas, not due to special unavoidable reasons, may be permitted, unless the applicant returns to his or her country of nationality and applies to the Embassy or Consulate of the other country.

2. Measures related to Employment Visas in India and Entry Visas for Working in Japan

Each side may issue employment visas/entry visas for working as follows:

- (a) (i) The Indian side may issue multiple-entry employment visas to Japanese technicians or experts coming to India in pursuance of bilateral arrangements between the GOI and the GOJ or in pursuance of arrangements between non-governmental organizations including

arrangements regarding cultural or academic exchanges that have been approved by the GOI for duration stated in the arrangement or a period of 5 years, whichever is less.

- (ii) For those Japanese applicants who are not covered under (a) (i) above but are highly skilled and qualified professionals employed by a company, organization or industry in the IT software and IT enabled sectors in India, the Indian side may grant multiple-entry employment visas valid for 3 years initially. The applicant must submit proof of his or her employment contract or engagement by the company, organization or industry in India or of the undertaking in India. The applicant may be asked to submit proof of registration of the company, organization or industry under domestic laws and regulations. The Indian side may grant extensions of the period of stay for 2 more years on a year to year basis beyond the initial 3 years to those Japanese applicants who entered India with visas mentioned in this paragraph, in accordance with the procedures determined by the GOI. In this connection, the GOI will ensure that such procedures will be completed as expeditiously as possible.
- (iii) For those Japanese applicants who are highly skilled and qualified professional coming to India for employment by a company, organization or industry in India or engaged in an undertaking in India on contract not covered in (a) (i) and (a) (ii) above, the Indian side may grant multiple-entry employment visas valid for up to 3 years or the term of assignment whichever is less. The Indian side may grant extensions of the period of stay for 2 more years on a year to year basis beyond the initial 3 years to those Japanese applicants who entered India with visas mentioned in this paragraph subject to provision of necessary documents.
- (iv) The Indian side may issue to family members (spouse and children who are dependent on the applicant and forming part of the same household) of the nationals of Japan mentioned in (i), (ii) and (iii) above, multiple entry visas co-terminus with employment visas

issued to the nationals of Japan, upon presentation of proof of their relationship and a sponsoring letter from their employer.

- (b) (i) The Japanese side may issue single entry visas for working valid for 3 months with the period of stay of 3 years or 1 year depending on the intended length of their stay in Japan to nationals of India who have an appropriate Certificate of Eligibility issued by the regional immigration offices of Japan. After the arrival in Japan, nationals of India can obtain from the regional immigration offices a multiple re-entry permission valid for up to 3 years consistent with the period of stay marked on the landing permission granted at the port of entry. The GOJ will endeavour to deal with visa applications as expeditiously as possible from the date of application.
- (ii) The Japanese side may issue to family members (spouse and children), who are dependent on the nationals of India mentioned in (b) (i) and forming part of the same household, single entry visas valid for 3 months with the period of stay co-terminus with the visas of the nationals of India depending on the intended length of their stay in Japan, on presentation of an appropriate Certificate of Eligibility issued to each family member by the regional immigration offices of Japan. After the arrival in Japan, family members can obtain from the regional immigration offices a multiple re-entry permission valid for up to 3 years consistent with the period of stay marked on the landing permissions granted at the port of entry.
- (iii) The Japanese side may issue to family members (spouse and children), who are not dependent on the nationals of India mentioned in (b) (i) as well as family members (spouse and children) who are dependent on the national of India but not forming part of the same household, multiple entry visas valid for up to 3 years with the period of each of stay up to 90 days, on presentation of proof of relationship with the national of India and proof of his or her employment in Japan.

- (iv) In case of parents of the nationals of India mentioned in (b) (i) or parents of his or her spouse, the Japanese side may issue single entry temporary visitor's visas valid for 3 months with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days on presentation of proof of relationship, travel bookings and documents to prove the capacity of the applicants or nationals of India mentioned above to cover their travel expenditures.
- (c) The nationals of Japan and their family members mentioned in (a) above will complete formalities for residence permits by applying to the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office under the Ministry of Home Affairs of India (hereinafter referred to as FRRO) within 14 days after their arrival in accordance with the relevant regulations of India. The residence permits issued by the GOI above need to be renewed on annual basis.

3. Measures related to Tourist Visas in India and Temporary Visitor's Visas for the Purpose of Sightseeing in Japan

Each side may issue tourist visas/temporary visitors visas for the purpose of sightseeing as follows:

- (a) The Indian side may issue multiple entry tourist visas valid for up to 5 years with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days to the nationals of Japan. An interval of at least 2 months between 2 visits to India is required on a tourist visa. However, with a view to ensuring that genuine tourists are not affected, nationals of Japan with tourist visas, after initial entry into India, may visit another country largely on account of neighbourhood tourism and need to re-enter India within 60 days, before finally exiting. Such tourists may be permitted up to 3 re-entries (on the basis of the needs) by the Indian Missions or Posts subject to their submission of a detailed itinerary and supporting documentation such as ticket bookings.
- (b) (i) The Japanese side may issue single entry temporary visitor's visas for the purpose of sightseeing valid for 3 months with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days ,on presentation of travel

bookings, to the nationals of India, as well as to their families, who meet certain criteria, such as members of companies listed on recognized stock exchange, members of state and municipal enterprises, government officials and cultural figures and other persons judged by the Chief of Mission to be reliable.

- (ii) The Japanese side may issue single entry temporary visitor's visas for the purpose of sightseeing valid for 3 months with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days to those other than (i) above on presentation of travel bookings as well as documents to prove the applicant's capacity to cover their travel expenditures.
- (iii) If the nationals of India participate in package tours organized by tour operators registered with the GOI and designated by the Japanese side, single entry temporary visitor's visas for the purpose of sightseeing valid for 3 months with the period of stay up to 90 consecutive days may be granted on presentation of necessary documents by the tour operator.

4. Measures related to Student Visas in India and Entry Visas for Students in Japan

Each side may issue student visas/entry visas for students as follows:

- (a) The Indian side may issue student visas to Japanese applicants valid for up to 5 years, or duration of the course, whichever is shorter on presentation of a letter of confirmed admission from a recognized educational institution, proof of finances to cover travelling expenses and other expenditure in India. A maximum of 3 re-entries per academic year may be allowed. In emergency situation additional entries may be granted. The Japanese applicant should be required to register himself or herself with the concerned FRRO for a residence permit within 14 days of his or her arrival.

There will be no restriction with reference to the number of courses a Japanese student can attend in one institution or multiple institutions, provided the institutions are recognized. In case a Japanese student wishes to change a course midway and join

another course, the period of validity of the residence permit will be adjusted to the duration of the latter course.

- (b) The Japanese side may issue single entry visas valid for 3 months, with the period of stay up to 2 years and 3 months to Indian students to receive education at Japanese colleges, high schools or equivalent educational institutions or to take courses such as Japanese language at other equivalent educational schools. Indian students can obtain from the regional immigration offices a multiple re-entry permission valid for up to 2 years and 3 months consistent with the period of stay marked on the landing permission granted at the port of entry. The GOJ will endeavour to deal with applications for extension of the period of stay from such students of India beyond the permitted period of stay, as the case may be, for studying in Japan as expeditiously as possible from the date of application.
- (c) In the case of applicants covered under the Cultural Exchange Programme or the Education Exchange Programme or other mutually approved Programme between the two sides, each side may issue relevant visas on presentation of a letter of authorization from the concerned Government body in each other's country.

5. Short-Term Visas (India)/Temporary Visitor's Visas (Japan)

Each side may issue relevant entry visas to the nationals of one country travelling to the other country for conferences, seminars and other short-term academic exchanges in accordance with applicable procedures as set forth in laws and regulations of each side.

- 6(a) Each side will, within a reasonable period that does not exceed 5 working days after an application requesting entry visas is considered complete under its domestic laws and regulations, inform the applicant of the decision concerning the application. At the request of the applicant, each side will endeavour to provide, without undue delay, information concerning the status of the application.

(b) The period referred to in paragraph (a) can be extended if additional consideration on the documents provided by the applicant is necessary.

7. Each side reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or public health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of the foregoing measures upon notification given to the other side through diplomatic channels.

8. The foregoing measures will be implemented from a date to be mutually decided by both sides through diplomatic channels. These measures are subject to all other conditions for grant of visas as per the extant instructions issued by both Governments being applicable. Such extant instructions are issued subject to the applicable laws and regulations of each country.

9. Both sides may, as necessary, hold consultations through diplomatic channels to deal with any issues that may arise relating to the foregoing measures.

10. Each side, when it terminates the foregoing measures, either in whole or in part, will give 1 month's notice to the other side in writing through diplomatic channels.

11. Both sides will continue consultations to explore measures to further simplify visa procedures.

Signed at Tokyo, Japan, on October 25, 2010 in two originals.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF JAPAN**



322. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Japanese Prime Minister.

Tokyo, October 25, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Madame Nobuko Kan,
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be back in your wonderful country after a gap of two years. I wish to thank Prime Minister Kan, the Government and the people of Japan for the exceptional courtesies and warm hospitality extended to me, my wife and to members of my delegation.

Excellency,

In my interactions with you since our first meeting in Toronto I have been touched by your deep personal interest in strengthening the foundations of our Strategic and Global Partnership. I admire your leadership, commitment and vision for a better future for our two peoples and for an enhanced partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India and Japan have historical and civilizational old ties. Our relations have been marked by mutual goodwill, amity and respect. This legacy has remained unbroken into the modern era, which has seen our bonds strengthen based on our shared values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

Today, our economic complementarities, strategic interests and common aspirations for Asian economic integration make us natural partners. Indeed, we have a mutual stake in each other's progress and prosperity.

Excellency,

What sets our relations apart from others is that we rejoice in each other's success. Our relations with Japan enjoy a national consensus

in India. We wish to see Japan as a prosperous engine of growth for the world economy and the centre of technological excellence. The people of India remain ever grateful for the generous development assistance that Japan has provided to India over the years.

I would like to thank you for the productive discussions that we have had this evening. These reinforce my belief that the sky is the limit for expanding cooperation and friendship between us. We invite Japan to participate in the revival of the ancient seat of learning at the Nalanda University.

As the Asian century unfolds, we must stand together in our determination to bring peace, stability and economic advancement to our respective peoples, to the region and to the world at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join me in raising a toast to:

- The health and well-being of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan and Madame Kan;
- The prosperity and progress of our friendly peoples; and to
- The India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

Thank you.



323. Extract relevant to Japan from the Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister in Lok Sabha on Prime Minister's recent visits abroad.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Madam Speaker,

I rise to inform the House of Hon'ble Prime Ministers recent bilateral visits to Japan and Malaysia, and also to Vietnam and South Korea for attending the 8th India-ASEAN Summit & 5th East Asia Summit in Hanoi and the G-20 Summit in Seoul.

JAPAN

2. Prime Minister visited Japan from October 24-26, 2010 for the Annual Summit with the Prime Minister of Japan. Such summits have been institutionalized and held regularly since 2006. The desire to deepen relations with India came through in PM's all meetings in Tokyo with Prime Minister Kan and important members of his Cabinet, with leaders of opposition parties as well as captains of Japanese industry. PM also had the opportunity to call on and exchange views with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

3. PM conveyed appreciation for Japan's generous Official Development Assistance to India over the years, especially in flagship infrastructure projects such as the Delhi Metro, Dedicated Freight Corridor Project and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. To corporate Japan, PM underlined the attractiveness of India as an investment destination and the complementarities between our two countries in terms of technology and manpower. Both Prime Ministers announced the conclusion of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between our two countries. Japan is completing its internal procedures following which the CEPA will be signed and later implemented, leading to a quantum increase in our trade and investment with each other. The Japanese Prime Minister also proposed the establishment of a comprehensive Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue to drive our economic relations forward. PM has agreed with his suggestion.

4. PM complimented Prime Minister Kan for his bold decision in June this year to commence negotiations with India on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Given Japanese sensitivities on this issue, such a decision is further indication of the strategic nature of India-Japan ties. Both Prime Ministers have urged our negotiators to conclude such an Agreement at an early date. PM also expressed the hope that Japanese firms will soon be able to contribute to civil nuclear power generation in India.

5. India and Japan have agreed to work together on several regional and international issues including the emerging East Asian architecture, for reform of the United Nations including its Security Council and on climate change.

6. I am confident that his visit to Japan and his interactions with Prime Minister Kan and other leaders will contribute substantially to enhanced engagement with Japan which is becoming one of our most vital and dynamic international partnerships.

* * * * *

(For full text of the Statement please see Document No.24.)



324. Press Release on the Indian Council of Cultural Relations constituting a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Ryukoku at Kyoto.

Kyoto, November 24, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 15, 2010 for establishment of a Short-Term Chair of India Studies at the Ryukoku University. Ambassador of India to Japan, Shri Hemant Krishan Singh signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR along with Prof. Dosho Wakahara, President of the Ryukoku University.

Under the terms of the agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the Ryukoku University, shall appoint an Indian academician who would be visiting the University for a period of one semester during each academic year. The Indian academician would deliver lectures on Indian Philosophy/Literature/History and Buddhist Studies and 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 the academic year 2011 and the MoU would remain valid for three years till 2014.

This Chair would be ICCR's second Chair in Japan. The first Chair on Indian Studies was set up at the University of Tokyo on September 25, 2009 and the Chair commenced in April 2010.

Establishment of this Chair is another major step in propagation of India related studies in Japan and thereby fulfilling ICCR's mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



KOREA, REPUBLIC OF**325. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the State Visit of President of Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak.****New Delhi, January 22, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and welcome. My colleague Shri Gautam Bambawale, who is Joint Secretary (East Asia) and I would like to talk to you about the visit of the President of Republic of Korea (ROK). After my opening remarks, both of us will be happy to take a few questions.

As you are aware, His Excellency Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea will be paying a state visit to India from 24th to 27th January. He will be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day Celebrations this year. Some of you may know that he had earlier visited India in April 2007 before assumption of office in his personal capacity to familiarize himself with contemporary India. After assuming office, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and he have met on several occasions on the sidelines of international fora starting from the G20 Summit that took place in Japan in July 2008.

President Lee is being accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising of a number of Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior officials and businessmen. I may add that the Ministers include the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Minister of Knowledge Economy; Minister of Education, Science and Technology; Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism; Minister of Trade and so on. This itself gives you an idea of the breadth of our cooperation and the number of sectors in which we are working together and where we are looking at deepening cooperation.

Let me briefly take you through the programme. He arrives on the 24th afternoon at Chennai where he would be visiting the Hyundai Motor India Limited and also be meeting with Korean businessmen. Later that evening, on the 24th, he comes to Delhi. On the 25th, after the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, he has a series of meetings and calls on him and by him, which include calls by the External Affairs Minister, likely calls by the Leader of Opposition, the Vice-President, Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister. There is a

banquet also that President would be hosting for him. Next day, he is the Chief Guest on the 26th at the Republic Day Celebrations. He would also be having an important business meeting organized by the apex business bodies including ASSOCHAM, FICCI and CII. That is very broadly his programme. We will be putting out a Media Advisory soon.

As to the relationship, I am happy to note that India and ROK enjoy very good relations. In October 2004, both countries established Long-Term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, which constitutes the bedrock of our relations. This was during the visit of President Roh Moo-Hyun. Both sides, see India-ROK partnership as a factor of peace and stability in Asia. We also have a Ministerial-level Joint Commission headed by the two Foreign Ministers. The last meeting of the Joint Commission, the fifth round, was held in Seoul in September 2007.

In recent years there has been significant all-round expansion in our bilateral ties including in the trade and economic sectors. We have a robust bilateral trade which was close to 16 billion dollars in 2008 reflecting an increase of 22 per cent. We had set a target of 10 billion dollars for 2010 and by 2008 actual trade was already 16 billion. Yet we are still far from attaining the potential which is quite significant.

ROK is also one of our major investment partners. There are about 300 Korean companies already in India including global majors like Hyundai, LG and Samsung. If there are any questions later on investment relationship, my colleague and I would be happy to dwell on it.

I would like to note that thanks to the significant growth in our trade and economic relations, in August 2009, during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister we signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with ROK, which is the second such agreement with any country. The first, as you would recall, was with Singapore. The second in August was with ROK. Also significantly this is the first CEPA with an OECD country. We expect that this would give a major boost to our trade and investment ties, and particularly give a substantial access in ROK to our services industry.

As I said, our relations are broad-based. The canvas extends to priority sectors like IT, knowledge-based industries, science and technology, high

technology, automobiles and components, the SME sector, defence, space, cultural exchanges. We see synergies between the sophisticated IT hardware sector of ROK and our software sector.

I would also like to note that defence cooperation between our armed forces is expanding. In particular, cooperation between the Navies and Coastguards is of great importance to us. Our Coastguards signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in 2006.

We also have an agreement on science and technology which dates back to 1976. We have established a Joint Committee on Science and Technology which has already met three times since 2005. The last meeting was in Seoul in December 2009. A programme of cooperation in the field of science and technology for the years 2010-2012 has also been finalized. We are looking at identifying further synergies in this very important sector for us.

As importantly, we have been cooperating closely in the field of peaceful use of space. Some of you would recall that in 1999 India had launched a satellite for ROK called KITSAT-3. Since then there have been close contacts between ISRO and the Korean Aerospace Research Institute. We are looking at further increasing cooperation between the two organizations. I mentioned SME sector which is quite important. We feel that the Korean and Indian SME companies can find synergies in a number of areas such as semiconductors, plastics, auto parts, ceramic products, software and so on.

We also have a very vibrant cultural exchange programme. The two sides are in the process of discussing some special cultural events in both countries for this year. We have regular youth exchange programmes which can certainly be enhanced.

We maintain close contacts in regional fora including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East-Asia Summit (EAS), the G20 Summit, and so on. We welcome the fact that ROK will be host to a G20 Summit in November this year. We also enjoy a commonality of views on the very important pertinent issue of global climate change. I may add that several agreements and MoUs are likely to be signed during the important visit which is expected to give a great impetus to our bilateral relationship.

Let me stop here. My colleague and I will be happy to take questions on the visit.

Question: What are the agreements on?

Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): The agreements we look forward to having between the two countries are likely to be in the areas of information technology, peaceful uses of space technologies and so on.

Question: Given South Korea's proficiency in the area of nuclear technology, what is the kind of cooperation that India is looking at?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Let me put it this way. As you probably know, ROK supported us at the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and we are very grateful for their support in that forum. We are also aware of the capabilities that ROK has in this area. In fact I am sure, all of you would have also noted, that very recently one of their power Corporations, KEPCO, has won a big contract worth 20 billion dollars in the United Arab Emirates. We have taken note of this. Both sides are keen to work in this area which is of interest not only to India but also to ROK. But I think we have to wait for the leadership of the two countries to discuss this issue if they do. And then we will take it forward from that point once this visit is over.

Question: Will there be any discussion about POSCO project which is being delayed?

Official Spokesperson: I cannot tell you what specifically will be discussed or not discussed. But regarding the POSCO project let me say that it is a very important project. It is one of the largest investment projects from anywhere in the world to India. Both the Government of India and the State Government attach considerable importance to the project. It has not evolved at the pace that we would have wanted it to evolve. But many of the issues have been sorted out. The remaining issues hopefully will be sorted out. As I said, Government of India and the State Government are trying its best to pave the way for the initiation of the project.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Can I just add, Vishnu, to that? I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that there has been some recent move forward on POSCO project. In fact, Stage-II environmental clearances were

given by the Central Government, by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, on the 29th of December 2009, just a few days ago. So, there has been, as Official Spokesperson has just said, some movement forward in this entire POSCO project recently.

Question: Is there any invitation or request from South Korea to join the six-nation talks on North Korea?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I am not aware of any such invitation.

Question: You mentioned about the ASEAN aspect. How do you place this visit in the context of ASEAN Plus Six format, instead of ASEAN Plus Three Plus Three which covers many countries including China?

Official Spokesperson: As I said already, ROK is a very important Asian country. It is an OECD country. It is a country with which we have a very broad-based cooperation. It is a country which has been supportive of an enhanced role, a suitable role by India in the Asian economic architecture. That is the background as far as cooperation between India and ROK is concerned.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I think what Vishnu has said is very correct. I would just like to add that we have had a lot of interaction with ROK not only bilaterally, as we are going to do during this visit, but also in international fora including the ARF, EAS and G20. So, our leaders meet at many of these fora and they also build up their own individual sort of linkages and individual relationships. In that sense, yes, India has been working in these international fora including EAS and ARF with ROK.

Question: Talking about POSCO project again, you said some issues have been resolved and some issues remain. Could you give us an idea what are the sticking points where we could see some sort of breakthrough maybe in this visit? Secondly, could you also give us an idea of trade balance between the two countries ?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): First of all, let me talk about the POSCO project. As you know it is a very important project. The way the company visualizes it, it will be a 12 billion dollar investment when it is finally up and running. It will be the single largest Foreign Direct Investment project in India. But the problems that we are facing at present are basically issues

dealing with land and land acquisition. There are two parts of the land which POSCO needs to acquire for this project. One part is Government land, the second part is private land. The overwhelming majority of the land is Government land. There is a very small part which is private land owned by about 400 odd families. There are some problems with that private land. The Government-owned land is further subdivided into two parts - forest land and non-forest land. The forest land has now been given the Stage-II environmental clearances by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which I just spoke about, on the 29th of December 2009. So, we are moving ahead on the project. But we have to see how fast it moves ahead. We would like it to move ahead very fast.

On trade, as per the statistics that we have, total trade in 2008 was about 16 billion dollars out of which South Korean exports to India were about 11 billion dollars and the rest was Indian exports to South Korea. I would say that though we have a trade deficit, it is not something which is a terribly large.

Question: Any plan to expand the area of defence cooperation?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): The Minister of Defence of ROK visited India in 2007. So, there has been some movement forward during that visit. The way we are looking at it is that we want to move beyond Navy-to-Navy cooperation especially in the defence of the sea lanes, or interoperability between the two Navies and the defence of the sea lanes of communication. We want to move beyond that to other aspects of cooperation, whether it is Army-to-Army, Air Force-to-Air Force and maybe even defence production aspect of this cooperation. But we have to see how the discussions and the talks go between the two leaders.

Question: Will these issues be discussed during the current visit?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, the whole range of matters of mutual interest, and defence cooperation is one of the matters of mutual interest which would be covered during the discussions. I may just add to what Joint Secretary (EA) has mentioned. We have already had joint exercises between Coast Guards. We have had ship visits. In 2005 there was a Memorandum of Understanding on defence industry and logistics cooperation. A Joint Committee has been set up which has already met

twice to identify several areas of mutual cooperation. So, again here there are a number of exchanges that we are having at different levels from Ministerial, to Services, to Coast Guards and so on.

Question: You said that about 300 companies from South Korea have invested in India. Any reciprocal figures available so far as India is concerned?

Official Spokesperson: We will certainly come back to you on that figure. I may just add that ROK is the seventh largest investor in India with FDI approvals of 2.7 billion dollars between August 1991 and 2009. As importantly, in October 2003 a Joint Investment Promotion Committee has been set up which has met thrice. The third meeting was recently in Seoul in September 2009. So, investments in both directions are something which is of interest. I mentioned that the Minister of Trade is accompanying the President. The President is being accompanied by a business delegation. We do expect the visit to give investments in both directions an impetus.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I only want to add one point which is, as you all know, that the India-ROK Comprehensive Economic Partner Agreement (CEPA) has started implementation from the 1st of January. We believe that that is a very important document. Once its implementation has begun, and it has just begun, it covers a whole series of things including trade in goods, trade in services, investment and movement of natural persons. So, we think this is a win-win situation for both countries and we are going to see not only a rise in bilateral trade but also a rise in bilateral investments including movements of our services industries into South Korea.

Question: What is the major area of movement of our services into South Korea?

Official Spokesperson: That is one important facet of CEPA which is worth flagging. You know that we have the India-ASEAN agreement on goods which has been operationalised again on the 1st of January. But CEPA, as the name itself suggests, is far more comprehensive and covers both goods and services and gives a platform for the Indian service industries to make entrees into ROK.

Question: Sir, anything on Australia? There have been attacks in Brisbane. This is slightly south of Seoul.

Official Spokesperson: We have learnt of the attacks today in Brisbane. We are getting further details. You would recall that External Affairs Minister spoke to the media just a couple of days ago where he expressed his anguish at the continued attacks on people of Indian origin, Indian nationals and Indian students. At all levels between India and Australia, this matter has been taken up. We have received assurances from the Government of Australia that they follow a policy of zero tolerance. They are taking measures, but clearly more needs to be done. Our High Commission in Australia, our Consulates in Australia are in close and regular touch with the Government of Australia, with the State Governments, with the Police authorities, and they have been extending all possible assistance to the community. But safety and security of the Indian students and Indian nationals is very important for us. We are disappointed at the attacks which continue to be happening towards Indians.

Thank you.



326. Opening Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the delegation level talks with President of Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, January 25, 2010.

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your delegation to India. I wish you a very pleasant and fruitful stay in India.

We are deeply honoured that you have accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations. It was during your visit to India in 2007 that you had called for a closer partnership between our two countries and an early conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Korea.

We are delighted that a friend of India is at the helm of affairs in Korea and that together we will have the opportunity to realize your vision and our common vision of a strong and vibrant India-Korea partnership.

Your State visit today reflects our mutual commitment to strengthen relations between our countries. This is a relationship that rests on our shared values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human freedoms.

There is great admiration in India for the rapid progress made by Korea in all fields. The economic growth model followed by Korea has brought unprecedented prosperity to the people of Korea. We would like to learn from the Korean experience as we enhance our own efforts to achieve rapid and inclusive growth in India.

We are committed to developing a robust and comprehensive framework for strategic engagement with Korea.

I once again warmly welcome you to India. I am confident that your visit will open new vistas of cooperation between our countries.



327. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on the signing of India-South Korea agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology.

New Delhi, January 25, 2010.

The Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Science & Technology with the Republic of Korea for the period of 2010-12 was signed here today by Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology with his Korean counterpart H.E. Byong Man Ahn. The POC was signed in presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister and the visiting Korean President. The new POC would provide opportunities in working on application oriented joint research projects of mutual interest in the following areas:

Transportation

Robotics & Engineering Sciences

Nutrition & Food Safety

Renewable Energy

Chemical & Biochemical Technologies

Health & Medical science

Material Science & Technology

Water Resources & Environment

Information Technology

The POC will also provide opportunities to scientists of both the countries to visit each other's laboratories. To further intensify present level of ongoing bilateral cooperation , the new POC has been signed.



328. Joint Statement issued during the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea: 'Towards a Strategic Partnership'.

New Delhi, January 25, 2010.

H.E. Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), paid a State Visit to India from 24 to 27 January 2010, at the invitation of H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India.

2. The President of the ROK was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 25 January 2010. During the visit, President Lee met President Patil, and also held a summit meeting with Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. On 26 January, President Lee will be the Chief Guest at the celebrations to mark the Republic Day of India.

3. During the summit meeting, the two leaders discussed ways to develop bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues. They expressed satisfaction on the strong development of India -ROK relations based on the "Long-term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" established in October 2004. Both sides welcomed the steady growth in high level exchanges and contacts between the two countries, and the expansion in various areas of bilateral relations

including defence, trade, science & technology, information & communication technology, education, and culture.

4. Recognizing that the India-ROK partnership is based on the principles of common interest, mutual benefit and shared values, the two leaders agreed that there is immense scope for further enhancing bilateral relations in various areas. In this context, they also welcomed the entry into force of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1 January 2010 as the bedrock of a new comprehensive partnership between India and the ROK. They also recognized that, as both countries are major economies in the region, the partnership has the capacity to promote regional growth, and to contribute to prosperity and economic development of Asia.

5. Referring to the common challenges that both countries face in ensuring security against non-conventional threats, the two leaders agreed on the importance of cooperating and consulting with each other in developing regional architecture in the broader Asia-Pacific region.

6. Considering that India-ROK Partnership is a factor for peace and stability in Asia as well as between the two countries, the two leaders decided to enhance bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership. They also identified the following elements of the future relationship:

Political and Security Cooperation

7. The two leaders agreed to maintain regular contacts, including on the margins of international meetings and conferences.

8. Both sides reiterated the importance of the India-ROK Joint Commission co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries and acknowledged the necessity of holding the Joint Commission on an annual basis. It was agreed that the sixth meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in 2010.

9. The two leaders agreed that the Foreign Policy & Security Dialogue will be raised to the level of Vice Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) of the ROK, and Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India. It was also agreed that the first meeting of the upgraded dialogue will be held in 2010.

10. The two leaders agreed to strengthen dialogue and exchanges in the area of defence through regular high-level military exchanges. They also agreed to explore the possibilities of joint venture cooperation in research & development, and manufacture of military equipment including through transfer of technology and co-production. It was agreed that the third meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Logistics and Industry will be held during the first half of 2010.

11. The two leaders also agreed on the need for greater cooperation between the navies and coast guards in areas pertaining to the safety and security of international maritime traffic. They shared the view that developing long-term cooperative relations in this area will contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

12. Both sides shared the view that the CEPA will contribute to enhancing trade and investment flows between the two countries. They also reaffirmed their commitment to ensure the smooth implementation of the CEPA. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Joint Committee headed by Trade Ministers of the two countries or their representatives will be held in the second half of 2010 to review the status of the implementation of the CEPA.

13. The two leaders agreed to set a target of US\$ 30 billion for bilateral trade to be achieved by 2014. They also agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, SMEs, SPS and Standards related measures, trade remedies and IPR issues.

14. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the financial sector through bilateral consultations on macroeconomic policy, budget, taxation, finance, and public sector reform.

15. Noting that the expansion of mutual investment will contribute to the reciprocal economic growth of both countries, the two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation and support at the governmental level to nurture a favourable environment, including through mutual agreement on a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) before the end of 2010. The Indian side hoped that investment from the ROK into India will expand, including in the infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. In this context, referring to the project to set up a Korean industrial complex and technology

zone in the State of Gujarat, the two leaders noted its potential to further accelerate the bilateral trade and investment linkages. The two leaders also recognized the need to expedite the implementation of the POSCO project in the State of Orissa. The Korean side hoped that Indian investment in the ROK will also expand. It was agreed that the fourth meeting of the India-ROK Joint Committee on Investment Promotion will be held in New Delhi in 2010.

16. Noting the important role of air transport network in promoting economic, social and cultural exchanges, the two leaders agreed to explore the possibility of enhancing air connectivity between the two countries. They also agreed to consider the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Maritime Shipping Agreement.

Science and Technology Cooperation

17. The two leaders recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of science & technology. They welcomed the outcome of the Meeting of the Joint Committee on Science & Technology held in Seoul in December 2009 and endorsed the decision of the two sides to consider creating a dedicated fund of US\$ 10 million (with a contribution of US\$ 5 million by each side) to promote joint research. The two leaders also agreed that the two sides may explore the possibility of upgrading the level of the dialogue.

18. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the information technology sector including through the expansion of mutual investment and personnel exchanges. They also welcomed the decision of the two sides to renew the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services.

19. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the MOU on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) and expressed confidence that the MOU will facilitate strong cooperation between the two countries in this important sector.

20. The two leaders shared the view that nuclear energy can play an important role as a safe, sustainable and non-polluting source of energy. They agreed to facilitate development of a framework for bilateral civil nuclear cooperation.

Social and Cultural Cooperation

21. Recognising the need to further strengthen cultural exchanges and people to people contacts between India and the ROK, the two leaders agreed to designate the year 2011 as 'Year of Korea' in India and 'Year of India' in the ROK.

22. The Indian side also welcomed the ROK initiative to open a Korean Cultural Centre in New Delhi in 2011, which will go a long way in further promoting awareness about Korean life and culture in India.

Cooperation in the International Arena

23. The two leaders recognized the legitimate and long-term interests of both countries in the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and the importance of developing an open and inclusive economic regional architecture that is based on the principles of mutual benefit and shared opportunity. In this context, they affirmed that both India and the ROK have a significant role to play in such a regional architecture and agreed to maintain regular consultations and close coordination in the EAS, ARF, ACD and ASEM processes.

24. Both sides agreed to work for comprehensive United Nations reform, including Security Council expansion, with a view to enhancing its representativeness and, consequently, its effectiveness, authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address various challenges facing the international community.

25. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and agreed to enhance cooperation in this area, including through information sharing.

26. Both sides also reiterated their common commitment on nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

27. The two leaders valued the G-20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and commended its timely and strong policy response in the crisis. They welcomed the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth launched at Pittsburgh and looked forward to its implementation.

28. The two leaders welcomed the Copenhagen Accord. They reaffirmed their determination to work closely together in the negotiations both under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol towards an Agreed Outcome to be adopted at the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties.

29. The following agreement and MOUs were signed during the visit:

- (i) Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons
- (ii) MOU on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services
- (iii) Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology for the Period 2010-2012
- (iv) MOU for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

30. The two sides agreed that the State Visit of the President of the Republic of Korea to India has reflected the recent trend in expanding bilateral relations between the two countries and that this visit will provide the impetus for a new vision of friendly and cooperative relations in the years to come.

31. On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea, President Lee Myung-bak thanked the Government and the people of India for the warm and friendly hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. President Lee extended cordial invitations to President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to visit the Republic of Korea at a mutually convenient time. The invitations were accepted with appreciation. The timing of these visits will be decided through diplomatic channels.



329. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in honour of the President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak.

New Delhi, January 25, 2010,

Your Excellency President Lee Myung-bak,

Madame Kim,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a warm welcome to you Mr. President, to Madame Kim and your delegation on the eve of India's 61st Republic Day.

India and the Republic of Korea are both ancient civilizations. Cultural contacts between our peoples date back several centuries, enriching the bonds between our two countries. We, in India, have heard of the legend from a Korean classic, that a Princess from Ayodhya in India travelled all the way to Korea some 2000 years ago to marry King Kim Suro.

The teachings of Lord Buddha constitute another enduring link from our past. The famous Korean monk Haejao, on his return from India to Korea in the 8th Century A.D., gave an invaluable record of the socio-economic conditions that obtained in India then. This symbolizes the intellectual exchanges which flourished between our ancient universities and monasteries. In that glorious age, Nalanda was a great seat of learning for scholars from all over the East, South East and Central Asia. Today, we are working to revive Nalanda University's glorious past and once again, make it a centre of academic excellence. We greatly value Korea's support in these efforts. Korea also enjoys the unique distinction of having one of the largest women university in the world, that focuses primarily on development of leadership skills amongst women. This, alongwith exchange of students, can be an area of cooperation between our two countries.

Excellency,

We, in India, admire the discipline and hard work of the Korean people that has turned your country into a modern, developed economy. The socio-economic transformation of the Republic of Korea is a source of inspiration.

As far back as in 1929 Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, our national poet, wrote:

*"In the golden age of Asia
Korea was one of its lamp bearers
And that lamp is waiting
To be lighted once again
For the illumination of the East"*

Our shared values of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and the quest for peace and development, have brought us closer together again. India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Several Korean companies have chosen India as their global hub for production and product development. This is an excellent model which can harness the synergies between India and the Republic of Korea to mutual advantage.

The implementation of our bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement from the 1st of January this year will open new opportunities for growth in trade, investment and services. We are confident that businesses in both our countries will leverage the Agreement to mutual benefit and to the common advantage of our people.

Excellency,

We have raised our relationship to a Strategic Partnership. I assure you, that India will always take a long-term perspective of our bilateral ties. We will continue to work with you on regional and global issues. We are happy that the G-20 has become the framework in which we discuss international financial and economic issues. We welcome the fact that the Republic of Korea will host the G-20 Summit in November this year.

India and the Republic of Korea are two important countries in Asia. We work closely together in the East Asia Summit process. We believe that such an architecture should remain open and inclusive. We look forward to working with you in building an East Asian community for prosperity and peace.

Excellency,

We recall your earlier visit to India in 2007. The vision that you outlined then, for the growth of our bilateral relations had ready resonance in India.

In the course of your current visit we have had fruitful discussions and signed several agreements. I am confident that this visit will prove to be a major milestone in our ever-expanding ties.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in raising a toast to:-

- the good health of President Lee and Madame Kim;
- the continued progress of the people of the Republic of Korea; and
- the expanding co-operation and friendship between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea.



330. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Sinking of ROK Frigate 'Cheonan'.

New Delhi, May 21, 2010.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has shared with us the report of the Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group established to inquire into the causes of the sinking of Frigate* 'Cheonan' on 26 March 2010.

We condemn the incident and condole with the Republic of Korea on the tragic loss of life. India appreciates the maturity and restraint with which the Republic of Korea has been handling the issue with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the region.



* The statement of the Government of India came when the tensions deepened on on the Korean peninsula as South Korea accused North Korea of firing a torpedo that sank a naval warship in March, killing 46 sailors in the country's worst military disaster since the Korean War. President Lee Myung-bak vowed "stern action" for the provocation following the release of long-awaited results from a multinational investigation into the March 26 sinking near the Koreas' maritime border. North Korea however called the results a fabrication, and warned that any retaliation would trigger war. It continued to deny involvement in the sinking of the warship Cheonan. While 58 sailors were rescued from the frigid Yellow Sea waters, 46 died.

331. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (East Asia) on External Affairs Minister's visit to Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, June 16, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to you all. My colleague and good friend Mr. Gautam Bambawale, our Joint Secretary (East Asia) who inter alia looks after matters pertaining to Republic of Korea (ROK), is here along with me to brief you about the very important visit of our External Affairs Minister (EAM) to Seoul from the 17th to the 19th of this month for the Sixth India ROK Joint Commission Meeting. The Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) is co-chaired by EAM and the Foreign and Trade Minister of ROK.

During his stay in Seoul, the EAM Shri S.M. Krishna will be calling on the President of ROK, would meet the Defence Minister and of course hold extensive discussions on the whole range of issues of interest with his counterpart.

Let me share with you brief details about EAM's delegation and programme. He would be assisted by: our Ambassador in Seoul; Advisor to EAM Mr. Raghavendra Shastry; Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia); and senior officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Commerce and others.

As to the programme, I mentioned that the visit is from the 17th to the 19th of June. Tomorrow, on the 17th of June, EAM would be meeting prominent members of the Indian community and Indian business leaders. On the 18th, Friday, there would be the Joint Commission meeting. He will be calling on the President of ROK and giving a talk at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, which is an important think-tank. He would also be meeting with the Minister of Defence. Those are the programme highlights.

We enjoy excellent relations with the Republic of Korea. In fact, there are no outstanding issues between us. You would recall that President Lee Myung-bak had paid a state visit to India in January when he was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. During the visit it was decided

to elevate our relations to the level of strategic partnership. India and South Korea see our partnership as a factor for peace, development and stability in Asia.

Coming back to the Joint Commission, this institution was established in 1996. I mentioned that we are going to have the sixth meeting of the JCM on the 18th. The JCM is the main forum for discussing the entire spectrum of our very vibrant and multifaceted ties, to take stock of the relationship and to give it further direction and momentum. Both sides are keen to enhance bilateral engagement and build on synergies.

In recent years there has been all-round expansion in our ties, including in the trade and economic relations. We have a robust bilateral trade which crossed 15 billion dollars in 2008. During the visit of the President, a trade target of 30 billion dollars by 2014 was established which is easily achievable.

ROK is also one of our key investment partners. In fact, investments from ROK to India are already the 7th largest. There are about 300 South Korean companies operating in India including the global giants like Hyundai, Daewoo, LG, Samsung, etc., and they are employing more than 40,000 workers.

To give a further boost to our trade and economic relations, especially to garner greater access for our services in ROK, a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in August 2009 and was operationalised on the 1st of January this year. This is only the second CEPA that has been signed and the first with a OECD country.

I mentioned we have vibrant and multifaceted ties with ROK. We have already identified a number of high priority areas where very good work is being done, including IT and knowledge-based industries, science and technology, high-technology, energy, automobiles and components, small and medium enterprises - again that is a sector which we are attaching a lot of importance to - defence, space, cultural ties, parliamentary exchanges, people-to-people exchanges. Defence cooperation between our armed forces is expanding. The Indian and the South Korean Coast guards signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in 2006, and cooperation between the Coast guards and Navies is also growing.

India and ROK also signed an agreement on science and technology cooperation in 1976. During the visit of the President of ROK, a dedicated joint fund for R&D has been established to which five million dollars will be contributed by both sides.

We are also closely working together, cooperating in the peaceful use of space. I would like to note here that in 1999 India launched a satellite for ROK called KITSAT-3, along with an Indian satellite. More initiatives are being discussed.

There is very good scope for deepening our collaboration in the SME sector covering a number of areas which have been identified. We also have a very good, a very vibrant cultural exchange programme between ROK and India. In 2011, that is next year, we expect to have the Festival of India in ROK and the Festival of ROK in India. Both sides would also like to see greater people-to-people contacts and tourism. Buddhism for example is another common link between our two countries.

We have maintained close contacts and held exchange of views at a number of international fora where both of us are members including ARF, East Asia Summit, G20 and so on. You know that a G20 Summit would take place in Seoul in November 2010, and we welcome that. We also have similarity of views on issues relating to global climate change.

Coming back to the visit, I may just note that some agreements are likely to be concluded during the visit. We expect that it will give a strong impetus to our bilateral relations and infuse greater momentum, greater depth, greater content in the strategic partnership between India and Republic of Korea.

My colleague and I will be happy to take your questions. Thank you.

Question: You were talking of high-tech trade. Is there any prospect of civil nuclear cooperation as well? Secondly, what is the update on the POSCO project? There were some hurdles when the ROK President visited us in January.

Joint Secretary (EA) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): On the first question of civil nuclear cooperation, I think it will be discussed at the Joint Commission between the two Foreign Ministers. I do not know in what direction that

discussion will go. But I think there will be something that the two Foreign Ministers will put out to the press after their meeting. So, we have to wait for their discussions to take place and for the results of their discussions to emanate after the meeting of the Joint Commission.

As far as POSCO is concerned, I think the Central Government has now given the clearances which lie with the Government of India, and it is now for the State Government of Orissa to move the project forward. I think you have been seeing in the last few weeks that the State Government has been making tremendous efforts in moving this project forward. We hope that it will get off the ground very soon.

Question: Do you have something on the defence cooperation? What will be the direction?

Joint Secretary (EA): The Defence Minister of Korea visited India in 2007 and had very good discussions with our Raksha Mantri. The Coast guards of the two countries have been collaborating, as has been mentioned by my colleague the Joint Secretary for External Publicity. We look at expanding this cooperation between the two Coastguards, between the two Navies, during this round of the Joint Commission. In fact, we will be looking to the Republic of Korea for an expansion of the cooperation between our two Navies definitely in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf of Aden in anti-piracy operations.

Question: Can we expect some discussion on the PSI? South Korea has signed up for the PSI. India is holding out. Could you just tell us what our position will be?

Joint Secretary (EA): I do not think there will be any discussion on the PSI with the Republic of Korea. In case they raise it we will be in a position to reply to them.



332. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Seoul on the Call by External Affairs Minister on President of the Republic of Korea.

Seoul, June 17, 2010.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna commenced his official visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) earlier today with a call on the President H.E. Lee Myung-bak at the Blue House, the official residence of the President. The constructive and fruitful meeting, in a warm and cordial atmosphere, lasted over 40 minutes.

President Lee fondly recalled his landmark visit to India in January this year, as the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations. He appreciated EAM's visit to Seoul for the 6th Joint Commission meeting (JCM), soon after his own, which would give further impetus to bilateral relations and the initiatives announced during his visit to India.

President Lee and EAM underscored the importance of increasing people-to-people exchanges to bolster the Strategic Partnership between the two countries including in the fields of education, tourism and youth. EAM suggested that a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who had described Korea as the 'Lamp of the East', be installed at a prominent location in Seoul. Warming to the theme, President Lee said that he would make a strong recommendation to the concerned city authorities to identify a suitable location for installing the bust of Gurudev in 2011, the 150th birth anniversary of the poet laureate.

Referring to the MOU of cooperation, signed last January between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), EAM suggested that ROK satellites could be launched on Indian launch vehicles. President Lee agreed to consider the suggestion.

Later in the evening, EAM interacted with prominent members of the Indian Community. He apprised them about the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. EAM observed that bilateral ties were on the cusp of a major take-off and exhorted the Indian community to assist the process, as well as, to make the best use of emerging opportunities for greater trade and investment.

EAM will be co-Chairing the 6th India-ROK JCM with his ROK counterpart tomorrow.



333. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Seoul on the 6th meeting of India - ROK Joint Commission.

Seoul, June 18, 2010.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M.Krishna who is on an official visit to the Republic of Korea June 17 - 19, 2010, today co-chaired the India - Republic of Korea (ROK) Joint Commission with his counterpart Mr Yu Myung-hwan, ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

2. The Joint Commission reviewed all aspects of India - ROK bilateral relations particularly developments since the landmark state visit to India of President Lee Myung-bak in January 2010. The two Ministers noted with satisfaction that the progress achieved in bilateral ties over the past few years resulted in its elevation to a Strategic Partnership. It was agreed that more high level visits between the two countries would be encouraged. The importance of exchanges and contacts between the Parliaments of the two countries were discussed.

3. EAM stressed that economic cooperation is the bedrock of India - ROK bilateral relations. The implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) since January 1, 2010 was reviewed by the Ministers. Bilateral trade has jumped by a robust 70% in the first 4 months of the year. This trend is expected to continue over the coming months, providing confidence that the trade target of US \$ 30 billion by 2014 can be achieved. In this context, EAM pointed out the need for expanded but balanced trade growth and made a strong case for greater access to the Korean market for Indian pharmaceuticals, IT enabled services and agro-products.

4. The two Ministers discussed ways to enhance bilateral defence and security cooperation including through expanded naval cooperation in anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean. EAM stressed the potential for expanded cooperation in defence production including through transfer of technology, joint ventures and co-production. The visit of the Defence Minister of India to ROK later this year is expected to further boost such cooperation. EAM also met with ROK Defense Minister Kim Tae-young later in the day.

5. Noting that the two sides had already exchanged drafts of an Inter Governmental Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the two Ministers agreed to launch negotiations between the two countries, at an early date, for the conclusion of such an Agreement.
6. EAM underscored the importance of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including through the launch of Korean satellites on Indian launch vehicles.
7. EAM proposed that the establishment of the dedicated Joint Science & Technology Fund of US \$ 10 million (with a contribution of US \$ 5 million by each side) to promote joint research between scientists and technologists of the two countries be expedited. In this context, he invited the Korean Minister for Education, Science and Technology to visit India soon.
8. The Joint Commission discussed details of the 'Year of India' in Korea and the 'Year of Korea' in India in 2011, including cooperation in showcasing Indian culture and arts in Korea. EAM suggested the installation of a bust of Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore at a prominent location in Seoul in 2011, the 150th birth anniversary of the poet. Tagore is well known in Korea after having described it as the 'Lamp of the East' in one of his poems.
9. Expanding people-to-people exchanges including through greater tourism, student exchanges and youth delegations were discussed in the Joint Commission Meeting.
10. Addressing a large gathering of eminent scholars, researchers and diplomats at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), EAM suggested a 6-pronged strategy for strengthening the India - ROK Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century. The speech was extremely well received by the Korean audience.
11. Both sides agreed that an open and inclusive Asian regional architecture based on the principles of mutual benefit and shared opportunity is in the interest of both countries. They agreed to work closely towards this goal within the East Asia Summit framework. The Indian side welcomed the fact that the G20 Summit will be held in Seoul, RoK, in November 2010.

12. The following documents were signed during the visit:
- (i) MoU between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India and the Small and Medium Business Administration of the RoK on Cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises.
 - (ii) MoU for Cooperation between ICCR and Korea Foundation.
 - (iii) MoU for Cooperation between Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the RoK.
13. The Minister of External Affairs of India invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the RoK to pay an official visit to India at a mutually convenient time in 2011 for the 7th Joint Commission Meeting. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the RoK accepted the invitation.



334. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) on 'Strengthening India - ROK Strategic Partnership'.

Seoul, June 18, 2010.

Chancellor Lee Soon-chun,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be in Seoul on my first official visit as External Affairs Minister of India. It is a privilege and honor to be able to address such a distinguished gathering here at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, the premier foreign policy and strategic affairs institution of the Republic of Korea. I thank you for providing me your august platform to share my views on how India and Korea can move ahead in the coming years with a view to strengthening our 'Strategic Partnership' for the 21st Century.

2. We in India viewed the visit of President Lee Myung-bak this past January, when he was Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations, as a major milestone in our bilateral relations. It signaled a coming of age of the India - Korea relationship. Forged in the crucibles of civilization when a Princess from Ayodhya traveled to Korea to marry King Suro, through the poems of India's poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore who described your country as the 'Lamp of the East', and to India's Chairmanship of the Election Commission that held the first ever elections on the Korean Peninsula, both our countries were well aware of the other. However, it required our recently expanding economic ties and the astute leadership of President Lee and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to elevate our relationship to that of a 'Strategic Partnership'.

3. Ladies and Gentlemen, my own visit to Seoul is aimed at consolidating and expanding our ever closer ties. In the hours gone by, I have been able to call on President Lee and hold wide-ranging, intense and fruitful discussions with my counterpart Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan. I am scheduled to meet Defense Minister Kim Tae-young later this afternoon. Foreign Minister Yu and I co-chaired the 6th meeting of the India - ROK Joint Commission where we agreed on several steps and measures to impart greater momentum to our relations. From this podium I wish to convey my ideas, on the road ahead, to a wider segment of the Korean population, particularly to you its intellectuals and opinion-makers.

4. India embarked on what we term our 'Look East' policy in 1992. In the eighteen years since, we have increasingly become an East Asian nation. The proportion of our trade with and investment from East and South East Asia has risen dramatically. We are not merely a Summit Partner of ASEAN, but are integral to the economic and strategic processes underway in this part of the world. We actively participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum or ARF and are founder members of the East Asia Summit. Our Trade in Goods Agreement with ASEAN has been implemented since January this year and we are making steady progress in our negotiations on an agreement on Trade in Services. Similarly, we are moving ahead in our discussions with Japan on an

Economic Partnership Agreement. Meanwhile, China has emerged as one of our largest trading partners. It is an India moored in East Asia through an ever enlarging web of relations with this most dynamic part of the world, which seeks to build an even stronger partnership with the Republic of Korea. I would like to propose a 6-step strategy to accomplish this goal.

5. **First, we should consolidate and strengthen our political partnership through high level exchanges.** President Lee's State Visit to India this January has been quickly followed up by the meeting of the India - Korea Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue in early April, the first time this forum has been held at Vice Foreign Minister or Secretary level. This set the stage not merely for my own visit but also an expansion in our cooperation on several regional and global issues. Many of you would have noted the sympathetic reaction of India to the investigation report on the sinking of the Korean naval corvette 'Cheonan'. We condemn the incident and condole with the ROK in the loss of life. India appreciates the maturity and restraint with which the ROK is handling the situation with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the region. At the same time in order to meet the new challenges that international shipping is facing from non-State actors especially in the Gulf of Aden, we believe it is time for our two countries to expand our naval cooperation. Perhaps, we can do so by holding the next joint exercise between our Coast Guards at an early date. Also, we must contemplate greater cooperation and coordination in anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean in which both our Navies are very closely involved.

6. Later this year, my colleague the Defence Minister of India will visit your great nation. I am confident that his visit will provide a boost to our security cooperation including in the sphere of defence research and development. This will bring our countries closer together. In my own discussions with your leadership, I have suggested that India and Korea look beyond a buyer-seller defence relationship to one where we envisage co-production, joint ventures and the transfer of technology. We suggested a few specific ideas in the recent meeting of our bilateral Joint Defence Industry and Logistics Committee. We need to move further and we need to do so faster.

7. High level visits are integral to moving our partnership onto a higher growth trajectory. On our part, we will ensure continuity, and will not be found wanting. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will of course be in Seoul this November when you host the G-20 Summit.

8. **Second, we must continue to expand, diversify and deepen our burgeoning economic ties.** Ladies and Gentlemen, we have reached the current juncture in our bilateral relations due to the rapidly expanding Indian economy and the fact that Korean businesses were quick off the starting block in recognizing the tremendous opportunities in India. While our GDP grew at an average annual rate of about 9% in the four years prior to the global economic and financial crisis, we have been able to weather this international storm reasonably well. In fiscal 2008, our GDP growth rate fell to 6.7%, but in fiscal 2009 we were able to manage 7.4% growth and our economy is forecast to expand by 8.5% this year. Our banking sector has remained relatively immune from the global malaise due to our strict regulatory framework and our stock market has rebounded strongly after an initial hiccup. Therefore, my friends, the outlook for the Indian economy continues to be positive and Korean industry can look to India for growth and profits. The experience of Hyundai Motors is a case in point. Hyundai which has one factory near Chennai manufacturing 300,000 cars, recently decided to establish yet another unit in southern India with a similar output catering mainly for exports to the Gulf and east Europe. We are confident that the leadership provided by Hyundai Motors where it has made India a hub for global production and exports will be followed not merely by other Korean companies but also by firms from across East and South East Asia. The Hyundai business model will serve both India as well as South Korea well.

9. We continue to remain cognizant of the fact that foreign direct investment is extremely competitive in nature. We do not intend to sit back on our laurels and hope to continue enjoying the fruits of past endeavours. We are very sensitive to the necessity of continually improving the investment environment in India. To this end, we are upgrading our infrastructure in terms of roads and highways, ports and airports, railways and shipping. India is spending billions of dollars in

this effort, which in itself constitutes a huge business opportunity being leveraged by many companies from Asia including Malaysia and the Philippines, Japan and China, Korea and Taiwan.

10. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement or CEPA that we have implemented since January 1, 2010 is proving to be a multiplier in our economic relationship. During the first four months of the year our two-way trade jumped 70% over the same period of the previous year and is expected to catch further steam in the coming months. If this is an indicator of things to come, we can rest assured that the bilateral trade goal of 30 billion US Dollars that we set for ourselves this January will be met before the target date of 2014. However, I believe that we must take stock of the functioning of our CEPA a little later this year after allowing sufficient time since its implementation.

11. Friends, our economic engagement goes well beyond trade in goods and investment. As you are aware, India has a competitive advantage in the service sector especially IT and IT enabled services. Most of India's major IT software companies all have offices in Korea but are looking for opportunities to exhibit the kind of work they are capable of and for which they have become famous in the West. We are sure that Korean firms and public sector institutions will provide them with the opening they seek. This will be a win-win situation for all, as our IT firms will ensure lower costs for Korean companies, which in turn will benefit consumers and lead to employment growth. India is also very competitive in financial and management services. Entry of Indian entities will benefit the Korean economy.

12. **Third, we must forge new Science and Technology links between us.** One of the major outcomes of President Lee's visit to India was the announcement of the establishment of a Joint Fund of 10 million US Dollars with equal contribution from both sides to sponsor joint research between our scientists. In the meeting of the Joint Commission earlier today, Foreign Minister Yu and I discussed ways of operationalizing this Fund at an early date. This will enable our technologists to work on new products as well as process innovations which will also benefit industry. The areas visualized for joint research

include high energy physics, nanotechnology, new materials, robotics and engineering sciences, information and communication technology and biotechnology. We look forward to your Minister for Education, Science and Technology visiting us in India later this year in order to move this initiative forward. I for one, am sure we will reap rich rewards from this great idea.

13. The MOU we concluded earlier this year for cooperation between our space agencies can have positive spin-offs for both our countries and our economies. In 1999, a Korean satellite KITSAT III was launched by India. We look forward to working with ROK in fabrication of satellites as also in helping you launch more Korean satellites on Indian launch vehicles. Our launch services are of very high quality and our costs are extremely competitive. Perhaps, the ROK can think in terms of participating in experiments on our next Moon orbiter Chandrayaan II. The sky, literally, is the only limit to such scientific collaboration between India and Korea.

14. **Fourth, as major importers of our respective energy requirements, India and Korea should work closely together to meet our mutual energy security needs.** Both our countries are major importers of oil and gas. India has suggested the establishment of an India - ROK Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons to learn from each other's experience in this field. Perhaps, Indian and Korean companies could jointly prospect and explore for oil and gas in third countries. Each of us has ample experience of doing so on our own. Would we not be able to harness the synergies of doing so together, for the common benefit of the Indian and Korean people? ONGC Videsh Ltd. of India and Korea National Oil Corporation have contemplated such possibilities but still need to put theory into practice. Another possible area of cooperation where India will gain from Korean experience is the field of energy efficiency. A recent delegation from India to Korea studied how your companies minimize transmission and distribution losses and has suggested that we establish a Joint Group on Power and Energy Efficiency with both public and private participation.

15. We in India are well aware of Korean capabilities in the area of civil nuclear energy. We watched with admiration when KEPCO won an

international contract through competitive bidding in the United Arab Emirates earlier this year. During the visit of President Lee to India, our leaders recognized that nuclear energy is clean, reliable and environmentally friendly. We therefore agreed to move towards a framework for cooperation in this very important field. I am happy to report to you that we have made rapid progress. Our two countries will soon commence negotiations on an Agreement for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. This is an area of some importance for India as we search for a more rational energy mix in our economic development strategy. The continued growth of the Indian economy will need to be increasingly powered by new and renewable energy sources, including nuclear energy, which are non-polluting and contribute to international efforts to control climate change. In this quest, we have successfully sought international cooperation with the approval of the member nations of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. We look forward to deepening our cooperation with the Republic of Korea in civil nuclear energy.

16. Fifth, we must strengthen cultural exchanges between our countries. In this context, we welcome the decision of your Government to establish a Korean Cultural Center in New Delhi. It will help bring the best from the culture and the arts of Korea to the people of India. With a similar aim in mind we have decided to have a 'Year of India in Korea' and a corresponding 'Year of Korea in India' in 2011. This will enable the Indian people understand Korea, its culture and history, while providing the Korean people a glimpse of Indian performing arts, exhibitions, film and literature. Earlier today, we signed an MOU between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Korea Foundation, which will help sustain the momentum of cultural exchanges beyond 2011.

17. I proposed yesterday to President Lee and earlier today to Foreign Minister Yu that India would like to install a bust of our national poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore at an appropriate location in Seoul. Next year is the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore and given his popularity in Korea it would be apt to unveil his bust on a street corner or in a verdant park in Seoul. We will, of course, be guided by the Korean authorities in this matter.

18. Finally, we need to work together to expand people-to-people exchanges between our nations. The bedrock of relations between

any two countries is the relationship between its citizens. While India and Korea share values including democracy, rule of law and respect for human freedoms, we need greater exchanges between our peoples to be able to sustain our Strategic Partnership. We need to strive for greater tourism between our countries which in turn requires better air services between us. Indian air companies have been requesting fifth freedom rights to fly to points beyond Korea for which we need to amend our Air Services Agreement. I have suggested to Foreign Minister Yu that we task our officials to have an early meeting on this issue.

19. We can also work together towards greater student exchanges between us. There are large numbers of Indian students who travel abroad to study each year and there is no reason why some of them cannot be convinced to come and study in Korea. Similarly, we hope to be able to attract to India some of the Korean students who go overseas for higher studies. Such students eventually become a bridge between the two countries and cultures once they have completed their courses and returned to their country of origin.

20. I am extremely happy to know that IFANS itself has contributed in no small measure to our bilateral exchanges by entering into an agreement earlier today with the Indian Council for World Affairs or ICWA which provides for more academic interaction through study tours, conferences, seminars and workshops.

21. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have attempted to spell out what we in India visualize as a road-map for strengthening the India - Korea partnership in the coming years. How successfully we move down this road will define our relationship in the years to come. I am confident that both our countries have the sagacious leadership and the political confidence to grasp the opportunity and follow the path I have just described. By doing so, we will strengthen the India - Korea Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century.

22. I thank you for your attention.



335. Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on India and South Korea signing two Memoranda of Understanding to give huge boost to defence cooperation between the two countries.

New Delhi, September 3, 2010.

Heralding a new chapter in the history of defence cooperation, India and South Korea today signed two landmark Memoranda of Understanding to give a huge boost to the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The two MoUs were signed at the end of nearly ninety minutes of intensive discussions, marked by warmth, between the delegations of the two countries, led by their Defence Ministers, Mr AK Antony and Mr Kim Tae-young in Seoul. This was the first ever visit of a Defence Minister of India to South Korea. Shri Antony was accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar, Vice Admiral RK Dhowan, Lt General KT Parnaik, Dr Prahlada and Shri Sundaram Krishna.

The first MoU signed by Mr Antony and Mr Kim envisages exchange of defence related experience and information, mutual exchange of visits by military personnel and experts including civilian staff associated with defence services, military education and training and conduct of military exercises, exchange of visits of ships and aircraft, as jointly decided between the two countries. The MoU further envisages cooperation in humanitarian assistance and international peace keeping activities. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years with provision for its extension by five more years.

The Second MoU was signed by the Chief Controller of Research and Development of DRDO, Dr Prahlada and Vice Commissioner, Defence Acquisition and Procurement Agency (DAPA) of South Korea, Mr Kwon Oh Bong. To be operational under the overarching umbrella of India-South Korea Defence Agreement, the MoU aims at identifying futuristic defence technology areas of mutual interest and pursuing R&D works in both the countries. It also envisages co-development and co-production of defence products with Indian industry through DRDO.

There will be joint IPR on all the products developed through this mechanism. Some areas of immediate interest e.g., marine systems, electronics and intelligent systems have been identified as priority tasks.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Antony said New Delhi will be happy to see the defence industry relationship to be more than a buyer-seller relationship and its further evolution into Transfer of Technology, joint production and joint R&D etc. He hoped that 'his visit will start a new chapter in our already close relationship'.

Mr. Kim said the two MoUs signed today will provide a win-win scenario for the two countries in a number of areas.

The talks covered a wide range of security issues- both regional and global.

Maritime Security

Mr Antony said India and South Korea share common perception of maintaining peace as well as ensuring safety and security of sea lanes of communication in the region. He said regular exchanges towards ensuring maritime security is important to both countries, especially in securing vital energy supplies that pass through the Indian Ocean. ' It is of particular importance for like- minded countries working in the Gulf of Aden to coordinate efforts and also exchange information on the happenings in the area. We look forward to continued and enhanced cooperation between the navies of India and South Korea in this regard', said Mr Antony.

Regional Security Scenario

Talking about the regional security scenario in the Indian subcontinent, Mr Antony said we live in a troubled neighbourhood. ' Some call it a fragile region. We have to maintain balance and restraint even in the face of grave challenges to our security. Our intention is to develop friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours so that we can focus on our major development needs', Mr Antony said.

East Asian Architecture

Mr Antony said India looks at itself as an integral part of East Asia. India is a founding member of East Asia Summit and as such, looks at the emerging architecture in East Asia as open and inclusive. 'That is why we welcome the decision of ASEAN Foreign Ministers to move towards the inclusion of the United States and Russia as members of the East Asia Summit. We look forward to working closely with South Korea in the emerging architecture in this part of the world', he said.

Earlier in the morning, Mr Antony along with the delegation drove down to the National Cemetery in Seoul and laid a wreath there. He also inspected, amid light drizzle, a traditional colourful inter-services guard of honour presented by the South Korean Armed Forces on arrival at the Ministry of Defence Head quarters.



The visit by the Defence Minister Antony was part of India's Look East Policy and a wide range of issues including Defence Cooperation for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and bilateral cooperation in Research and Development for manufacture of military equipment figured prominently during the discussion between Shri Antony and the top leadership of South Korea..

Shri Antony's visit was as a follow-up of the declaration issued by both countries during the State visit of the South Korean President Mr. Lee Myung-Bak to New Delhi in January, 2010, when it was decided to elevate the bilateral relationship to a 'strategic partnership'. It may be recalled that the foundation for India - South Korea defence relations was laid in 2005, when the two countries signed a MoU on Cooperation in Defence, Industry and Logistics. Yet another MoU for Cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries was signed in March 2006.

336. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of Social Security Agreement with the Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, October 19, 2010.

Please see Document No.165.



337. Statements by the Government of India on the fighting between North and South Korea.

New Delhi, November 24, 2010

Government of India has closely followed developments in the Korean Peninsula over the last two days. We express our sympathies at the tragic loss of lives and injuries caused to the civilian population of Yeonpyeong Island. We urge both sides to maintain peace and stability in the region, and stress the need to respect international obligations and for return to negotiations*.

December 3, 2010

In the second statement it was said:

"Government continues to closely follow developments in the Korean Peninsula, in the aftermath of the recent shelling of Yeonpyeong Island. We are pained at the tragic loss of life in this deplorable incident. India believes that peaceful negotiations rather than the use of force, should be the basis for addressing differences between States. In this connection, India appreciates the maturity and restraint with which the Republic of Korea has been handling the situation with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the region."



* The Spokesman was referring to the artillery duel between North Korea and South Korea across the disputed Yellow Sea. The South accused the North of violating the 1953 Armistice Agreement at its Yeonpyeong Island, which lies along the disputed maritime border off the western coast of the Korean Peninsula. It is inhabited by around 1,600 people.

LAOS**338. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on President's visits to Laos and Cambodia.****New Delhi, September 8, 2010.**

Please see Document No.267.

**339. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on her way to the State visits to Laos and Cambodia on board the Special Flight.****September 9, 2010.**

Please see Document No.268.

**340. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Indian Ambassador.****Vientiane, September 9, 2010.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be amongst members of the Indian community today in this beautiful city. I am very happy to begin my visit with an interaction with you and with our Laotian friends. The small yet growing Indian community in Laos is gaining recognition for its accomplishments. Your achievements and attainments are in diverse areas from textiles to mining. I am also happy that several Indians here also work for the United Nations, multinational companies, consultancy organizations and financial institutions. Your growing contribution to Laos in your various vocations has won appreciation and recognition.

Bilateral relations between India and Laos are civilizational, yet also modern and contemporary, covering areas like investment, trade, financial services, among others. At the leadership level we have a consensus that there is immense potential to develop our relations in many fields, and thus take them to greater heights. I am happy that several corporate groups from India have participated in the development of important hydropower, irrigation, agarwood and mining projects in Laos. Your contribution to this country in meeting its developmental goals, is well recognized by both our Governments.

The Indian economy has weathered the impact of the global financial crises with resilience, and is now growing at rates close to those it had achieved prior to the crises. In the last quarter, the economy has posted a remarkable growth, not only in terms of overall growth figures, but more importantly, in terms of certain fundamentals, which justify optimism and confidence in the Indian economy. We believe that this growth will not only qualitatively transform our economy, but will give a boost to economic relations with friendly countries, also offering them many opportunities for trade and investment.

Friends, I have undertaken this journey to Laos to renew our historic contacts and build new bridges. We attach a very high priority to relations to ASEAN countries within the context of our Look East Policy. Laos is a good friend, as also an important partner in the ASEAN. Tomorrow, when I meet the leadership of Laos we will review together the entire gamut of our relations, and seek ways to further develop our partnership. You play a big role in this partnership that we are jointly resolved to build.

Every overseas Indian is a representative of India. I know that, as peaceful and law abiding citizens, you act as ambassadors of India, winning goodwill and respect. As an overseas community you have made a distinctive contribution by virtue of your dedication, hard work and success. It is also a matter of equal gratification to see amongst all of you, the cultural and scholarly effervescence which is characteristic of the Indian community. I again congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you the very best of luck in your various pursuits.

Jai Hind.



341. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by President of Lao People's Democratic Republic Choummaly Sayasone.

Vientiane, September 10, 2010.

Your Excellency,

Madame Sayasone,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed delighted to be in the beautiful country of Laos. I thank you for the warm welcome and the gracious hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. I bring with me greetings from the people of India for the friendly people of Laos.

There exists a great amount of goodwill in India for Laos. This is but natural, given that we have historical links, dating back more than two millennia. The exchanges between our peoples have resulted in many commonalities in our cultures, and some similarity of words in our languages. That Luang, sanctuary for one of the most precious relics of Lord Buddha, and the Hindu temple of Wat Phou, a UNESCO world heritage site, stand testimony to our encounters through centuries. We are proud and privileged to be your partners in the restoration of this historic temple.

The purpose of my visit to the 'jewel of the Mekong', as Laos is so poetically called, is to reaffirm the historically close bonds of friendship that exist between our two countries. It is also to continue the high level dialogue. Excellency, our bilateral ties received a strong impetus from your visit to India in August 2008, which we remember fondly as a historic milestone in our relationship. I recall that in my discussions with your Excellency we both expressed satisfaction with our enduring ties and rapidly developing co-operation.

Excellency, we admire your dynamic leadership in shaping the growth of your country, and in pursuing a Socio-Economic Development Strategy that seeks to move Laos out of the LDC status by 2020. India is willing to

be your developmental partner. We are already engaged in a number of projects in Laos in the areas of hydropower, IT, human resource development, agriculture and mining. I am pleased that one of the projects the Paksong - Jiangxay Bangyo transmission line project was commissioned jointly by us today. I was happy to announce that I would also give a Line of Credit of US dollars 72.55 million for power projects to Laos. I would like to reiterate India's continued interest and commitment to supporting your development objectives through capacity-building and human resource development. As both our countries have large rural populations and there are many experiences that we can share, possibilities of agricultural co-operation should be further explored.

The economic growth of Laos and its investor friendly policies offer many viable prospects for business. India is the fourth largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity and one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Indian businesses are eager to expand and I am glad that some of them have invested in Laos. However, we need to encourage them further to avail of the mutually beneficial economic opportunities that exist in trade and investment. On trade, we hope that Laos will issue the necessary notification at an early date to bring the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement into force. We also hope that Laos will participate in the India-ASEAN Trade Fair due to be held in March 2011 in New Delhi. Your participation will create awareness about complementarities that exist between our economies.

Excellency,

Laos and India have worked together constructively in regional and international organizations, sharing common perceptions on many global challenges. Laos has extended valuable support to India in various multilateral bodies, including to India's aspirations to be a permanent member in an expanded UN Security Council. We remember with gratitude the very positive role played by Laos in facilitating India to join the East Asia Summit. India attaches a very high priority to its relationship with the ASEAN, and within our Look East policy, we consider Laos a crucial partner. We have also collaborated meaningfully under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation framework.

I am confident that we will continue to work together and make our traditional friendship more strong and robust.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite you to join me, in a toast:-

- to the health and well-being of Your Excellency and Madame Sayasone;
- to the happiness and prosperity of the friendly people of Lao People's Democratic Republic; and
- to the lasting friendship and relationship between India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



342. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India - Laos Business Forum.

Vientiane, September 13, 2010.

I am happy to attend the India-Laos Business Forum, which the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry have so generously hosted. This Forum provides us a very good opportunity to review our business relations and set targets for the future. I am told that for this Forum, there has been a good response from business and industry, both from Laos and from India.

Economic relations are a very important component of the broader relationship that India and Laos have resolved to develop. My visit to Laos has come at a time when there has been an exchange of high level visits. President Sayasone was our guest in India in 2008 and I am now visiting Laos. My extensive discussions with President Sayasone and Prime Minister Boupavanh during my visit, have assured me that there is a strong commitment in both our countries to intensify our engagement, and strengthen our age old friendship. The excellent political understanding provides a strong foundation for economic and commercial ties. Our business and industry must work together for realizing the true potential in trade and investment.

We have been following the encouraging progress made by Laos. The average GDP growth of Laos in the last five years has been 7.8 percent, and it has set the goal to move out of the LDC category by 2020. Laos is a country rich in mineral resources like iron ore, copper and gold. It has an enormous hydropower potential. From being a land-locked country it is turning into a land-linked country, by constructing a network of roads. May I add that India is privileged to be a partner of Laos in meeting its development goals and has provided credit lines for projects. A credit line of US\$ 72.55 million which I announced, earlier during my visit is being signed today. I can assure that India will continue to be a development partner of Lao PDR.

However, there is a great scope for private investments in hydropower, mining, construction, roads, railways, as well as in agriculture, since both our countries have large rural areas. Indian companies have made some investments in Laos. However, I call upon Indian businessmen that considering the opportunities available, to further explore this market. Laos is open to foreign investment and, I understand that a series of business laws have been enacted in Laos to simplify investment procedures and regulations. I think that there is insufficient knowledge in India of this change in Laos, and I call upon this Forum to address this issue, so that Lao and Indian businessmen understand each other better.

I am glad, however, that some of the major Indian companies are represented today, as also Indian project development companies working in Laos. Three major Indian trade bodies, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry are participating. You must take this opportunity of your presence here to acquaint yourselves with the Laos economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India coped well with the global financial crisis. There has been a significant upward shift in our growth trajectory which is anchored in robust domestic consumption. With a trillion dollar economy, India is already the fourth largest economy in the world in Purchasing Power Parity, and is poised to rise to the third rank. The vast Indian market offers many opportunities for Lao exporters.

Bilateral trade, however, is currently quite modest below US \$ 7 million. We need to address this problem, so that trade reaches its true potential. We can expand the basket of trade commodities and increase trade volumes by availing of mutually advantageous opportunities that our economies offer. The tariff concessions granted by India under the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries and the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement should help stimulate trade. We look forward to the completion of the internal procedures and the notification of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement by the Government of Laos, so that the agreement can come into force for Laos. Prime Minister Bouthavanh informed me that the Lao Parliament has ratified it and only a few administrative formalities are pending for its notification. Again promotional activity is important in this context. We invite all Lao friends present here today to join the India-ASEAN Business Fair due to be held in New Delhi in March, 2011.

We, in India, within the context of our Look East Policy are making concerted efforts to develop links with the dynamic Asia Pacific region. In today's meeting we have Indian business leaders who have traveled from India, as also others who have joined us from Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand. This shows how much importance our businessmen attach to the wider South East Asian region, within our strong engagement with ASEAN, and our Look East Policy. I would call on them to look at modules that promote business with South East Asian region in an integrated manner.

The presence of Indian businesspersons here, I would say, reflects interest on their part to explore business opportunities, as also of investment. Representatives from 25 Indian companies as well as from the major Indian business associations - CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM are participating. Similarly, the Laos businesspersons here, I am sure, are eager to explore trade and commercial options in India.

I call upon all of you to make your best efforts to further develop our business ties. I wish you success in your endeavors.

Thank you very much.



343 Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Media on board the Special Flight on her way back from her State Visits to Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

September 18, 2010.

Please see Document No.273.



MALAYSIA

344. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (South) on the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

New Delhi, January 18, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you all. I am seeing most of you for the first time in the New Year. So, let me take this opportunity, though belated, to wish you all a very happy New Year.

I have the pleasure of having my good friend and colleague Shri Arun K. Goel, Joint Secretary (South), who has joined us for the briefing. You know that we are expecting a very important visitor, the Prime Minister of Malaysia His Excellency Mr. Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak who would be on a state visit to India from 19th to 23rd of this month. He assumed office in April 2009 and the very fact of his visit within one year of assumption of office is reflective of the common desire between the two countries to deepen our relationship, take our relationship forward.

The Prime Minister is no stranger to India. He last visited India in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in June 2006. After assumption of office in April 2009, in the last few months he has already met our Prime Minister twice - once at Sharm el-Sheikh in July 2009 on the sidelines of the NAM Summit, and again at Hua Hin in October 2009 on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit.

He is leading a very impressive and high-power delegation. Let me just take you through some salient details of the delegation. He would also be accompanied by his spouse; the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of Higher Education; Minister for International Trade and Industry; Minister for Tourism; Minister of Works; Minister of Human Resources; Minister of Women, Family and Community Development. Chief Ministers from a number of States of Malaysia would be accompanying him. There would be Members of Parliament, senior officials and a large business delegation. That itself gives you an idea of the broad based agenda and the broad based relationship, some aspects of which, I would touch upon.

We are putting out a Media Advisory which will give you a flavour of the programme. But to share some highlights with you, he comes in tomorrow evening. The day after tomorrow, which is on Wednesday the 20th, there would be a call on him by External Affairs Minister. He will be calling on the President. He would be delivering the keynote address at the Malaysia-India Business Forum jointly organised by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM on Malaysia-India Economic Relations - The Way Forward. The Leader of Opposition would call on him; there would be a call by him on the Vice-President; meeting with Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi; delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister where after the Prime Minister and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur would be hosting a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary and his wife and the delegation. Shri Rahul Gandhi, Member of Parliament, would be calling on the visiting dignitary. Then the Prime Minister leaves for Chennai where there would be meetings with the Governor, with the Chief Minister, with captains of Indian industry and Indian business leaders. He would also address the 16th CII Partnership Summit. Those are some of the important engagements of the Prime Minister.

I would like here to note that India and Malaysia have had age-old political and cultural ties. Our relations have traditionally been close and friendly. Economic and commercial ties constitute one of the bedrocks of the relationship. Malaysia is our second largest trading partner in the ASEAN region. It is noteworthy that in 2005, bilateral trade was five billion dollars which rose to ten billion dollars in 2008. So, in

three years literally you saw a doubling of bilateral trade. India's export basket to Malaysia is large and quite diversified. Incidentally, we are also the largest importer of Malaysian palm oil. That is one potential area of cooperation, which is development of palm plantations in India.

Malaysia is also an important investment partner. Interestingly, both Indian investments in Malaysia and Malaysian investments in India have been by and large of the same order. In the last couple of years our investments have surged. From the beginning of 2007, leading Indian companies like Reliance, Thapar Group, Larsen and Toubro have invested close to a billion dollars in Malaysia. We have since emerged as the 7th largest investor in Malaysia with a total investment of 1.6 billion dollars.

There are over 100 Indian companies registered there including 60 joint ventures. The cumulative Malaysian investments till 2008 were of the tune of 1.8 billion dollars. You see a similar quantum of investment by and large. Again it is noteworthy that Malaysian construction companies' largest presence outside Malaysia is in India. Malaysian companies have already secured projects worth five billion dollars, some of which they have executed. One of the noteworthy projects has been the involvement of Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad in partnership with the GMR Group. This group undertook the construction of the Hyderabad airport which is one of the finest airports in India which is completed, and is also involved in the construction of the Delhi airport which is under completion.

Our relations encompass a number of other sectors including education, human resource development, communications technology, IT, defence, tourism, culture and railways, to give you a few examples. About 2000 Indian students are studying in Malaysia, and about 3000 Malaysian students are studying in India. Malaysian professionals have been receiving training under the ITEC programme in India. I am happy to note here that a full-fledged Indian cultural centre was established in Kuala Lumpur on the 4th of November 2009. Other areas of cooperation which have potential or where already activity is going on are, for example, the English language studies where we can work with Malaysia. There is a lot of potential in the IT sector. In fact, 60 Indian IT companies

already have a presence in Malaysia. Our leading lights are present in Malaysia. IRCON International Limited has been actively engaged in development of railways in Malaysia for over twenty years.

Also, as you are aware, both India and Malaysia are members of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), NAM, Commonwealth, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which offer us additional platforms of working closely. There have been regular parliamentary exchanges between our two countries. There is also a sizeable population of People of Indian Origin in Malaysia which is close to two million now, 1.9 million plus. I would also like to add here that about 150 thousand Indian professionals and workers are employed in Malaysia.

A number of agreements and MoUs are likely to be signed during the visit of the Prime Minister. We are hopeful that the visit would further deepen bilateral engagement in a focused manner in areas such as higher education, infrastructure development, particularly highways, railways, airports, ports, also in sectors like information technology, biotechnology and energy, which are some of the thrust areas of cooperation.

Let me stop here. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions on the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit, if you have any.

Question: Could you tell us about the energy cooperation we are planning with Malaysia? Could you also tell us about the situation of PIOs living over there?

Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun K. Goel): As just indicated, out of a total population of 28 million, Malaysia has one of the largest segments of Persons of Indian Origin resident in that country, 1.9 million. Apart from that there are very close links between people from South India and the Persons of Indian Origin already settled in Malaysia. Apart from the fact that, we have a very healthy exchange of persons going to Malaysia on short-term work permits, which is roughly 150,000, a newer sector is the highly qualified people in biotechnology and IT sectors. Malaysia, as you know, has very successfully developed multimedia

super corridor outside Kuala Lumpur where the high-tech industry is located. So, many of the professionals work there. Energy cooperation is another area where, we in the future, could have useful collaboration. Malaysia is a net exporter of oil and gas. So, there are promising possibilities of tie-ups. At present, Malaysia has a little bit of concern because in the South China area, as you know, the waters are rich in oil and gas but there are claims of neighbouring countries including China in that area. Petronas, one of the leading Malaysian companies, is a giant in the field of oil exploration.

Question: *You said that there will be a delegation level talks with Rahul Gandhi; what would be its agenda?*

Official Spokesperson: *I spoke about the delegation level talks with the Prime Minister, the delegation level talks provide a very broad based platform; at the delegation talks between the prime ministers will have broad range of matters pertaining to At the delegation-level talks, both the Prime Ministers would be discussing a broad range of matters pertaining to bilateral interest, regional and international issues. What I mentioned about the engagements of the Malaysian Prime Minister, it was in this context that I said that Rahul Gandhi will meet the Prime Minister.*

Question: A couple of years ago there was talk of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. Is there any movement on that? Can we expect something out of this visit?

Joint Secretary (South): We are working towards that. The India-ASEAN FTA in goods sector has just got into operation from the 1st of January. ASEAN at the same time has also signed a similar agreement with China. But Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement is an area towards which we are working. Maybe later in the year we will have some more progress on that score.

Official Spokesperson: We have already had two rounds of discussion in that regard. As my colleague mentioned, consultations are under way.

Question: *There was a statement from the Malaysian prime minister that there were 40,000 Indians missing there. Will this issue be taken up" what will be India's stand on it?*

Joint Secretary (South): This was not a case of Indians missing. Perhaps what was meant was of persons visiting Malaysia on legal work permit or on a regular visa but overstaying their stipulated duration. This is an ongoing problem, not only with relation to India but with visitors from many neighbouring countries also. Malaysia, as you know, has a small population but does attract short-term workers and visitors from neighbouring countries. And sometimes they do feel that visitors do overstay their stipulated length of time.

Question: Is an extradition treaty also likely to be signed?

Official Spokesperson: A number of agreements and MoUs are likely to be signed both between the Governments and also between the private sector in New Delhi as well as in Chennai. That is what is likely. But as in the past we will be very happy to share with you details once our consultations are finalised.

Question: Sir, could you tell us something about security cooperation with Malaysia both in the areas of military hardware and coordinated patrolling?

Official Spokesperson: I mentioned that amongst various areas of cooperation, security and defence cooperation is one such area. I would like to note here that an MoU on defence cooperation was signed way back in 1993 which envisages wide-ranging cooperation in terms of training, information exchange, visits and so on, which have been happening. So, defence training is one of the important components of our relationship. You would recall that Raksha Mantri had visited Malaysia in January 2008. We also have annual meetings of Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) which is co-chaired by the two Defence Secretaries. The seventh MIDCOM meeting was held last year at Kuala Lumpur in January 2009. So, it is an important area of cooperation and exchanges for us.

Question: The Defence Minister is not part of this delegation I think.

Official Spokesperson: Not according to my reading.

Question: From time to time there are stories of persecution or harassment of Persons of Indian Origin in Malaysia. How serious is that problem? Are you going to take it up because this is an appropriate forum? It is not off and on we hear these stories but round the year.

Official Spokesperson: The safety and security of Indian nationals is something Government of India is committed to, as you are aware. So, wherever we come across an instance where the safety or security of an Indian national is compromised or affected, suitable steps are taken by the Government of India.

Question: I just wanted to know if you could give us any update from Kabul now that we believe this gun battle is over. Do we finally know that all our nationals are safe there and everything is okay?

Official Spokesperson: We have been in close touch with our Embassy in Kabul. We believe that around 10 a.m. today, the attack was launched at the city centre close to the Presidential Palace. The security personnel, we are told through our Embassy, have since cordoned off the entire area. We understand that all Indian nationals are safe. The Embassy has advised all Indians to restrict their movements and remain at safe places and follow security guidelines.

Thank you.

(Text in italics is translated from original Hindi text)



345. Joint Communiqué issued on the occasion of the visit to India of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

New Delhi, January 22, 2010.

H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, paid a State visit to India from 19 to 23 January 2010, at the invitation of H. E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The two leaders held in-depth discussions on 20th January 2010 during which they covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. The discussions focused on adding greater substance to bilateral relations taking into account the steady development in bilateral relations and the far-reaching changes in the international situation, in particular the challenges and opportunities emerging from the ongoing economic crisis.

2. The two leaders observed that a long term and strategic partnership between Malaysia and India could be developed based on historical, cultural and social links, pluralism, open society, shared commitment to democracy and development, and a high degree of commonality of political and economic interests.

3. The two leaders recognized that the current international situation, characterised by greater inter-dependence and a globalized world, poses new challenges and offers fresh opportunities to both India and Malaysia for enhanced engagement for mutual benefit. Asia is going through a new surge of change, creativity and vitality, aided by the strengthening of economic linkages, initiatives for greater regional integration as well as trade liberalization. Asia is now truly emerging as the leading growth centre of the global economy and exerting an ever-greater influence in the global affairs.

4. The two leaders recognized the need for concerted efforts among Asian countries to translate the positive developments into an era of growth, prosperity, stability and closer integration in Asia. They welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement which came into effect on 1 January 2010. This would pave

the way for further enhancement of trade and economic ties between Malaysia and India, specifically through conclusion of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement negotiations as soon as possible.

5. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit as an open, inclusive, transparent and forward looking forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern in promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. The two Prime Ministers welcomed further work on Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). They also emphasised the need to focus on strengthening economic cooperation and capacity building initiatives in the region and reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the framework of regional cooperation.

6. The two leaders noted that the India-Malaysia partnership would be further strengthened by greater engagement and cooperation at all levels namely:

- Bilaterally, the two countries will pursue an all round and comprehensive development of relations proceeding from a strategic perspective and with particular focus on strengthening economic ties through, (i) full utilization of the existing and potential complementarities in their economies and taking advantage of emerging opportunities, and (ii) examining the possibility of establishing the India - Malaysia CEOs Forum;
- Regionally, the two countries will strive to develop closer dialogue and collaboration to secure peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia, promote development, and closer regional cooperation in Asia; and
- Globally, the two countries will further strengthen cooperation in diverse areas such as, climate change, energy, security, and combating terrorism, by further building on their strategic convergences and initiating cooperation with the respective counter-terrorism agencies.

7. In order to realize the full potential of bilateral partnership and also to develop knowledge-based economies, the two leaders decided on the following elements for future interaction and cooperation namely:

- (i) Maintaining regular contact, including on the margins of international meetings and conferences;
- (ii) Convening Joint Commission meetings (at the Foreign Minister level) regularly every two years with the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission in the first half of 2010. The ongoing Foreign Office Consultations would also be held once in every two years, with the next such consultations in the second half of 2010;
- (iii) Developing a framework for strategic cooperation and partnership between the two countries;
- (iv) Identifying core sectors of cooperation including human resource development particularly higher education, infrastructure development particularly highways, railways, airports and ports, information technology, biotechnology and energy;
- (v) Enhancing trade and investment flows between both countries for mutual benefit;
- (vi) Strengthening defence and security dialogue and cooperation through ongoing annual Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Meetings (MIDCOM), high level military exchanges and the enhancement of cooperation between the air forces and navies of the two countries;
- (vii) Strengthening bilateral frameworks for ensuring welfare of workers from both countries;
- (viii) Expanding the existing cultural and academic exchanges and strengthening of people-to-people contacts to raise the visibility and profile of one country in the other;
- (ix) Recognizing the legitimate and long-term interest of both countries in the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and the

importance of developing an open and inclusive regional economic architecture that is based on the principles of mutual benefit and shared opportunities;

- (x) Maintaining regular consultation and close coordination in the framework of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Commonwealth, Indian Ocean Rim for Economic Cooperation and Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM);
 - (xi) Cooperating at the United Nations and other international organizations, including cooperation for the early realization of comprehensive United Nations reform, including the Security Council through expansion of permanent and non-permanent categories reflecting the contemporary realities; and
 - (xii) Coordinating positions on emerging global issues such as climate change, food security, energy security and pandemic diseases.
8. The two leaders welcomed signing of the following documents:
- Extradition Treaty between the Government of India and the Government of Malaysia.
 - MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education.
 - India-Malaysia Capital Market Collaborative Agreement between the Securities Commission of Malaysia and the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

9. H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia thanked the Government and the people of India for their warm hospitality and extended a cordial invitation to H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India to visit Malaysia at a mutually convenient time. H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India accepted the invitation with appreciation. The dates of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

**List of Agreement(s)/MOU Signed During the State Visit of
The Hon'ble Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime
Minister of Malaysia to India (January 19-23, 2010)**

S.No.	Name of Agreements	Malaysian Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Extradition Treaty	H.E. DATO' SRI ANIFAH BIN HJ. AJMAN Minister of Foreign Affairs	SHRI S.M.KRISHNA Hon'ble External Affairs Minister
2.	Memorandum of Understanding on Higher Education	H.E. DATO' SERI MOHAMED KHALED BIN NORDIN Minister of Higher Education	SHR KAPIL SIBAL Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development
3.	Malaysia-India Capital Market Collaborative Agreement Between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Securities Commission (SC) of Malaysia	TAN SRI ZARINAH ANWAR Chairman, Securities Commission (SC) of Malaysia	SHRI C.B.BHAVE Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

New Delhi
January 20, 2010



346. Press Release of the Planning Commission on the visit of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia to Malaysia.

New Delhi, September 27, 2010.

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India is currently on a two-day visit to Malaysia. He delivered the Keynote Address this morning at the World Capital Markets Symposium hosted by the Securities Commission of Malaysia. In his address, he shared his understanding of the global economic scenario and was fairly optimistic about global economic recovery, powered by growth in the Emerging Economies. He stated that India's GDP was expected to grow at 8.5% in the current financial year, with the IMF even projecting 9% plus growth. He was very complimentary about Malaysia's achievements, saying that India has looked at Malaysia's economic transformation over the thirty years with great interest and admiration, and with the signing of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement earlier this year and with the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) nearing finalization, the already strong bilateral trade and investment relationship was poised to do even better. He cited the building of Delhi's new airport by an Indian-Malaysian joint venture as a shining example of this.

Dr. Ahluwalia also called on Tan Sri Muhyiddin HJ Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry. During the meeting, he observed that engagement with Malaysia was an important pillar of India's 'Look East' policy which had been systematically put into place over the last few years. India also saw Malaysia as an important gateway to ASEAN. Dr Ahluwalia conveyed that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was greatly looking forward to his visit to Malaysia later this year as well as to the early signing of CECA.

The Deputy Prime Minister stated that the Malaysian Government was looking forward to receiving Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He observed that the bilateral relationship between India and Malaysia was

not only warm but very cordial. The relationship had a very strong and encouraging economic content, especially in the last few years. Malaysian companies had considerable presence in the infrastructure sector in India and were keen to expand their activities further. He added that collaboration with important partners such as India was vital for the success of PM Najib's New Economic Model. Tan Sri Muhyiddin expressed the belief that PM Manmohan Singh's visit would lead to identification of newer areas of mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration.

During his visit, Dr. Ahluwalia will also participate in a Roundtable with Policy-makers chaired by Tan Sri Mohamed Yackop, Minister, Economic Planning Unit; a CEOs Round Table organized by Khazanah, the sovereign investment arm of the Malaysian Government; and meet with Tan Sri Amirsham Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the National Economic Advisory Council of Malaysia



347. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on Prime Minister's three-nation (Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam) visit.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

Please see Document No.313.



348. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at media interaction.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.

His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib, Prime Minister of Malaysia and, Distinguished members of the Malaysian media and Indian media

This is my first bilateral visit to Malaysia and I am delighted to be in this beautiful country. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib and the people of Malaysia for the very warm welcome given to me and for the excellent arrangements that have been made for our stay.

When Prime Minister Najib visited India in January this year, he had spoken of his wish to see a qualitatively new relationship between our two countries. My visit to Malaysia reflects the commitment of our Government to advance our relations to new heights.

India and Malaysia are two major countries of Asia. Malaysia is an influential member of the world community whose voice is heard with great respect in global institutions.

Our discussions today have laid the basis for a multi-faceted partnership between India and Malaysia. This will contribute to the peace, prosperity and development of Asia.

Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib and I have agreed today on the framework for a strategic partnership. The Joint Statement outlines a road map for enhanced contacts between our countries at the political, business and people-to-people levels, based on our shared values of democracy and multiculturalism. We have agreed to work closely with each other on regional and international matters of common interest, including on combating the scourge of terrorism.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that we have successfully concluded negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. We have agreed that the two sides will work to complete the formalities by 31 January 2011 so that CECA can come into force by the agreed

date of 1 July 2011. I am confident that this Agreement will transform our economic engagement in a substantive way.

Today we will also formally launch the India-Malaysia CEOs Forum. This will encourage direct interaction between business and industry in each other's countries as well in third countries. I conveyed to the Prime Minister that India welcomes greater Malaysian investment in our infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, and our companies similarly look forward to doing greater business in Malaysia and the ASEAN region.

We have agreed to further enhance exchanges in the fields of tourism, civil aviation, culture, higher education and labour.

We discussed regional and international issues of common interest. We agreed on the need to reform the United Nations, including its Security Council, and international financial institutions. Both of us share the view that the regional architecture for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region should be open, inclusive and transparent.

I thanked the Prime Minister for Malaysia's constructive role, as ASEAN Coordinator, in helping to work towards a early conclusion of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investment.

The year 2010 is a turning point in the history of India-Malaysian relations. The understandings and agreements that we reached today have established a solid foundation for the building of a Strategic Partnership, and bringing our two peoples together for a better future.

Thank you.



349. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Khazanah Global Lecture Series-2010 on "India's Development Experience".

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Najib,

Your Excellency, Former Prime Minister

Dr. Mahathir

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,

I was honoured when my dear friend Prime Minister Najib invited me to deliver the prestigious Khazanah Global Lecture and to speak to this distinguished gathering on India's development experience. I have very fond memories of previous visits to your beautiful country. I am delighted to be here once again.

Malaysia, like India, had a prolonged experience of colonial rule. Today, your country is a vibrant, fast-growing economy and a hub of regional integration. The Straits of Malacca today is the world's busiest shipping corridor. I pay tribute to your leaders who have brought about this transformation since Malaysia's independence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After gaining independence in 1947, India's principal challenge was to fulfill the aspirations of such a large and diverse society and civilisation that is home to all the great religions of the world, and has been so for many centuries. Our founding fathers worked to build a strong state and the organs of our fledgling democracy. In the process, we built a diversified industrial base. We developed strong scientific capabilities, including high quality technical manpower.

Over time our growth began to lag behind that of other newly industrializing countries of Asia. Our economy got stifled with bureaucratic control. We also fell behind countries like Malaysia in integrating into the global and regional value chains created by post-War industrialization.

Our own policies began to change, gradually at first in the 1980s and much more decisively in the 1990s. We liberalized the domestic economy and opened up to foreign trade and investment. We recognized the need for market forces. The private sector was increasingly freed to get on with its business.

Initially, these changes met with resistance. But over time they came to be widely accepted, especially after the economy began growing at over 7% per annum from 1994. There has been no fundamental change in the direction of these policies since then and they enjoy broad domestic support.

The economic reforms of the 1990s unleashed the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of Indian industry. Year after year we saw first generation entrepreneurs taking risks, creating new business opportunities and getting plugged into the borderless world of the global economy. These new entrepreneurs are truly the children of economic liberalisation and have been an important factor behind India's fast growth in recent times.

India's growth has combined greater openness with an ability to withstand external turbulence. We were not buffeted by the East Asian crisis in 1997 primarily because our capital account was not as open as in many other countries in East Asia and our banking system had very little exposure to short term debt, which was the main source of volatility in 1997.

More recently, India's economic performance has shown further improvement. The gross national income of India grew at over 9.5% per annum for three consecutive years starting in 2005. After the global crisis exploded in 2008, our growth rate slowed down but India was even then among the three or four fastest growing nations in the world. We took a number of measures to stimulate the economy and we expect 8.5% growth in the current year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to reflect on some key features of the new phase in India's economic development.

First, India seeks rapid economic growth that will create wealth for our people and also generate surpluses to fund our ambitious social development programmes.

Second, we seek growth that creates employment and development that is socially and regionally balanced and inclusive.

Third, we seek to build a modern, knowledge and science-based economy to complement our agricultural and industrial base.

Fourth, we want our development to be sustainable so that the wealth of our natural resources is conserved for future generations.

Fifth, we seek a cooperative relationship with our neighbours and other partners so that we can prosper and benefit from one another's development.

Finally, India seeks to realize its development ambitions within the framework of a plural and secular democracy, where each citizen should have equal opportunity for economic, social and cultural advancement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India's biggest asset is its people. At a time when the industrialised world is aging rapidly, India has the advantage of a young population. The dependency burden in India is expected to keep falling for another 20 years. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan.

However, a young population is an asset only if it is educated, skilled and finds productive employment. If this were to happen, our objective of realizing India's potential to grow at 10% or more per annum for a substantial period of time can become a reality. Rapid economic development requires high rates of savings and investment. For a long time it used to be common wisdom that only an East Asian country could save and invest more than 30% of its national income. If that be true then, geography notwithstanding, India is today an East Asian country! India now saves and invests well over 30% of its GDP. In addition, our financial system - including the banking sector and the capital markets - is strong. This has helped support a boom in domestic investment. Domestic investment is complemented by strong Foreign Direct Investment flows which are greatly welcome.

Over the past few years we have initiated a number of far-reaching programmes that have the potential to change the face of rural India and

to make our growth more inclusive. These cover rural health, employment guarantee, urban reforms and rural infrastructure and focus on people's participation and empowerment and the quality of services.

Inadequate infrastructure is a major constraint on our performance and we are determined to overcome it. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan that ends in 2011-12, we had targeted investment in infrastructure of 500 billion US dollars. We hope to step this up to one trillion US dollars in the 12th Plan. Malaysia has well known strengths in building infrastructure and we welcome greater Malaysian participation in this sector.

There are big plans afoot in India to set up special investment funds that can be used to finance long-gestation infrastructure projects. We hope to attract Indian and international funding into these projects.

More than half of our population depends on agriculture for the bulk of their income. We are increasing our investment in agriculture. We hope to use our scientific capabilities to create a new growth momentum in agriculture through a second green revolution. This is vital for our food security and to ensure an inclusive growth process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The future of the global economy in the 21st century lies in the knowledge economy. We are working to strengthen our competitive advantage in this area. We have increased the expenditure on Science & Technology as a proportion of our GDP. We are investing heavily in both basic and higher education. For the last fifty years, India had seven Indian Institutes of Technology and one Indian Institute of Science. In the last five years we have established eight more IITs and five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research. Both higher education and the Information Technology sectors are promising areas for India-Malaysia cooperation.

We would like our development processes to be sustainable. We do not wish to go down the path followed by the highly industrialised countries. We seek a model of sustainable development suited to our own needs, circumstances and genius. This is not an easy task for an emerging economy. We want to strike a careful balance between our needs of today and those of future generations.

We have formulated an ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change that is intimately linked to our energy security. We have launched a National Solar Mission that aims to build a capacity of 20,000 MW of solar power by the year 2022. There are national missions on water, green India, energy efficiency and on sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem.

I believe that it is vital for any country to keep its development options open. That is why we worked so hard on a civil nuclear initiative that has opened the doors for India to develop the option of clean nuclear energy as an important plank of our energy security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indian thinkers and leaders-names like Tagore and Nehru easily spring to mind-have always been inspired by a global humanist vision.

As India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru reminded us, the advancement of the nation-important though it is-must be viewed as a step to a better world for all of humanity.

We seek to continue this great tradition by being good global citizens. We seek cooperative frameworks that will enable us to be active members of groupings and communities in our region. We will work closely with countries in the regions around us - South Asia, South-East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and the Indian Ocean littoral.

Our desire for openness has encouraged us to work with ASEAN towards an India-ASEAN comprehensive cooperation agreement. We have also finalised an India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, which will be signed shortly. Going beyond regional openness, we will work with Malaysia and other nations to strengthen the global multilateral trading system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The basic objective of our development processes is to realize the values and ideals on which our Republic was founded. Our development efforts reflect and reinforce our ideals of equality, the right to a life of dignity and well being and brotherhood among all nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I was a student, few ever dreamt that India or China or other Asian nations would catch up with the industrialized world. Today, few doubt that a fundamental change in the global economy is underway. Dynamic emerging countries are growing rapidly despite a period of slow growth in the industrialized world. There is also a discernible shift in economic power towards Asia. India and Malaysia are both playing an important role in this process.

I see many possibilities of synergy between India and Malaysia in the years ahead. We can learn lessons from each other's development experience. I am confident that we can greatly accelerate the pace of our bilateral economic engagement to our mutual benefit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We face similar threats to our prosperity. We have a shared stake in eliminating the threats of extremism and terrorism; in maritime security in our region and the security of the sea-lanes of communication. We can make common cause to promote regional peace, security and stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have spoken today about many things that bring us together and that can continue to keep us together. Indeed, there is no issue that divides us at present.

We seek a relationship of trust, goodwill and mutual interest.

I am convinced that if this and future generations of Indians and Malaysians remain true to the ideals of those who secured our national independence and forged our new nationhood, we will continue to prosper as good neighbours. Together we can and we will contribute to the prosperity of Asia and the world.

I wish the people of Malaysia peace, prosperity and happiness.

Thank you.



350. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the inauguration of Little India at Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010

His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib,

Prime Minister of Malaysia and

Datin Paduka Sri Rosmah Mansor

Senator Dato' Raja Nong Chik, Minister of Federal Territories and Urban Well-being

Dato' Sri Samy Vellu, President of the Malaysian Indian Congress

Dato' Dr. S. Subramaniam, Minister of Human Resource

Hon'ble Deputy Ministers, Community Leaders

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be present at the official inauguration of 'Little India' in Brickfields.

I am overwhelmed by the warmth of your welcome. On behalf of the people of India, I thank you for this magnificent celebration of friendship and brotherhood, and bring to you their greetings.

Malaysia represents the best of Asia. It is diverse, welcoming and beautiful. It is home to people of different ethnic backgrounds, races and religions. Malaysia sets an example for the world of tolerance and peaceful co-existence.

The Indian community has made important contributions to the development of Malaysia during the past hundred years. They have worked with sincerity and dedication. They have excelled at medicine, law, engineering and accountancy. They have participated at each stage in the building of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Government's decision to dedicate the area of Brickfields, which is one of the oldest Indian settlements in the country, as "Little India" is a tribute to the contribution to nation building of all Malaysians of Indian origin.

On this special occasion, I have the pleasure to announce that India would be presenting a Torana Gate to the residents of Brickfields as a mark of India-Malaysia friendship.

In the long march of history the paths of India and Malaysia have often crossed. We share close bonds of history and culture. We are pluralistic nations, committed to a composite culture that is unique and tolerant of the diversity in our societies.

Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest philosophers, once said that "Variety is the first principle of life." Brickfields embodies that principle. It is a place in which the three communities of Malaysia live in peace and harmony with each other.

It is here that the Vivekananda Ashram, built in 1904, is located. And it is here in Brickfields, that Malaysians of Indian origin can give full expression to their individualism and culture.

As citizens of Malaysia, the Indian community's hopes and aspirations, life, family and future lie in this country. Yet they have maintained cultural and spiritual links with India. We welcome their desire as Persons of Indian origin to re-connect with their cultural roots even as they serve their country of adoption. The Indian community is well placed to be the bridge of friendship and understanding between India and Malaysia.

Malaysia under the dynamic leadership of Dato' Sri Najib has entered a new era of progress and prosperity. We wish him all success as he leads Malaysia to a better tomorrow.

Dato' Sri Najib has extended his hand of friendship to India. I fully reciprocate his friendship. After my discussions with Dato' Sri Najib today, I can say with confidence that India-Malaysia relations are poised for significant expansion in the coming years. Improving ties with Malaysia will be a very high priority of India's foreign policy in the years ahead.

Before I conclude, I wish to recall what Rabindranath Tagore once said: "A civilization must be judged and assessed not by the level of power it has reached but by how it develops and expresses a love of humanity."

It is to that high ideal that we must aspire and I hope that Brickfields will serve as a worthy example in that respect.

Thank you.



351. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.

**His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib,
Prime Minister of Malaysia and
Datin Paduka Sri Rosmah Mansor
Distinguished Invitees from both the countries**

My wife and I are delighted to be in Malaysia. I wish to thank Prime Minister Najib, the Government and the people of Malaysia for the exceptional courtesies and warm hospitality extended to me and to members of my delegation.

When we met in New Delhi earlier this year, I was greatly impressed by Your Excellency's desire to create a qualitatively new bilateral relationship for the 21st Century.

I have come to Malaysia today to build upon the vision that you put forward in New Delhi.

Our people have a long and enduring relationship. We are tied together by bonds of history and culture. The large presence of Persons of Indian Origin in Malaysia provides an indelible link between India and Malaysia.

In the middle of the last century, we struggled to free ourselves from colonial rule. Our respective struggles for independence drew inspiration from each other. The great friendship between the first Prime Ministers of independent India and Malaysia - Jawaharlal Nehru and Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra - laid a firm foundation for our close ties.

At the dawn of our independence, at the Asian Relations Conference in 1947, our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, and I quote:

"Strong winds are blowing all over Asia. Let us not be afraid of them but welcome them for only with their help can we build the new Asia of our dreams." Unquote

These words are as true today as they were then. A robust and durable partnership between two leading democracies, India and Malaysia, will give strength and substance to the idea of a renewed and united Asia.

Our decision to establish a Strategic Partnership today is historic. We will work together as partners and close friends. Our cooperation will help to build a regional architecture that is conducive to prosperity, peace, and development.

Our talks today give me the confidence that we can transform our relationship at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Mr. Prime Minister, the people of India admire the leadership you are providing to your country and the new directions you are charting for Malaysia and ASEAN's relations with the extended neighbourhood, particularly India.

We fully reciprocate your vision of a cooperative relationship that brings greater prosperity and progress to the people of India and Malaysia.

Thank you.



352. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy during Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to all of you. Sorry to keep you waiting. In fact the banquet that the Prime Minister of Malaysia had hosted for the Indian Prime Minister has just concluded, and we have rushed back from Putrajaya. So, I hope you understand. We hope also that you have had a good day.

Today the Prime Minister of India had a very active, a packed calendar of engagements. You are aware of Prime Minister's programme. You have attended some of the events. Secretary (E) Ms. Latha Reddy is here to brief you about Prime Minister's meetings and engagements in the course

of the day today. She is also joined by the High Commissioner of India, Mr. Vijay Gokhale; and Joint Secretary (South) Mr. Arun Goel. Secretary (East) would make her opening statement, would share with you some thoughts, and thereafter she will be happy to take a few questions.

Madam, the floor is yours.

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Dear friends, I am delighted to be with you again. The last time I gave you a briefing on this visit was in Delhi, before our departure from Delhi. I think I would not go through the programme because you all have the programme, and you know what a packed day it has been. But let me just give you some highlights as we perceive them as they unfolded during the day.

I think two of the things that came through very clearly were the exceptionally warm welcome given to our Prime Minister and Mrs. Kaur, the personal warmth and friendship that was expressed on many occasions today in the various fora where they interacted between the two Prime Ministers. The fact that was particularly emphasized was that there have been two visits in 2010 - one by PM Najib to India in January and within a space of nine months the return visit by our Prime Minister to Malaysia. I think this has been particularly appreciated and highlighted here by the leadership.

During the official talks I think some of the highlights were they were indeed very wide-ranging and comprehensive discussions on all bilateral issues. Particularly the agreement on CECA which specified timelines both for the signing by 31st January, and for the implementation by the 1st of July, was indeed hailed as a cornerstone of these talks and of the visit. The Malaysian Prime Minister called our Prime Minister's visit a landmark visit.

Our Prime Minister said Malaysia is fundamental to the success of our Look East policy. The Prime Minister also said that the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit laid the basis of our multifaceted relationship as it is today. And there was very keen interest expressed on both sides in having more investments in India, in infrastructure, roads and railways. Special mention was made of the possibilities of investment in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project.

In addition, an important item that was discussed was that of steps to be taken for counter-terrorism. Malaysia expressed full support for counter-

terrorism cooperation with India including, as you are aware, the setting up of a Joint Working Group. On regional aspects, the important issues touched upon were that Prime Minister extended an invitation to Prime Minister Najib to attend the India-ASEAN 2012 Commemorative Summit to be held in India. Our Commerce and Industry Minister extended an invitation to his counterpart along with a delegation to attend the ASEAN Business Summit in March 2011.

We expressed our appreciation of Malaysia's role as ASEAN's Coordinator for the India-ASEAN FTA and our desire to conclude Services and Investment FTA at the earliest. As I did mention earlier, there is a commitment on the part of the Commerce and Trade Ministers of all ASEAN countries and India that this part of the FTA should be concluded by March 2011, and I believe that would be reiterated again at the Summit.

Other areas which were mentioned for cooperation were maritime security and energy security. There was also great appreciation expressed by our Prime Minister for the involvement by Malaysian companies in important projects in India such as the T3 terminal in New Delhi Airport. The Prime Minister of Malaysia mentioned that in recent months from January to August 2010 figures showed a 13.5 per cent increase in trade year on year figures, and he felt this was a sign that the recovery would be stronger this year.

He also mentioned that Malaysia had opened visa facilitation centres which would help particularly for issue of business visas in Hyderabad and Mumbai, and depending on how these functioned, these could be extended to other centres in India as well. He mentioned that the training programmes which have been done at Infosys have been very effective and, therefore, they were using the Infosys training formats to set up training programmes for IT groups in Malaysia. He expressed his appreciation to India for removing the tariffs on crude edible oil from Malaysia in 2008.

Both sides discussed IRCON and participation in more railway projects in Malaysia. The Malaysian Prime Minister added that companies in Malaysia were not only strong in construction projects but also in power projects, in property development, medical and health services.

If I could now move on to what we see as the outcomes, which have also been covered in the Joint Statement which you all have with you, I think

firstly there is obviously we are building the framework for a strategic partnership through the Joint Statement and through the talks which we have had. Points which were stressed were the need for frequent high-level talks and interaction which would include at the summit level both as we have had now as well as on the margins of international and regional summits, joint commissions at the Foreign Minister's level, and there is a commitment to hold the next meeting in the first half of 2011, other Ministerial exchanges, as well as Foreign Office consultations at Secretary level including regional and strategic issues.

We agreed that defence cooperation should be enlarged. And as I mentioned, on counter-terrorism there was an agreement to set up the Joint Working Group. We have already touched on CECA, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, and on the infrastructure projects. Again, with relation to the infrastructure projects there was the proposal to sign the MoU on cooperation in highway management and development which we expect to be done shortly once final approvals are obtained.

You all know about the launch of the CEO Forum which I think has been a great success. I will particularly emphasise that at the CEO's forum there were two very concrete examples of partnerships. Since the documents were exchanged between Biocon India and Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation for setting up of a 400 million US dollars biopharma manufacturing facility in Malaysia by Biocon India. Also, Manipal University and the Ministry of Higher Education exchanged the documents for setting up of an international multidisciplinary university by Manipal University with an investment of US dollars 200 million.

I take it that you would have seen the Joint Statement coming out of the CEO Forum. That I think sums up what the CEOs have deliberated on today and what are the priority areas they have identified.

Another important thing which was decided and which was there in the Joint Statement is the collaboration on the ICT front. We have decided to set up the Joint Talent Development Consultative Committee which is the JICTDC. It has been decided that on our side the implementing agency will be NASSCOM and on the Malaysian side it would be the Multimedia Super Corridor Agency.

As I mentioned, there were talks about energy. There we talked about the need for collaboration on oil and gas, and setting up of a Joint Working Group on new and renewable energy.

On the regional aspects, we emphasized ASEAN centrality. We talked about, as I said, the need to conclude the ASEAN-India FTA in services and investment. Nalanda University was mentioned in the Joint Statement. And Malaysia expressed its support for this initiative by India. ASEAN-India and the EAS Summits, one of the important issues discussed was the support for CEPEA which is the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia; the ASEAN Plus 6 FTA as it would be finally evolved.

We called for UN comprehensive reform and Malaysia said that they would support expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of the UN Security Council.

I think I would stop here for now and take questions if there are any.

Question: Madam, I would like to draw your attention to a piece that has appeared in People's Daily, which is the organ of the Chinese Communist Party, which says very clearly that India's Look East policy is actually an effort insult the Chinese. What it says is very clear. It says all these defence issues that you have spoken about is an attempt to put China on the back foot - whether it is Malaysia, whether it is Hanoi, whether it is Tokyo. How do you assess this piece? Do you feel that these maritime treaties that we have signed with Japan, this increased defence cooperation with Malaysia, whatever happens in Hanoi in the future - does it really mean what People's Daily is saying?

Secretary (East): I think we have said often that our relationships with countries exist in their own right and are not predicated by our relationship with any third country. I think that sufficiently answers the point which you have raised. Our Look East policy goes back to the early 1990s. This is not a new Look East policy, and our relationship with the countries in Southeast and East Asia also are based not only on very ancient civilisational ties but an effort over several decades to build a modern relationship. And modern relationships would include

not only trade and economic ties and I think political exchanges but also other strategic and security aspects. So, all I can say is that we seek to build strong bilateral relationships and certainly we are participating strongly in regional mechanisms as are other countries in the region. And our visit to Hanoi is for the India-ASEAN and the East Asia Summit which is an annual exercise which we do every year with a country in the ASEAN network. So, I think that sufficiently answers this question. We have valid bilateral relationships with each of these countries and we pursue our interests with each of these countries. And as I said, this is not predicated by our ties with any other country.

Question: Madam, just to clarify, didn't you believe that the strengthening of our military ties is misunderstood and if that is so, what can be done about it?

Secretary (East): I can only speak for ourselves. I have already explained to you our point of view.

Question: Madam, in the Joint Statement there is a mention of the setting up of a Joint Working Group to counter-terrorism cooperation in that area. Have there been some reports that Malaysia is becoming a hub of fund-raising and propaganda by certain terror groups?

Secretary (East): I do not think the desire to do this has been based on any such specific reports. I think we all recognize that terror recognizes no boundaries or borders and, therefore, there has to be a global effort and we do have such Joint Working Groups on Counter-terrorism with a number of countries. I think that we felt that to give a strategic depth to the relationship, we are talking about a framework for a strategic partnership. It would be important to set up a Joint Working Group on this very important subject.

Question: I have two questions about defence. You talked about Maritime security you talked about that we want to enhance maritime security with Malaysia. In what way do we want to enhance this maritime security? Secondly, we were given to understand by Brahmos Aerospace in New Delhi that Malaysians are very keen to have Brahmos in their weaponry. Is there any progress?

Secretary (East): I can confirm that there was no discussion about Brahmos. Regarding your question on maritime security, as you all know, Malaysia is a littoral country for the Straits of Malacca. And safe passage of ships through Straits of Malacca has been a concern for some time in the region. I think that we have been engaged in talks with not only Malaysia but the other littoral States in the Straits of Malacca in what we can be engaged in maritime security here. India is participating actively in preventing piracy operations, as you know, on the other side in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa. I think that what has happened in that region has alerted people in this region too that we need to ensure maritime routes safety.

Question: I have two different questions. One is that the Joint Statement states about setting up of a security park. Can you elaborate on this issue?

Secretary (East): This is a Malaysian proposal, and I would request the High Commissioner to perhaps talk about this, the defence and security park.

High Commissioner of India in Malaysia (Shri Vijay Gokhale): There is not much to add. This is a Malaysian proposal. They intend to set up a park. They wanted us to express interest in looking at this proposal. And that is all that the Joint Statement says at this stage.

Question: My second question was different on the IRCON assistance. Malaysia has narrow gauge railway lines. What kind of projects can IRCON take up there?

Secretary (East): They are already executing a project here in Malaysia. Again, if I could ask the High Commissioner to give you the details.

High Commissioner of India in Malaysia: IRCON has been here for 20 years and currently were executing the double-tracking of the narrow gauge line between Seremban and Dimas which is a project of about 1.2 billion US dollars. The first phase of this will come on stream on the 25th of December this year when we will hand to them two stations and part of the track. The second phase of the project will be completed in June 2012. It is a project which is currently running ahead of schedule,

and it is highly appreciated by the Malaysian side. We are also leasing 25 locomotives on long-term basis which is pulling their freight on the northern railway between Kuala Lumpur and up to the Thai border. So, IRCON's involvement is both long-term and very substantive.

Question: Madam, given the to and froing on the Kashmiri stapled visas, what can we expect in Hanoi, not just with China but in the one-on-one which Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is going to have with Wen Jiabao, and also what will be the other bilaterals?

Secretary (East): I think we should really take up the bilaterals which are going to happen in Hanoi. We will all be there together. So, I would not like to prejudge the issue of what will and will not taken up in the bilaterals.

Question: When we talk about cooperation in counter-terrorism, what kind of cooperation ...

Secretary (East): I think we would have to look at various aspects of counter-terrorism measures. It depends from country to country. Sometimes funding of terrorism becomes an issue. We may have to look into funding issues; we may have to look into exchanges of intelligence; we may have to look into information exchanges. So, I think it really depends as you go along what has been agreed to is to set up the mechanism, the framework. How the mechanism decides to continue its work would only be established once the Joint Working Group is met, exchanged information on both sides, and identify specific areas where they can work on concrete measures.



353. Joint Statement on the Framework for the India-Malaysia Strategic Partnership.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak and the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh met in Kuala Lumpur on 27 October 2010. They recalled their decision during the visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to India in January 2010 to expand and deepen India-Malaysia bilateral relations by establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the long history of cultural and civilization contacts between the two countries and their shared commitment to democracy and development. They also acknowledged that both sides had made a contribution in promoting economic development and stability in the Asia-Pacific and recognized each others' responsibility in the promotion of peace, development and security of the region based on a convergence of political and economic interests and aspirations. Both leaders recalled that India and Malaysia have a mutual stake in the progress and prosperity of the other, and expressed their determination to imbue greater dynamism to the relationship through all-round cooperation and engagement. They expressed their common desire to elevate bilateral relations to the level of a long term and strategic partnership based on mutual equality and mutual understanding.

In this context, the two Prime Ministers have identified the following elements of the Strategic Partnership between the two countries:

1. The two leaders agreed to maintain regular dialogue and contact at the summit level, including at the margins of international conferences;
2. Both sides acknowledged the importance of enhancing and deepening all-round cooperation through biennial meetings of the Joint Commission headed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, and that the next meeting shall be held in Kuala Lumpur in the first half of 2011;

3. Both sides welcomed the steady high level exchanges between the two countries and agreed to promote more exchanges at the Cabinet level including between the Ministers in charge of Trade & Industry, Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Tourism, Energy including new and renewable energy, Higher Education and Knowledge;
4. Both sides will continue to hold biennial foreign office consultations, including on regional and strategic issues of mutual interest, between the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India;
5. Both sides also agreed to enhance defence exchanges and cooperation through regular exchanges between the Defence Ministers, senior defence officials, Chiefs of the Armed Services and regular Service-to-Service Staff Talks and regular ships visits.
6. The two leaders agreed to explore the possibilities of joint collaboration on projects of mutual interest in the defence sector on the basis of experience gained by both sides during the successful completion of the SU 30 MKM training programme, including in the areas of industry collaboration / partnership. The Malaysian side looks forward to participation from the Indian defence industry at the soon to be established Malaysian Defence and Security Park. Both sides also agreed to support each others defence exhibitions;
7. The two leaders firmly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and agreed to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism including through information sharing and the establishment of a bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at an early date;
8. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation and deepen their economic engagement as the core of the strategic partnership;
9. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations towards a high quality and mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to further enhance trade and investment flows between the two countries, and have agreed to sign the CECA by 31 January 2011 and to implement it by 1 July

2011. Both sides shall ensure realization of the above timelines for signing as well as implementation of the CECA;

10. Noting that the expansion of mutual investment will contribute to the reciprocal economic growth of both countries, the two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation and support at the governmental level to further strengthen existing bilateral collaboration in infrastructure development and involvement in infrastructure projects particularly in the construction industry and provide business opportunities in investment through joint business and government collaboration;
11. The two sides will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation Relating to the Provision of Technical Assistance Services on Highway Management and Development. This MoU will further enhance the participation by Malaysian engineering and consultancy companies in the development of national highways in India;
12. The two leaders welcomed the establishment of a high-level India-Malaysia CEOs Forum that was launched in Putrajaya during the visit, to develop enhanced partnership and cooperation at the business level. The two sides will also consider specific recommendations made by the CEOs Forum to the two Governments on improvements in the business environment and on measures for enhancing investment and trade flows between the two countries in the future;
13. Both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the financial sector including through participation in each others' capital markets, through the exchange of views between the Finance Ministries and the relevant agencies of both countries. The Indian side welcomes the decision of the Malaysian side to give a commercial banking license to Indian banks;
14. Both sides recognized the competitive advantage of Indian software companies in IT and ITES, and have agreed to set up a Joint ICT Talent Development Consultative Committee (JICTDC) involving stakeholders from both the governments, relevant agencies, industry players and training institutions to make specific recommendations to both the governments for IT skills training, talent development and greater engagement of Indian IT companies in Malaysia;

15. Both sides agreed to study the possibility of enhancing the scope and level of joint collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector between PETRONAS of Malaysia and ONGC Videsh Limited of India in third countries, as well as importance of identifying possible collaborative projects in the new and renewable energy sector through the establishment of a Joint Working Group between the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology & Water of Malaysia and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy of India;
16. The two leaders recognized that underpinning the two countries relationship are vibrant and longstanding people-to-people ties. In this regard, both sides will strive to promote a quantum leap in tourism, academic, culture and people-to-people exchanges between India and Malaysia, including through the development of specific proposals for University-to-University level collaborations, vocational and English language teaching, for consideration by the two Governments. They agreed that the Joint Working Group on Higher Education shall meet in Kuala Lumpur as early as possible for that purpose;
17. Both sides welcomed the establishment of the Indian Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur and will encourage wider cultural exchanges between the two countries;
18. Both sides welcomed the establishment of an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) India Chair in Development Studies at the University of Malaya, Contemporary Malaysian Studies Centre at the University of Madras and note the intention by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur to establish a Centre for Engineering Excellence at the University Sains Malaysia;
19. The two leaders acknowledged that the partnership has moved beyond the bilateral framework and that the two countries share a mutual interest in cooperating for peace, prosperity and security of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond;
20. Both sides recognized the central role of ASEAN in the regional processes and the importance of greater participation by India in regional initiatives in the long term interests of the region;
21. Both sides recognized the importance of concluding an ambitious and mutually beneficial ASEAN-India FTA in Services and

Investments at the earliest possible time in order to give full play to the economic forces of the region in the service of the two peoples;

22. Malaysia welcomed India's initiative to revive Nalanda University to strengthen regional educational cooperation among the Asian countries. Both sides also recognized the need to establish more centres of excellence in Asia;
23. Both sides underscored the importance of open, transparent and inclusive regional arrangements based on mutuality of interests with ASEAN as the driving force. They welcomed ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and East Asia Summit (EAS) as important regional mechanisms that advance peace, economic growth and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Both sides welcomed the progress on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in East Asia (CEPEA);
24. The two leaders agreed that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations remains a priority in order for the organization to effectively address today's global challenges. The two leaders also agreed to work in partnership towards achieving a more representative, more efficient and more effective UN Security Council especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories;
25. Both sides reiterated their common commitment to nuclear non-proliferation objectives based on a fair, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable regime, and express serious concern at the threat of proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, and pledge to work together to counter such threats.

The Prime Ministers of India and Malaysia reiterated that with the exchange of visits between them in 2010, the two countries are embarking on a new stage in India-Malaysia relations through the establishment of this Strategic Partnership. Pursuant to this, the two Prime Ministers directed the concerned agencies of both governments to implement the elements outlined in the Declaration in order that form and content be given to the Strategic Partnership as soon as possible.



354. List of Agreements/MoUs signed between India and Malaysia during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, October 27, 2010.

S.No	Name of the MoU/ Agreement	Signatory from Indian side	Signatory from Malaysian side
	Agreement towards implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia on 1st July 2011	Hon'ble Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry	Hon'ble Mr. Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry
	MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine	Hon'ble Shri Anand Sharma Minister of Commerce & Industry	Hon'ble Mr. Liow Tiong Lai Minister of Health
	MOU for Cooperation in the field of Tourism	Ms. Latha Reddy Secretary Ministry of External Affairs	Dr. Ong Hong Peng Secretary General Ministry of Tourism
	MOU for Cooperation in the field of IT & Services	Ms. Latha Reddy Secretary Ministry of External Affairs	Ms.Madinah Mohamad Secretary General Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
	Agreement between CSIR of India and UNIK of Malaysia on Research and Development Collaboration	Mr. Vijay Gokhale High Commissioner of India to Malaysia	Dr. Kamal Jit Singh Chief Executive Officer Special Innovation Unit of the Prime Minister's Office
	Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-13	Mr. Vijay Gokhale High Commissioner of India to Malaysia	Mr. Wira Kamaruddin Siaraf, Secretary General Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture

SYNOPSIS OF SIX MoUs/AGREEMENTS SIGNED ON 27 OCTOBER 2010**Agreement towards implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia on 1st July 2011**

Background

India-Malaysia CECA

A Joint Study Group was constituted in March 2005 by India and Malaysia comprising government officials and economists to examine the feasibility of a FTA between the two countries. The Study Group submitted its Report in January 2007, recommending a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia, and the Report was adopted by both the governments by launching CECA negotiations in February 2008. The negotiations have been concluded in September 2010 with both sides agreeing on the texts of the CECA which include Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment and other areas of economic cooperation. Both sides agreed that the CECA would be signed as a single undertaking.

Taking into account the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods (TiG) Agreement that was implemented with effect from 1st January 2010 between India and Malaysia, both sides have offered 'ASEAN plus' market access in goods. In Trade in Services, both sides agreed on providing access of each others' services market across all modes and various sectors. India and Malaysia would liberalise their respective investment regimes to facilitate greater FDI into each other's territory. Both sides would also finalise 2-3 other areas of economic cooperation from among infrastructure development, creative industries, tourism, SMEs, business facilitation, science and technology, and human resource development.

Agreement on the implementation of CECA

The 'Agreement towards implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the Republic of India and Malaysia on 1st July 2011', signed by the Trade Ministers of both countries on 27th October 2010 in the presence of the Prime Ministers of

India and Malaysia, indicates the broad contours and the stages of implementation of CECA.

Both sides to prepare all the schedules and take up legal scrubbing of texts in November. The CECA to be signed by 31st January 2011 and to be implemented on 1st July 2011.

MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine

The MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine provides a framework for cooperation in traditional systems of medicine between the two countries. The scope of the MoU includes identifying further areas of co-operation for promotion of traditional medicine including the regulation of teaching, practice, drugs and drugless therapies; accommodating interested practitioners, paramedics, students and institutions in educational training programmes on traditional systems of medicine. The institutions in both the countries can work towards mutual recognition of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha Pharmacopoea of India and the Malaysian Herbal Pharmacopoea. The MOU also envisages exchange of experts for training of practitioners, paramedics, scientists, teachers and students in traditional systems of medicine. Both governments would also encourage relevant institutions to exchange medicinal materials and documents necessary for administration and reference for greater understanding and usage.

India would be the second country with which Malaysia would be signing an MOU in the Traditional Systems of Medicine. Due to the presence of large diaspora of Indian and Chinese origin, Malaysia has a wide canvas of traditional systems of medicine including that of Malay herbal medicine. The MOU is expected to guide already existing rudimentary cooperation in a more focused manner and also streamline the existing practices in traditional systems of medicine to higher levels of acceptance by people in the two countries.

MOU for cooperation in the filed of Tourism

The tourist flows between India and Malaysia have been increasing in the recent years in a significant manner. India is now the sixth largest

source country for inbound tourism to Malaysia with about 600,000 Indian tourists visiting Malaysia in 2009, an increase of 9% over figures of 2008. Malaysia is the tenth largest source country for foreign tourists visiting India with 115,794 Malaysians visiting India in 2008. The trend is expected to continue in view of the improved connectivity between the two countries with the introduction of budget airlines from Malaysia such as Air Asia.

The MOU would further enhance the existing level of cooperation in the field of tourism on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The areas of cooperation envisaged under the MOU include research and development, training, greater exchange of promotional and publicity materials, investments and organizing meetings, conventions and travel mart/trade fairs etc. between the two countries. The MOU would remain in force from the date of signing for a period of 5 years and thereafter it would be automatically extended for a further period of 5 years.

MOU for Cooperation in the field of IT & Services

The first decade of the 21st century witnessed marked increase in collaboration in the field of Information Technology and Services between India and Malaysia. There are at present 60 Indian IT companies, including few of the top-ten Indian IT companies, have established offices in Malaysia with some of them operating their global business centres. Keeping in view the importance of IT and Services for both the countries, an MOU was signed in 2002 which expired in 2007. The new MOU is signed to reflect the contemporary changes taking place in the field of IT and Services.

The areas of cooperation envisaged in the MOU include electronic-commerce, multimedia development, electronic-governance, information security, cyber crime, human resource development, research, design and development and exploring third country markets and any other areas of cooperation of mutual interest to both the countries. The MOU shall enter into force from the date of signing and would remain in force for a period of five years.

Separately, the Prime Ministers of India and Malaysia are also expected to announce setting up of a Joint ICT Talent Development Consultative Committee (JICTDCC) involving stakeholders from both the governments,

relevant agencies, industry players and training institutions to make specific recommendations to both the governments for IT skills training, talent development and greater engagement of Indian IT Companies in Malaysia.

Agreement between CSIR of India and UNIK of Malaysia on Research and Development Collaboration

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Special Innovation Unit (UNIK) of Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia would be signing an Agreement on Research and Development Collaboration to increase cooperation in research, development innovation and commercialization of technology.

The Agreement envisages establishment of a Joint Innovation Accelerator Centre in Malaysia to carry out research on areas of mutual interest such as green technology, water treatment, medicinal and aromatic plants and also includes other innovative technologies. It also encourages transfer of knowledge; exchange of experts, scientists and researchers; production of joint reports of publications; and study visits relating to the projects and programme to be undertaken by the Joint Innovation Accelerator Centre. Both CSIR and UNIK will also explore and develop the use of herbs, plants, flowers and fruits for medicinal in Malaysia and aromatic purposes by way of extraction techniques, processes and methodologies;

UNIK has been set up in 2010 in the Prime Minister's Department to enable it emerge as an important focal point for innovation in the country. CSIR, a premier scientific and industrial research organization in India, would share its knowledge and expertise for mutual benefit.

Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-13

India and Malaysia would be signing a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2010-13 during the Prime Minister's visit, spelling out a number of activities to further strengthen the existing cultural cooperation between the two countries. This CEP stems from the Cultural

Agreement signed between India and Malaysia in 1978.

CEP envisages exchange of cultural delegations at Ministerial as well as official level to further enhance development of culture and art programmes between the two countries. In addition, it provides for exchange of performing arts troupes, visual arts, organization of art exhibitions in each others' countries, participation in international cultural and artistic activities held in each others' countries. It also encourages cooperation by way of exchange of visits between archaeological institutions, museums and archives establishments of the two countries. It also has a component of training of personnel in archives and also participation of scholars and experts in international academic conferences held in other countries. The CEP would provide a more focused attention in a number of areas mentioned above.



355. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Malaysia.

New Delhi, October 27, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce & Industry and the Malaysian International Trade & Industry Minister signed an 'Agreement towards implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia' today at Kuala Lumpur in the presence of the Prime Ministers of India and Malaysia. The Agreement is an indication of the conclusion of CECA negotiations and it outlines the broad contours of the CECA. The signing of the Agreement would lead to the signing and implementation of the India-Malaysia CECA. In trade in goods, the Agreement proposes that the CECA commitments between India and Malaysia would be more liberal than those under the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. In trade in services, the Agreement envisages that, under the CECA, trade in services will be progressively liberalized on a preferential basis, with substantial sectoral coverage, including Movement

of Professionals and Skilled Persons, Cross-border Supply, and Telecommunications Services to provide commercially meaningful market access to both parties. Similarly, the investment chapter under the CECA will include commitments leading to progressive liberalisation of investment regimes in order to promote investments and create a liberal, facilitative, transparent and competitive investment regime. The CECA will also include economic cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development, creative industries, tourism, SMEs, business facilitation, science and technology, and human resource development.

The proposed Agreement also stipulates CECA implementation timelines. The entire CECA with legal texts would be signed by 31.1.2011 and would be implemented on 1.7.2011. It may be recalled that India and Malaysia are parties to the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement signed in August 2009 and both countries have implemented it with effect from 1st January 2010. The India-Malaysia CECA envisages being more liberal compared to the commitments under the ASEAN FTA. The CECA is envisaged to lead to growth in bilateral trade and investment resulting in economic benefits to both India and Malaysia.

Malaysia is the 3rd largest trading partner of India amongst ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries. India - Malaysia trade increased from US\$ 3.38 billion to US\$ 8.01 billion between 2004-05 and 2009-10 after reaching a peak of US\$ 10.60 billion in 2008-09. The main exports of India include petroleum products, metals, machinery, meat, chemicals, spices and cereals; our main imports include petroleum products, electronic goods, edible oil, wood, chemicals and metals.



356. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Indian Community Reception.

Kuala Lumpur, October 28, 2010.

I am happy to have this occasion to meet members of the Indian community in Malaysia.

The Malaysian Indian community holds a very special place in our hearts. You represent the largest gathering of people of Indian origin in the world. You have been contributing to the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of Malaysia, while preserving your ties with India. This is not an easy task. But you have successfully done so by blending Indian culture and values with the local milieu. Your achievements fill us with pride and joy.

I compliment you for the affection that you still have for the land of your ancestors. I applaud you for your contribution to the progress and prosperity in Malaysia.

Malaysia has today transformed itself into a modern industrialized nation. With its democratic framework, plural and progressive values, Malaysia provides a unique development model, which is relevant to the entire developing world and the international community.

Today India is also on the move. We are in the midst of a major transformation in addressing our developmental challenges within a democratic framework.

India offers a growing and vibrant market, young work force, and an attractive destination for foreign investors. We are already a trillion dollar economy. We are aspiring for a growth rate of 9-10% per annum. As our economy expands and creates more opportunities, it provides a new platform for collaboration between India and overseas Indian communities. I invite you to make use of these new investment and business opportunities in India in the best manner that you can.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is now a full-fledged mechanism for reaching out to our overseas community. I am delighted to know that the Malaysian delegation is usually one of the largest and most active delegations at the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.

We enjoy excellent bilateral relations with Malaysia. India-Malaysia relations have grown significantly in the last five years. Prime Minister Najib's visit to India earlier this year, and my return visit this year clearly demonstrate our common desire to upgrade our relations in a comprehensive manner. We have also finalized a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement that will create an institutional framework for expanding business and commerce manifold.

The Indian community in Malaysia is well placed to take advantage of the opportunities that will come as relations between India and Malaysia deepen and grow.

With cultural and social links to India and deep understanding of our language, culture and the way we do things, the Malaysian Indian business community can serve as the bridge for fostering economic linkages between the two countries. I look forward to seeing greater involvement by you in this endeavour.

I am pleased to learn about the efforts the community has made in preserving Indian traditions and culture. It is in recognition of this that we decided to open an Indian Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur earlier this year.

I am happy to learn that you are making use of the educational facilities we offer in India. I know that there is a much greater demand for education in India from Persons of Indian Origin globally than we can currently fulfill. The Government is considering ways to address these demands. Our Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs runs a Diaspora Scholarship Scheme that offers scholarships to PIO and NRI students studying in Indian universities. I am told that one third of practicing Malaysian doctors have obtained medical degrees from India. Some Malaysian Universities have now begun collaborating with Indian Universities to develop twinning programmes, particularly in medicine and engineering. I hope that the Malaysian Indian community will benefit from these initiatives.

I am happy to announce today a contribution of Rs 5 crore to augment the Indian Scholarship Trust Fund, which will raise the corpus to Rs. 7.55 cr. The Fund was set up by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946 to provide

assistance to Malaysian Indian students. At the request of the Indian community in Malaysia, I am also pleased to announce 20 scholarships for Malaysian students to pursue courses in traditional system of medicine in India.

The respect that non-resident Indians have earned abroad, including in Malaysia, is a matter of pride for all Indians. As a government we will continue to provide all assistance to the community in Malaysia through our High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

I wish each of one of you and your families the very best, and season's greetings on the occasion of Diwali.

Thank you.



357. Extract relevant to Malaysia from the Suo Motu Statement in the Lok Sabha of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Prime Minister's visits abroad.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

* * * * *

MALAYSIA

7. Prime Minister's official visit to Malaysia from 26 to 28 October 2010 was at the invitation of the Malaysian PM Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. During the visit, PM had detailed discussions with his counterpart on all facets of bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

8. Hon'ble Prime Minister delivered the Khazanah Global Lecture at the invitation of PM Najib in his capacity as Chairman of Khazana Nasional, which is the investment arm of the Malaysian Government.

9. Both the Prime Ministers endorsed the successful conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

(CECA) covering goods, services and investment and an Agreement was signed for implementing CECA on 1 July 2011.

10. Other MoUs and Agreement were signed during the visit in the field of information technology, tourism, traditional systems of medicine, scientific research and culture.

11. India agreed to set up a Joint ICT Talent Development Consultative Committee involving the two governments, as well as, industry players, to make specific recommendations for enhancing collaboration in this field.

12. The two PMs launched the India-Malaysia CEOs Forum comprising of 18 business leaders from each side. The Forum will provide specific recommendations to the two Governments on improving business environment and enhancing investment and trade between the two countries.

13. Both the Prime Ministers identified various elements to develop Strategic Partnership between the two countries. These include maintaining regular dialogue and contact at the summit level; biennial meetings of the Joint Commission headed by the Foreign Ministers; enhancing defence exchanges, cooperation and joint collaboration on projects of mutual interest in the defence sector; enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, including through information sharing and the establishment of a bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at an early date; further strengthening bilateral trade and investment cooperation; expanding cooperation in infrastructure development and exploring possibilities for development of cooperation in financial sector; studying the possibility of enhancing the scope and level of joint collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector between PETRONAS of Malaysia and ONGC Videsh Limited of India in third countries; and identifying possible collaborative projects in the new and renewable energy sector through the establishment of a Joint Working Group.

14. The two Prime Ministers agreed that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations remains a priority in order for the organization to effectively address today's global challenges. They agreed to work in

partnership towards achieving a more representative, more efficient and more effective UN Security Council especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories;

15. Both the Prime Ministers jointly launched the 'Little India' project in Brickfields. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister stated that the decision of Malaysian Government to dedicate the area of Brickfields, which is one of the oldest Indian settlements in the country, as "Little India" is a tribute to the contribution to nation building of all Malaysians of Indian origin. PM also announced that India would be presenting a Torana Gate to the residents of Brickfields as a mark of India-Malaysia friendship.

* * * * *

(For full text of the Statement please see Document No.24)



MONGOLA

358. Joint Statement issued on the Second Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation.

New Delhi, January 11, 2010.

The 2nd Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 11 January 2010. The Meeting was jointly chaired by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs and Mr. Yondongiin Otgonbayar, Minister of Education, Culture & Science of Mongolia. The Joint Committee reviewed the entire gamut of India-Mongolia relations, particularly as a follow-up on the State Visit of the President of Mongolia to India in September 2009.

Recognising the need to strengthen bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, the Joint Committee welcomed the MOU signed during the visit of the President of Mongolia to India in September 2009 on Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Use of Radioactive Minerals & Nuclear Energy. In

pursuance of the MOU, the Indian side offered a short course on Radiography for Mongolian personnel at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai, and assistance to set up a regulatory/radiation protection framework in Mongolia. The Mongolian side invited Indian participation in the uranium mining sector in Mongolia, including through joint ventures and investment. The Mongolian side also welcomed Indian participation in the mining of coal, coking coal and other minerals in Mongolia.

The Joint Committee also discussed possible cooperation in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors. Indian assistance was sought for (a) establishing a National Centre for Research in Animal Diseases (Pandemics) in Mongolia; (b) acclimatization of high-yielding and fast-ripening varieties of crops/plants suitable for the Mongolian climatic conditions; (c) water harvesting and construction of dams; (d) biotechnology; and (e) development of the Mongolian dairy sector. It was suggested to revive the proposal for setting up a Model Farm / Agro Park in Mongolia. It was agreed that an Indian agro-business delegation could visit Mongolia at an early date to study the possibilities of cooperation in this area, particularly in commercial cultivation.

The Mongolian side presented a formal proposal to establish an India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre utilizing the US\$ 20 million Line of Credit (LOC) extended by Government of India on special concessional terms. A detailed project proposal was also handed over in pursuance of the financial assistance pledged by Government of India for the construction of a suitable building for the India-Mongolia Joint School in Ulaanbaatar.

The Joint Committee also discussed the commemorative events that could be organized this year to mark the 55th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia in 1955.



MYANMAR**359. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India on the India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations.****Nay Pyi Taw, March 1, 2010.**

The 11th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Myanmar was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 March 2010. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao and the Myanmar side by H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint.

Leaders of both delegations expressed satisfaction at the close and friendly relations between the two countries and emphasised the need to maintain the momentum in bilateral relations. They welcomed the exchange of several high-level visits from both sides, including that of visit of H.E. the Vice President of India in February 2009, the Chief of Army Staff Gen. Deepak Kapoor in October 2009 and H.E. the Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Nyan Win in January 2010.

The discussions covered a wide range of bilateral issues including security and border issues, trade and economic cooperation and cooperation in cross-border developmental projects, Oil and Natural Gas, Power, Railways, Telecommunications and Education & Training. The two sides stressed the need for greater vigilance at the border and agreed to enhance security cooperation to combat insurgent groups and arms smuggling. The two sides decided to convene the fourth Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi to build on the decisions taken earlier in the field of trade and commerce, which included converting Indo-Myanmar border trade into normal trade, opening of a border trade point at Avangkhang in Nagaland and expanding the existing border trade items from 22 to 40 items.

Both sides appreciated the strengthening of cooperation in the power sector. India is assisting Myanmar in the updating of the DPR on the development of Tamanthi and Shwezaye Hydropower Projects on the Chindwin River by NHPC. The two sides welcomed the taking up of mini-hydel projects by WAPCOS, replacing of 16 cyclone-damaged

transformers by BHEL, supply of biomass gasifiers by TERI and construction of new transmission lines by PGCIL.

The Myanmar side welcomed the additional investment of US\$ 1.1 billion by ONGC and GAIL in oil blocks in Myanmar for gas field development and upstream projects. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in this field.

The two sides expressed happiness at the progress of work at the Industrial Training Centre, Pakokku, being set up with Indian assistance. TATA Motors are also assisting Myanmar in setting up a heavy turbo truck plant at Magway.

The Myanmar side conveyed its support to India's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' meeting in Myanmar in December 2009. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the close engagement between India and ASEAN and the special relationship of India with CLMV countries in supporting their developmental efforts. India has set up the Myanmar-India Centre for English Language Training and the Myanmar-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Yangon to enhance the skill sets of Myanmar students and youth.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao also called on H.E. the Secretary-I, General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and H.E. the Foreign Minister U Nyan Win. Recalling the historical and friendly relations between the two countries, both Myanmar leaders expressed their appreciation for India's assistance to their developmental efforts.



360. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Chairman, State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

New Delhi, July 27, 2010.

At the invitation of the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Head of State of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, is paying a State Visit to India from July 25- 29, 2010. The Chairman is accompanied by his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing. Apart from his official engagements in New Delhi, Senior General Than Shwe will also visit places of economic, historical and religious interest.

2. This visit is a part of a series of high-level contacts that India and Myanmar have had over the past few years. These include visits by Vice Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, in April 2008 and Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, in February 2009.

3. In New Delhi, Senior General Than Shwe was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 27 July 2010. He was received by the President of India, who hosted a banquet in his honour.

4. Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition called on Senior General Than Shwe.

5. Senior General Than Shwe had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, which was followed by delegation level talks. The meetings and exchanges were positive and marked by cordiality on both sides.

6. India and Myanmar are close and friendly neighbours linked, inter alia, by civilizational bonds, geographical proximity, culture, history and religion. Apart from a boundary that stretches over more than 1640 kilometers and borders four North-Eastern states of India, there is a large population of persons of Indian origin in Myanmar. Bilateral relations are reflective of these multifarious and traditional linkages and the two countries live side by side as close neighbors based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

7. Recalling these shared bonds of civilization, the Head of State of Myanmar and the Prime Minister of India expressed their commitment to further strengthen and broaden the multi-dimensional relationship which now encompasses a range of areas of cooperation. Enhancing economic, social and developmental engagement will help harness the considerable potential in India-Myanmar bilateral relations, which would, in turn, contribute to the socio-economic betterment of their respective peoples.

8. Recognizing that peace and stability in the region is essential for development and for the well-being of the people of their respective countries, the two leaders agreed on close cooperation between the security forces of the two countries in tackling the pernicious problem of terrorism. They agreed that security cooperation should be given immediate attention since terrorists, insurgents and criminals respect no boundaries and undermine the social and political fabric of a nation. Both 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.

9. Understanding that continued cooperation will lead to success in fighting the insurgency issue, the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation and collective efforts of the two countries along the border. In this context, the two leaders welcomed the Home Secretary level talks held in Nay Pyi Taw in January 2010 and the important decisions taken in that meeting.

10. Both leaders expressed their desire for greater economic engagement. In this context, the Prime Minister of India conveyed India's commitment to continue with developmental assistance to Myanmar. The Myanmar side expressed deep appreciation for the generous and concessionary credit facilities given by India to finance significant infrastructure and other projects. Projects that are currently underway under such aid assistance include railways, road and waterway development, power and industrial training centres, tele-communication, etc. The Indian side agreed to consider Myanmar's request for assistance in the three areas namely: IT development, Industrial development and Infrastructure development in Myanmar which will lead to upliftment of the bilateral cooperation to a higher level.

11. Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh welcomed the considerable enhancement of the connectivity between the two countries. In this context, they welcomed the progress made by M/s Inland Waterways Authority of India towards implementation of the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project and reiterated their respective Governments' commitment to this project. In particular, they welcomed the finalization of the contract for port development and Inland waterway with M/s ESSAR. It was also agreed that the scope of the project with respect to the road component would be revised. The road component between Paletwa and Myeikwa on the India border would be executed by the Myanmar Ministry of Construction with M/s IRCON.

12. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the construction, maintenance and repair work by Indian Border Roads Organization of the Tamu-Kalaywa-Kalemyo Road connecting Moreh in Manipur to Myanmar and the handing over of most of the segments of the TKK Road to the Government of Myanmar.

13. To enhance road connectivity, especially through the State of Mizoram, both leaders announced the construction and revamping of the Rhi-Tiddim road at a cost of more than US\$ 60 million to be financed through grant assistance from India. The Myanmar side expressed its appreciation for this gesture.

14. Both leaders emphasized the need to enhance cooperation in the area of agriculture. The Indian side announced a grant of US\$ 10 million for procurement of agricultural machinery from India. The leaders expressed the hope that this machinery will help enhance productivity in Myanmar's agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of its economy. The Myanmar side also requested for technical assistance in manufacturing of agricultural machinery.

15. The Indian side also announced a project to set up rice silos to facilitate disaster relief operations particularly in the cyclone prone delta areas, with grant in aid from India.

16. The Myanmar side expressed appreciation for India's generous assistance in the relief and rehabilitation efforts that followed the devastating Cyclone Nargis which hit Myanmar in May 2008. He noted that the

assistance from India, which included dispatch of a large medical contingent to work in cyclone affected areas as well as providing immediate medical and food supplies, supply of GI sheets, 16 electricity transformers, 20 biomass gasifiers and funds for restoration work on the holy Shwedagon pagoda, was timely and catered to Myanmar's urgent requirements.

17. Both leaders identified the power sector as an area of growing cooperation. In this context, the two leaders agreed to cooperate in the implementation of the Tamanthi and Shwezaye projects on the Chindwin River Basin in Myanmar. They welcomed the involvement of M/s NHPC in carrying out the much required additional investigations after the signing of the MoU on Cooperation in Hydro-power Development projects in the Chindwin River Basin in September 2008. Subject to the findings of these additional investigations, the two leaders will endeavour to conclude the Memorandum of Agreement within a year.

18. The Myanmar side conveyed their gratitude for India's line of credit of US\$ 64 million in the transmission lines sector to be executed through M/s. PGCIL. Both leaders also noted the need to provide for inter-grid connectivity between the two countries. They agreed that the two countries shall cooperate in this area, including generation of electricity from renewable sources, and, where necessary, set up joint projects or corporate entities for that purpose.

19. The Myanmar side welcomed the interest of Indian companies in the mining sector. They promised all necessary assistance to enable these companies to explore such opportunities.

20. The Indian side agreed to explore possibilities for cooperation in the field of solar energy and wind energy in Myanmar. They also agreed to offer Myanmar, training in related fields.

21. Cooperation in the energy sector is poised for greater growth, especially in the area of oil and natural gas. Both leaders emphasized the importance they attach to energy security which has a direct bearing on the welfare of the peoples of the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at the ongoing bilateral collaboration in exploration and production in Myanmar's petroleum sector and agreed to encourage further investment by Indian companies both public and private, in this sector.

22. The Myanmar side welcomed the substantial additional investment by ONGC and GAIL for the development in the upstream and downstream projects of Myanmar offshore blocks A-1 and A-3 including the natural gas pipeline under construction at Ramree in Myanmar.

23. In the field of telecom, following the successful functioning of the official Fibre link between India and Myanmar via Moreh, the two leaders agreed to upgrade the microwave link between Moreh to Mandalay under a line of credit of US\$ 6 million from India. Further, a new Optical Fibre Link between Monywa to Rhi-Zawkhathar will also be undertaken with Indian assistance.

24. The Myanmar side thanked India for its continued assistance through renewal of the agreement to provide IRS-P5 and Cartosat Data through Antrix.

25. The two leaders agreed to encourage collaboration between Myanmar and India in the area of Information and Communication Technology.

26. Recalling India's earlier assistance in supplying railway rolling stock, machineries and equipments to Myanmar, both leaders agreed to further cooperation in the railway sector. The Indian side extended a line of credit of US\$ 60 million to procure railway equipment.

27. The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the project being undertaken by TATA Motors to set up a heavy turbo truck plant at Magway is proceeding well and encouraged other Indian companies to enter into the industrial sectors in Myanmar. The Myanmar side assured that current investment proposals by private Indian companies in Myanmar would be actively facilitated.

28. The two leaders welcomed the expansion of trade and commerce between the two countries manifest in the increase in the volume of trade to more than US\$ 1 billion per annum. They agreed that trade at border trade points should be further enhanced to boost the immense potential that exists in bilateral trade. This would also directly benefit the North-East States of India.

29. Referring to the existing border trading points at Moreh - Tamu (Manipur) and Zawkhathar-Rhi (Mizoram) as well as the additional point agreed to be operationalised at Avankhug-Somra (Nagaland), the two sides agreed to put in place the necessary infrastructure to make these points viable and business friendly.

30. The two leaders welcomed the establishment of direct banking links between India and Myanmar following the signature of the correspondent banking relationship agreement between United Bank of India and Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank for providing banking arrangements relating to upgrading of border trade to normal trade. They encouraged the business community to make optimal use of this arrangement and thus enhance direct trade transactions.

31. The two leaders encouraged to conduct business meetings to be held alternately in both countries for trade promotion. They noted that such measures can help build bridges at the business level and promote business and commercial opportunities.

32. In recognition of the close and friendly tourism cooperation between India and Myanmar and cooperation under the frameworks of ASEAN+India and BIMSTEC, the two sides agreed to further promote tourist contacts. The Myanmar side thanked India for the facilities and courtesies being extended to Myanmar pilgrims visiting India.

33. Both leaders welcomed the proposal for the restoration of the historic Ananda temple in Bagan to be undertaken with the assistance of the Archaeological Survey of India, with the involvement of the Ministry of Culture of Myanmar.

34. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing implementation of the MoU for cooperation in Buddhist studies and the related work plan agreed to between the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar and the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara University. Several hundred Myanmar Buddhist scholars and monks are currently studying in this university in various disciplines.

35. The Myanmar side expressed gratitude to India for its numerous HRD initiatives in Myanmar which included setting up of the following:

- the Myanmar-India Centre for English language Training;
- the Myanmar-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre;
- the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills; and
- the Industrial Training Centre in Pakokku.

36. The Myanmar side also indicated that the training offered by India under the ITEC and TCS schemes have been valuable for scholars and Government officials in Myanmar. The Indian side agreed to offer more opportunities for higher studies and training in Universities and training institutions in India to scholars from Myanmar.

37. The Myanmar side informed the Indian side about developments in Myanmar including the groundwork for elections scheduled towards the end of the year. The Indian side thanked the Myanmar side for the detailed briefing and emphasized the importance of comprehensively broad-basing the national reconciliation process and democratic changes being introduced in Myanmar.

38. 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.

39. The leader of Myanmar reiterated Myanmar's support for India's bid for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. He also conveyed its support to India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the term 2011-2012.

40. The two leaders also emphasized the importance of India and Myanmar to work together in the cause of regional cooperation. The Indian leadership offered its good wishes to Myanmar for a successful term as BIMSTEC Chair, a responsibility that it assumed in 2009. The Indian side welcomed participation of Myanmar at the 16th SAARC Summit as an Observer for the first time.

41. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation between India and Myanmar under the ASEAN-India Summit Relations and welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN-India FTA. The Myanmar side appreciated India's support for building an ASEAN Community in 2015, and to the Vientiane Action Programme including the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and other sub-regional growth initiatives such as Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Initiative and EAS cooperation. Myanmar side recognized that ASEAN-India Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation which was signed in 2003 has played a significant role in strengthening the Dialogue Partnership. Myanmar being a natural bridge between 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.

42. In the above context, both leaders reiterated their commitment to undertake the tri-lateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Moe Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The Indian side agreed to take up the preparation of DPRs for roads and causeways in Myanmar to realize this project.

43. During the visit, the following documents were signed;

- a. Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters
- b. MOU regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Developmental projects.
- c. MoU on Information Cooperation
- d. Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology
- e. MoU on Conservation and Restoration of Ananda Temple in Bagan, Myanmar

44. Senior General Than Shwe thanked the President of India and the Indian Government and people for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during their stay in India.

45. Senior General Than Shwe also extended a warm invitation to the President and Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time. The President and Prime Minister of India thanked him

and accepted the invitation with great pleasure. The dates for the visit would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.

Agreements signed between India and Myanmar during the visit of Chairman, State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar.

New Delhi, July 27, 2010.

Sl. No.	Name of the MOU/Agreement/Treaty	Myanmar Signatory	Indian Signatory
1	Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters	H.E. U Nyan Win Minister of Foreign Affairs	Shri P. Chidambaram Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs
2	Memorandum of Understanding regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Projects	H.E. U Soe Tha Minister for National Planning and Economic Development	Shri S.M. Krishna Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs
3	Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology	H.E. U Kyi Thein Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar, New Delhi	Shri T. Ramasami Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
4	Memorandum of Understanding on Information Cooperation	H.E. U Kyaw Hsan Minister for Information	Shri Raghu Menon Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
5	Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation and Restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan	H.E. U Kyi Thein Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar, New Delhi	Shri Jawhar Sircar Secretary, Ministry of Culture



361 Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the banquet hosted by her in honour of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe.

New Delhi, July 27, 2010.

Your Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council,

Madame Kyaing Kyaing,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Madam Kyaing Kyaing, and your distinguished delegation to India. We feel greatly privileged to have you amongst us today.

As close neighbours, our two countries share deep civilisational bonds of friendship and goodwill reinforced by history, geography and culture. The common heritage of Buddhism, the shared experience of colonialism, the struggle for independence and the more recent strides in bilateral cooperation in a variety of areas have drawn our peoples together. Ours is a unique relationship which has stood the test of time.

Excellency, your 2004 landmark visit to India ushered in an era of renewed engagement between our two countries. It signalled the common desire of the two countries, sharing a border of more than 1640 kilometres, to forge mutually beneficial cooperation, in particular in the North East region of India.

Much has happened in the more than five years since Your Excellency's visit. We have witnessed significant high-level exchanges. The Presidential visit from India to Myanmar in 2006 was followed by the visit of Vice Senior General Maung Aye in 2008 and the visit of the Vice-President of India to Myanmar in 2009. Our engagement has been productive. It has served to strengthen mutual understanding of our respective priorities, especially on the security front, and we have agreed

on steps needed to better utilize our geographical proximity and resources. Our relations, indeed, have truly become multi-faceted.

Excellency, over the years, India stands transformed as one of the leading economies of the world. Our rapid development has created exciting opportunities not only for our citizens, but also for co-operation and collaboration with neighbours like Myanmar. Our two countries are already collaborating on a range of developmental projects including the Kaladan Multi-modal Transport Project, various border road projects, the Tamanthi and Shwezaye hydropower projects, the heavy truck assembly plant in Magway, transmission lines project, to cite only a few. Our bilateral cooperation has been further enhanced in the fields of energy, power, agriculture, IT, railways, embracing both the public and private sectors.

Our co-operation in the human resource development in Myanmar is intense. The Myanmar-India Centre for English Language Training, the Myanmar-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre and the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills have been established. These will, in time, become centres of excellence and enable the people of Myanmar to share in, and benefit from, India's developmental experience.

Myanmar's location makes it a natural bridge between the member countries of the ASEAN on the one hand and SAARC on the other. For us, Myanmar is our gateway to ASEAN and central to our 'Look East' policy. Myanmar is an active fellow member of BIMSTEC and an Observer in SAARC. Together, India and Myanmar can make important contributions to regional co-operation initiatives and help bring the countries of this region closer.

Excellency, you began your visit to India on the auspicious day of the Full Moon of Waso, by paying a visit to the holiest of Buddhist sites, Bodhgaya. It is, therefore, no surprise that our countries have agreed during your visit to take up the conservation of the most revered Buddhist temple in the historical city of Bagan - the Ananda Temple. This is an auspicious development.

Our discussions in Delhi have been fruitful and we have signed agreements and announced several new initiatives. I am confident that, just like your previous visit, this visit will prove to be a milestone in our ever expanding ties and bring our countries even closer.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, please join me in a toast to:-

- the good health and happiness of His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe and Madame Kyaing Kyaing;
- the ever growing friendship and co-operation between India and Myanmar; and
- the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.



362. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

New Delhi, November 13, 2010

I understand that the Government of Myanmar has just released Madam Aung San Suu Kyi. The Government of India welcomes her release. We hope that this will be the beginning of the process of reconciliation in Myanmar. The recent elections in Myanmar are an important step in the direction of the national reconciliation process being undertaken by the Government of Myanmar. We have always encouraged them to take this process forward in a broad-based and inclusive manner. In this context, as a close neighbour of Myanmar, we are confident that the release of Madam Aung San Suu Kyi will contribute to efforts for a more inclusive approach to political change.



Apart from official welcome from the External Affairs Minister, the ruling party the Indian National Congress too welcomed the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. In a statement party general secretary Janardan Dwivedi said the Congress recognised her fight for democratic rights and acknowledged her as a symbol of resistance, freedom and human rights. The party fondly remembers her stay in India along with her mother in her formative years, and also her father General Aung San's immense contribution to building the new Myanmar, the statement said.

NEW ZEALAND**363. Press Release on the constitution of an ICCR Chair at Victoria University at Wellington, New Zealand.****New Delhi, September 23, 2010.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair in India's International Relations and/or Indian Politics at the University. High Commissioner of India in New Zealand, Admiral (Retd.) Sureesh Mehta, and Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Pat Walsh signed the MoU on September 23rd, 2010 in Wellington.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR and the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician in mutual consultation 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 University by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from the academic year 2011 and the MoU would remain valid for four years till 2014.

The establishment of this Chair is expected to be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



PHILIPPINES**364. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to the Philippines.****New Delhi, March 19, 2010.**

MOS for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, visited Manila, the Philippines, as the leader of the Indian delegation to the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting (SNAMMM) on Interfaith Dialogue for Cooperation in Peace and Development held in Manila from 16-18 March 2010.

More than 70 Ministers of Foreign Affairs participated in the SNAMMM, which was the first Ministerial level meeting in the theme of Interfaith Dialogue, a subject under discussion in international fora for a few years now. The meeting was inaugurated by the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines, and culminated with the adoption of the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action on Interfaith Dialogue.

In her address to the meeting MOS Smt. Preneet Kaur highlighted the dangers of extremism and terrorism which were the antithesis of all religions; MOS also drew attention to India's tradition of give and take between faiths and cultures, and the interfaith conversation over millennia of its history, which had enriched and strengthened India.

MOS for External Affairs also had useful bilateral interactions with the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, El Salvador and Serbia, on the margins of the Manila SNAMMM.

MOS for External Affairs had detailed interactions with representatives of the Indian community (estimated to number around 50,000) over the consular and other issues faced by the community. The Indian Ambassador in Manila hosted a reception in honour of the visiting Minister of State, where Smt. Preneet Kaur met with a number of local dignitaries, and prominent members of the Indian community.



SINGAPORE**365. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Singapore on the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ICCR and National University of Singapore for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair of Indian Studies.****Singapore, March 25, 2010.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and National University Singapore signed on March 22nd, 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Council's Short-Term Chair of Indian Studies at the National University of Singapore. The Chair will function under the aegis of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). Shri Tsewang Namgyal, Dy. High Commissioner of India in Singapore on behalf of ICCR and Dr. Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on behalf of the National University of Singapore, signed the MoU.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of one year. During his/her term, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring at various levels. The Chair would commence from July, 2010. The MoU would remain valid for three years from 2010.

The National University of Singapore is one of the prestigious Universities with over 30,000 students of 100 countries from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, which make it an appropriate place to institute an India Chair. The establishment of Chair of Indian Studies would be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening educational and cultural bonds and towards enhancing academic knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



366. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre.**Singapore, March 26, 2010.**

Prof. Wang Gungwu, Ambassador Kesavapany, Dr. Chin Kin Wah, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be present here and am grateful for this invitation to visit the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. I have some knowledge about the activities of the centre as also of the Institute and would like to commend the faculties of both for the outstanding academic and scholarly work being done as also the conferences which have been organised. I have also been informed about your research publication on Chola Expeditions to Southeast Asia. This was a landmark achievement and I warmly congratulate all those concerned for this initiative. I would like to give a brief background on the current status of the initiative on the setting up the Nalanda University in Gaya. The Nalanda University was a great ancient and medieval centre of intellectual activity in Buddhist philosophy, mathematics, medicine and other disciplines. As you are aware, the East Asian Summit endorsed the establishment of the Nalanda University in the State of Bihar in India. This has been the product of many months of hard work put in by the Nalanda Mentor Group, and will be a shining example of cooperative action in the field of education. The land for the University is already acquired and the Nalanda University Bill is being processed for Parliamentary approval during the current session. I am confident of steady progress.

In conclusion I would like to convey that we will be very happy to work with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre in its forthcoming academic and scholarly pursuits. I understand that certain initiatives are already in place. I would like more such activities including conferences, study tours, lectures by eminent intellectuals and publication of research monographs. India has a civilizational relationship with Southeast and East Asia. Cementing these ties in the academic and intellectual fields is an area of fruitful cooperation between India and Singapore and I am sure that many initiatives and activities shall come to fruition in the near future.

Thank You



367. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Singapore on the Visit of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to Singapore.

Singapore, March 26, 2010.

Minister of External Affairs Shri S.M. Krishna paid an official visit to Singapore from 24-26 March 2010, as part of the high-level bilateral interactions between the two countries.

2. During the visit, the Minister of External Affairs called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Professor S. Jayakumar, Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean and held talks with the Singapore Foreign Minister Mr. George Yeo. He also visited Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at the Institute of South East Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

3. In his meetings with Singapore leaders, the Minister of External Affairs discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on developments in the region. Minister for External Affairs also met the Indian community at a reception organised by the High Commissioner.



THAILAND**368. Statement by Official Spokesperson on developments in Thailand.****New Delhi, April 12, 2010.**

We are following developments taking place in Thailand and are in constant contact with our Mission in Bangkok. While these developments are related to internal political issues, we regret the loss of lives and convey our sympathies to the families of the deceased. We hope that all will exercise restraint to prevent any further loss of lives and political differences will be tackled peacefully through negotiations. We express our solidarity with people of Thailand during this difficult phase.



The spokesman was referring to massive pro-democracy, anti-government demonstrations in Bangkok which paralyzed the normal life in the country.

VIETNAM**369. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the consultations between Defence Minister A. K. Antony and Vietnamese Defence authorities on enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.****New Delhi, October 13, 2010.**

A day after the successful conclusion of the First ASEAN Plus Eight Defence Ministers' Meeting in Hanoi, in which India played a constructive role in defining the scope and objectives of the Forum, the Defence Minister Mr AK Antony today announced a slew of measures to expand defence cooperation with Vietnam. The measures were elaborated by Mr Antony at the bilateral meetings with the top Vietnamese leadership including the Defence Minister Gen Phung Quang Thanh and the Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.

Mr Antony said New Delhi will provide support to Vietnam to enhance and upgrade the capabilities of Services in general and Navy in particular. He said India will help Vietnam in its capacity building for repair and maintenance of its platforms. The Armies of the two countries will also cooperate in areas like IT and English Training of Vietnamese Army personnel. Both the armies will also have a joint training in mountain and jungle warfare in India next year. The two sides will work towards developing cooperation among defence institutes and establishing linkages for sharing experience and knowledge. Mr Antony also offered assistance to Vietnamese Forces in UN Peacekeeping operations, in which India has vast experience.

The two sides also discussed global and regional security issues. Mr Antony said Vietnam occupies a strategic position in New Delhi's policy priorities, both bilaterally as well as under its 'Look East Policy'.

Gen Thanh thanked India for its valuable contribution to make the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting a great success. He said India occupies a special position in Hanoi's foreign policy framework and noted 'we are indeed moved by your support'. He welcomed more port calls by the Indian Navy to Vietnam and offered maintenance and repair facilities at Vietnamese ports.

Mr Antony also extended an invitation to his Vietnamese counterpart to visit India next year.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - VI

(iii) WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

370. Joint Communiqué issued by the Ministers of the IBSA countries on the Situation in the Middle East.

Brasilia, April 15, 2010.

Please see Document No.88.



371. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the inauguration of the Conference organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs: "India and GCC Countries, Iraq and Iran: Emerging Security Perspectives".

New Delhi, November 20, 2010.

I thank the Indian Council of World Affairs for inviting me today to inaugurate this seminar on a subject of considerable relevance. The presence of a good number of scholars from many lands testifies to it.

I note that the organisers have riveted attention on the terra firma rather than on a body of water about whose nomenclature dictionaries are sought to be re-written. This is perhaps a good example of the art of evading choices and managing contradictions!

Our focus today is on eight countries that constitute a sub-set of the West Asian region. Their location and contiguities are relevant. Six of them (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) are members of a regional grouping - the Gulf Cooperation Council while the other two - Iran and Iraq - are physically in the sub-region and share commonalities with all others as also with some countries beyond the region.

Given the geography, security perceptions are unavoidably interlinked and turbulence within or around the area usually has a wider impact.

Some in this audience would recall the title of Ibn Khaldun's great work on history. It is Kitab al-Ibar (Book of Lessons). It would be no

exaggeration to say that in relation to our subject of discussion, lessons of history are of relevance. One of these, pertaining to the concept of dominance and exclusivity, is particularly note worthy. It can be dated to the arrival in the region of the Portuguese in 1498. They were followed by the Dutch who in turn were replaced by the British. The British dominance lasted till 1970. In the past four decades, various bilateral and multilateral, regional and extra-regional, combinations for security have been explored. Like the earlier versions, selectivity and exclusion rather than inclusion have been their dominant trait.

These perceptions have focused on military security aimed at ensuring the safety of the trade routes by sea; they remain a principal impulse for the littoral states as also for their trading partners the world over. An un-stated major premise is maintenance of political stability and, by implication, regime security. In a wider context, however, this view of security is limited and inadequate. A more holistic approach was articulated by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2001. 'We must,' he said, 'broaden our view of what is meant by peace and security. Peace means much more than the absence of war. Human security can no longer be understood in purely military terms. Rather, it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.'

In such a comprehensive framework, deficit on any of these counts would signal an element of insecurity. A holistic approach of this nature, essential for a fuller understanding of security and insecurity, is perhaps beyond the scope of this conference focused as it seems to be on a more traditional paradigm.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is evident that given the geo-political imperatives of these eight littoral states of the Persian Gulf, security perspectives and threat perceptions do not converge. Nevertheless, and in relation to this international waterway, some common elements can be discerned. In the first place, the concerned states want to prosper and avail of the benefits of development. Secondly, the Gulf lands are essential for the economic

health of the world since they are a principal source of hydrocarbon energy as well as a major market for industrial goods, technology and services, For these reasons, to use Curzon's phrase used in another context in 1903, 'the peace of these waters must be maintained'. Interestingly enough Gulf security, in the words of a Saudi scholar, 'was an external issue long before it was one among the Gulf states themselves'.

The essential ingredients of such a requirement would be (a) prevalence of conditions of peace and stability in the individual littoral states (b) freedom of access to, and outlet from, Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz (c) freedom of commercial shipping in international waters in the waterway (d) freedom to all states of the Gulf littoral to exploit their hydrocarbon and other natural resources and export them (e) avoidance of conflict that may impinge on the production of oil and gas and on the freedom of trade and shipping and (f) assurance that regional or extra-regional conditions do not impinge on any of these considerations.

In December last year a senior dignitary in the region described the objectives of Gulf diplomacy as 'mutual understanding, coexistence, good relations with our neighbours and the establishment of strong relations based on the principles of reciprocal advantage and the realisation of the good of all.' These principles by themselves are unexceptionable and widely subscribed to. The devil is in the un-stated major premise, and in threat perceptions that do not converge sufficiently.

The challenge, then, lies in seeking this convergence in areas of security, politics and economics and in developing procedures that would help bring it about. Experience shows that convergence is achieved only through a painstaking process of developing a (minimum) common threat perception, in maintaining it over time and in developing the mechanism for minimising risks to common security and maximising the benefits of cooperation. Such a process requires agreement on dialogue procedures.

Record shows that the resources of the region were initially controlled by extra-regional private commercial entities that had played a pioneering role in the discovery and development of these resources. They were

strongly supported by their governments. The process of establishing national control over these resources was at times torturous and painful. Eventually, however, the mindset of an earlier era gave way to the common sense approach of inter-dependence of the producer and the consumer. Access to resources thus became more relevant than physical control.

I mention this because some residual perceptions of the earlier period do at times cloud the market vision even now and need to be dispelled.

II

Friends

In this backdrop, I propose to explore answers to three questions: How does the prevailing situation affect India and Indian interests? What should India do to sustain and secure its interests? What could, and should, be the Indian contribution to the promotion of peace and security in the sub-region?

The strategic relevance of the sub-region to India has to be located geographically, historically and in economic terms. The distance from Mumbai to Basra is 1526 nautical miles while Bander Abbas and Dubai are in a radius of 1000 nautical miles. Contact through trade and movement of people has roots deep in history, testified to by archaeological finds and written record. Fascination with India is reflected in Kitab Ajaib al-Hind by Buzurg ibn Shahriyar of Ramhormuz, a tenth century collection of sailor's tales. Many proverbs pertaining to India are to be found in the colloquial language of the lower Gulf. Familiarity with India and Indians at individual and family levels, Mumbai-Hindustani, Mumbai-Biryani and Bollywood films contribute to it in good measure particularly in the GCC countries.

Given this proximity, it is hardly surprising that in the period after 1975 there has been a significant spurt in economic linkages between the region and India. Changed and changing requirements and capabilities have contributed to it and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. It is significant that given the affinities of the past and the experience of recent decades, the public and political establishments in the littoral states are India-friendly and Indian friendly.

The quantitative parameters of this relationship can be specified:

- We import over 63 per cent percent of our crude oil requirement from these eight countries of the Persian Gulf. Its worth in money terms, in 2009-10, stood at over \$ 49 billion. Given the rate of growth of the Indian economy, these figures can only go up in the future.
- These eight countries account for over 22 per cent of our total trade as of 2009-10 amounting to around \$ 105 billion. They account for a quarter of our imports totalling \$ 72 billion and 18 per cent of exports totalling around \$ 33 billion. Six of these eight countries, barring Oman and Bahrain, figure among the top 25 countries in terms of total trade.
- UAE is our top trading partner with a total trade of \$ 43.5 billion, ahead of China at \$ 42.4 billion and the US at 36.5 billion. It is our largest export destination accounting for 13 per cent of our exports amounting to \$ 24 billion and the second largest source of our imports after China, totalling \$ 19.5 billion.
- Saudi Arabia is our fourth largest trading partner with a trade of \$ 21 billion, and Iran our ninth largest trading partner at \$ 13.4 billion.
- An Indian non-immigrant workforce of around 6 million works in these countries, principally in the GCC states. Of these, 1.6 million are in Saudi Arabia and 1.2 million in the UAE. The composition of this workforce has changed over the years and many more professionals and specialised technical skills are to be found amongst them today. The remittances of this workforce, through banking channels, stands at around \$ 30 billion per annum. They help support six million families and contribute in some measure to economic activity in some of the states of the Indian Union.
- The two-way investment profile, modest at present, is expected to grow with the growth of the Indian economy. The GCC countries have become an important destination for Indian projects and IT services.

The sub-region is also within the security parameter of India and within the operational radius of the Indian Navy. The latter's participation in the anti-piracy operations in the Arabian Sea is a case in point. If needed, it can escort shipping and interdict forces hostile to it.

The focus of Indian interest therefore is, and would remain, on the desirability of having (a) friendly governments (b) regional peace and stability (c) access to oil and gas resources of the region (d) freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and through the Straits of Hormuz (e) continued market access for Indian trade, technology, investments and workforce and (f) security and welfare of the Indian workforce, particularly in times of distress emanating from disturbed local or regional conditions.

A state of preparedness for responding to other contingencies should also be catered for, in consonance with the developing dimensions of maritime security.

It would therefore be fair to opine that India is reasonably comfortable with the status quo. However, the apprehension of an unstable status quo also looms over the horizon. Misgivings about intentions motivate it; divergence of perceptions and policy about extra-regional politico-military presence adds to it; so does what had been called "an undeclared arms race." One may add to this disruptive challenges emanating from non-state actors and new technologies. The requirement clearly is to seek understandings and arrangements that would cater to the threat perceptions and essential interests of all regional and extra-regional stake holders and thus stabilise the regional situation on a longer term basis.

III

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the successes of the GCC, attempts to foster a comprehensive Gulf regional cooperation have a history of over three decades and are replete with failed strategies of local or global hegemony. There is therefore an imperative need for developing a security order that is seen as equitable by all the states concerned.

There are ideas and precedents elsewhere that can be drawn upon beneficially. Asian regionalism and community-building has remained, albeit unevenly, an important framework for cooperation and framework within the continent. We thus have strong regional organisations focused on constituent sub-regions such as ASEAN, GCC, SAARC, SCO, BIMSTEC and the MGC. The Asian Development Bank, in the context of East Asia, has characterised the challenges of regional cooperation as including "providing regional public goods, managing spillovers among economies, exercising Asia's influence in global economic forums, liberalising trade and investment, and helping to improve national policies in which the region has a vital stake".

It is evident, that these challenges exist in the Gulf region too, and that a Gulf regionalism that is outward looking, flexible and dynamic, consistent with regional diversity would contribute to regional and global welfare, peace and security. This would also enable these nations to take advantage of the opportunities emerging from enhanced economic integration, as also to face the common threats of terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, securing energy exports, security of sea lanes, tackling pandemics, natural disasters and others.

What could or should be the guiding principles of a Gulf regionalism that is in the interest of all regional and extra-regional stakeholders? A few of its essential ingredients can be mentioned:

It should not, in the first place, be exclusive or exclusionary. It should instead articulate an inclusive, open and transparent process of community building.

Secondly, it should not 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, an alliance or a group of nations.

Thirdly, soft regionalism based on informal dialogue and consultation mechanisms, consensus building and open structures would help in establishing cooperative and beneficial norms of state behaviour. And

Finally, it must not be seen as means to limit state sovereignty but as instrumentalities to address complex regional problems through cooperation and partnership.

Like in East Asia, Gulf regional cooperation and community building should include important stake-holders like India, China and Japan as also all other principal beneficiaries of energy supplies and open sealanes. A Persian Gulf littoral that is integrated through a web of regional cooperative structures will offer more opportunities for socio-economic advancement of its peoples and lay the foundation for eroding political rivalries and harsh nationalist impulses and for bringing about regional stability and peace.

For us in India, a "Look-West" policy towards this part of West Asia, aimed at engaging in this dynamic, would thus be as relevant for safeguarding and promoting India's interests as its Look-East policy that has been in place for some years.

I am confident that this conference would shed useful light on these perceptions and contribute to the effort. I wish it all success.

I thank Ambassador Devare for inviting me to inaugurate this Conference.



372. Valedictory Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Indian Council of World Affairs Seminar: 'India and the GCC, Iran and Iraq: Security Perspectives'.

New Delhi, November 21, 2010.

Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare, Director General, Indian Council for World Affairs,

Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary General, Association of Asian Scholars,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be joining you today for the ICWA-AAS Asian Relations Conference 2010. It is an honour to be addressing such a distinguished gathering of eminent scholars, diplomats and experts on the issue of India and GCC Countries, Iran and Iraq: Emerging Security Perspectives.

I wish to congratulate ICWA and AAS for the very important initiative in organizing the Asian Relations Conferences in 2009 and this year. With the economic, political, strategic and cultural focus in world affairs increasingly shifting towards the Asian Continent, it is entirely appropriate and timely that ICWA has sought to revive the buoyant and exhilarating spirit of the Asian Relations Conference held in March 1947 by ICWA itself, on the eve of India's independence, when India and the Asian Continent as a whole expressed a shared sense of the possibility and the potential of mutual cooperation for benefit of our peoples.

My address today is based on the following premises:

One, that India shares with the countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq the closest of civilizational, cultural and historical links;

Two, that these links have not been passive but active and alive throughout history and this dynamism energises the relationship even today;

Three, that we share an ocean that has been the pulsating heart of the world, economically and strategically, for over two millennia;

Four, that the dramatic economic growth in India and China and other countries of Asia promise to make this an Asian century;

Five, that the countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq will be fully a part of the Asian renaissance, given the growing demand from the rest of Asia for energy resources and investible finances, and in light of the increasing diversification and sophistication of West Asian economies as they seek to become financial and knowledge hubs not just of Asia but of the whole world;

Six, that as with Europe in the last century, intra-Asian interdependence will dramatically increase, and the costs of any forced disruption of these linkages will become higher.

Seven, as pressure on our resources increase, and even as science and technology progresses to overcome the challenges posed, India and the countries in its extended neighbourhood will increasingly have to forge common solutions to problems such as those of energy and

food security, water scarcity, climate change and instances of drought and flood, and rapid reactions to natural disasters.

Based on these premises, the following conclusions can be drawn: that our countries have a shared interest in the security of the sea lanes that link West Asia to the rest of the Continent; that stability in the countries of the region as well as of those abutting them - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia have a direct impact on GCC countries, Iran, Iraq and India, and must be an area of cooperation and consultation; that India is a natural partner for the GCC, Iran and Iraq given our rapid economic growth, and limitless opportunities as an investment destination, especially in the infrastructure sector; that our people-to-people exchanges are a largely untapped source of dynamism and strength for our partnership; that India's growing political, military, economic and cultural influence is welcomed in the West Asian region given that India plays a stabilizing role; and lastly, that our partnership would be of mutual benefit, both economically, and in the related realm of cooperation in security-related issues.

India's ties with the countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq have their origins in history and mythology. There were rich commercial links between the two sides as far back as the Harappan Civilization, and an unending stream of traders and philosophers, scholars and warriors, religious figures and pilgrims have strengthened the ties over the millennia, with scientific, cultural, religious and commercial exchanges that have influenced the lives of ordinary people on both sides. In our art and culture, our language and literature and cuisine, the impact of this interaction can be clearly seen even today. India was known as a source of products of daily life as well as luxuries; in fact the skilled Persian and Arab navigators and boatmakers who traveled to the Indian coast are said to have sourced wood for their boats from the Indian subcontinent. Indian ships carried pilgrims to Jeddah for the Haj pilgrimage. And as I said before, this is a living and dynamic interaction, underlined most starkly by the presence of over 5.5 million Indians in the region. Indians form the largest group of expatriates in each of the GCC countries and have contributed to the remarkable economic transformation of these countries in the last half century. Their

remittances to India are also significant. Given our mutual cultural comfort levels and history of interaction, I am confident that the linkages forged at the people-to-people level will further invigorate the vision we have for further enhancing our relationship.

Our economic ties provide a firm foundation for the future. In 2009-10, two way trade with just one GCC country - the UAE - was greater than our trade with China. Our trade with GCC as a whole was almost US\$100 billion last year. Add our trade with Iran and Iraq, which was over US\$13 billion and US\$ 7.5 bn respectively in 2009-10, and the strength of the economic relationship is clear. What is even more exciting is what the future promises. The GCC countries, Iran and Iraq already dominate India's imports of crude oil. As India's economy continues its growth of 8-10%, energy imports will inevitably increase, and geography, economics and history dictate that West Asia will remain a preferred partner. India and other Asian countries such as China will also remain major markets for energy exports from West Asia, which is planning to expand its oil production capacity substantially, from an already high base, by 2020. It has been estimated that the oil income of countries of the West Asia region would increase substantially over the next couple of decades; this accumulation of investible surplus provides a perfect match to India's investment needs, particularly in infrastructure (such as electricity generation, roads, telecom, ports, irrigation). The countries of the region have themselves been looking to diversify their investments for which they increasingly look at Asian countries. The countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq have emerged as hubs along what has been called a 'new silk route' linking the economies of West Asia to the fast-growing economies of East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia. In the new millennia, the mutual ties and interdependence between India and the countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq will only increase further.

The restoration of stability in Afghanistan and assistance to the people and Government of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic and prosperous society is in the common interest of all our countries. Recent history has taught us that no country is immune from the acts of terrorist and extremist groups, not even the countries that supported and financed them and continue to provide them safe havens

and sanctuaries. India's vision is for Afghanistan to reclaim its traditional role as an economic hub linking West and South Asia with Central Asia, through freer trade, transit, pipelines and movement of people. This is however only possible if the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan are respected, if the international community shows sustained commitment to defeating the terrorists and extremist groups, and if such groups are denied sanctuary and support beyond Afghanistan's borders.

Other issues where India's cooperation with GCC, Iran and Iraq is essential is countering terrorism, its linkages with narco- trafficking and organized crime, countering money laundering, and dealing with proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the threat of their falling into the hands of terrorists. In our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, where technology can be used for both good and ill, proactive and dynamic cooperation between the law-enforcement and security related organs is increasingly essential, because the threats posed by terrorist and criminal groups have the potential to undermine all our societies.

Maritime security and free and safe passage of trade, including oil and gas, is of vital concern not just to India and the countries of West Asia, but also to the rest of the world. The problems of piracy in the Indian Ocean has dramatically illustrated potential threats that we all face. India has expressed its readiness to play its part in combatting this menace with the international community under the leadership of the UN. In this, and related issues, India, with its enhanced capacity and ability, can help to play a stabilizing and reassuring role. India's role has been welcomed in the region: apart from India being seen as a neighbouring country, with historical and cultural commonalities, we are also viewed as non-hegemonistic, non-prescriptive and non-intrusive. This will stand us in good stead as we brace ourselves for the security challenges that are emerging this century, both traditional and non-traditional, both direct and those that indirectly flow from issues such as climate change, food insecurity and dealing with natural disasters. India has attempted to promote greater cooperation among Indian Ocean Rim States, which is

necessary to take advantage of the opportunities that have opened up for mutually beneficial cooperation. We have sought to encourage economic cooperation in the area through Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). India has also sought to give greater salience to initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

There is perhaps a need for creation of a permanent regional mechanism for dialogue and discussion in which countries of the region and others interested could participate. There are a number of regional initiatives such as the Manama dialogue, or those taken by different think-tanks, including the ICWA. It may however be necessary to consider a more expanded and structured mechanism which could discuss regional issues such as those of peace and stability, weapons proliferation, terrorism, counter-narcotics, etc.

Our most meaningful contribution to regional stability and security may come from enhancing mutually beneficial and high-level interaction. In the realm of economic linkages, creation of regional inter-bank clearance mechanisms, preferential and free trade agreements, regional energy markets and cooperation projects would be mutually beneficial and would enhance confidence. Politically, a greater commitment to dealing together with common problems such as the threat of terrorism and regional stability would send a powerful signal. In addition, countries of the region could give greater importance to enhancing the frequency and level of bilateral interactions, especially in the context of securing sea lanes and to counter piracy.

The issue of Palestine is of abiding concern to all of us. The rights of the Palestinian people remain to be achieved. This situation requires to be resolved at the earliest. Not only does it cause deep harm to the people there, it also has a negative resonance across the region and beyond. India remains convinced that a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question is achievable. We continue to extend our full support to the Palestinian people in realizing their aspirations for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State living side-by-side, and at peace with the State of Israel.

India's stand on the Iran nuclear issue has been consistent. We support the right of all States, including Iran, to peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with their international obligations. We also believe that the IAEA provides the best framework to address technical issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme. We continue to support the path of peaceful dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all issues among relevant countries.

While recognizing the growth of India and China, there are some who posit that this will inevitably lead to conflict and competition between the two, including in West Asia, given the increasing demand for energy and other resources. I believe that there is a fundamental flaw in this argument. It is precisely the fact that China and India share similar views on a number of issues of common concern - energy security, food security, climate change and trade liberalization, that avenues open up for cooperation and consultation for the common benefit of all our people.

India looks forward to an enhanced partnership with the countries of the GCC, Iran and Iraq. This is not only a strategic and economic imperative, but would also represent a natural progression from our historical and civilizational ties which have few, if any, parallels in the world.



IRAN**373. Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at IDSA-IPIS Strategic Dialogue on India and Iran: an enduring relationship.****New Delhi, July, 5, 2010.**

Shri N.S. Sisodia,

Ambassador Nabizadeh,

Dr. Mostafa Dolatyar and

the distinguished participants from India and Iran in this Strategic Dialogue.

2. Over the years, the IDSA-IPIS Dialogue has become an important forum for in-depth discussion on a wide range of issues concerning the bilateral, regional and global context of our relations with Iran. I am therefore delighted to be here this morning to deliver the keynote address of the IDSA-IPIS Dialogue. Your deliberations today will no doubt, provide important inputs and insights on the India-Iran interaction as also new thoughts and ideas on the future path of this relationship.

3. The question often asked is how we define the importance of Iran for India in strategic terms. I shall attempt to do so. First of all, Iran is part of what has been defined as India's "proximate neighbourhood"; secondly, it has a strategic position with a long coastline along the Persian Gulf, including the narrow entrance to the Gulf at the Straits of Hormuz - a region within the security parameter of India; thirdly, it is a major source of our energy and hydrocarbon supplies; fourthly, in a globalizing world where there are immense opportunities for Indian business and investment, and as both our societies seek socio-economic transformation, the scope for technical and economic cooperation with Iran is self-evident; fifthly, the threats we face from terrorism and extremism require intensified dialogue and cooperation between our two governments; and to round this off, we share many common interests in the multilateral sphere. The narrative of our relations against the background of our long-standing civilizational ties, is therefore one of fundamental complementarities and natural affinities.

4. It is certainly true that the civilizational relationship between India and Iran is unique in the world. Speaking in Tehran in 1958, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said that he doubted if there are any two countries in the wide world which have had such close and long historical contact as Iran and India. It is true that when we look at our monuments, our culture and our language, our cuisine and literature as also our intuitive societal reaction to the world around us, there is much that is in common between our two nations. And, where links between our two peoples are concerned, India and Iran are particularly blessed, because of the close people-to-people connection and constant interaction that has spanned centuries of trade and commerce and cultural exchanges and journeys of the mind. Most importantly, ties at the popular level remain vibrant, driven by not just businessmen, students and tourists but also the millions of people in both countries who may have never set foot in the other country, but are conscious of their rich shared heritage, and have an instinctive feeling of goodwill towards the other.

5. This then provides us the bedrock on which to build our contemporary relations. I would argue that the India-Iran relationship will become even more important with the inevitable rise of both India and Iran in this century, which has been dubbed by many as the Asian century. Most scholars foresee a resurgence of the Asian Continent, not just in economic terms, where India's economy is among the fastest growing in the world, but also in science and technology, in new and renewable energies, and in all the fields that are at the cutting edge of human innovation and progress.

6. The challenge we face is the following: First, how do our two countries grasp the strategic opportunities for cooperation between India and Iran? Second, how do we build a pragmatic, and therefore enduring relationship, rising above hoary ideological positions, ensuring that our multi-faceted ties are not held hostage to merely one or two issues? Thirdly, do we have the tools to leverage such a relationship to benefit our people and their standard of living, which is ultimately the goal of our foreign policy?

7. Let me say that India desires to promote and enhance relations with Iran in a way that serves the interests of our two countries. Our approach to Iran is embedded within the rationale that defines our foreign policy - our developmental priorities, our independent national interest, our commitment to multi-polarity over uni-polarity, our consciousness of the

inequities in the global order today. Our relations with Iran are a fundamental component of our 'Look West' policy in our immediate region, just as our 'Look East' policy has propelled our relations with the countries of ASEAN and East Asia.

8. If we consider the specific areas where our interests converge and potential for cooperation is the greatest, the most important is regional stability. India and Iran shared a common border till 1947. We are both neighbours of Afghanistan and Pakistan and have both long suffered from the threat of transnational terrorism emanating from beyond our borders. India, like Iran, is supportive of the efforts of the Afghan Government and people to build a democratic, pluralistic and peaceful Afghanistan. Neither of our countries wish to see the prospect of fundamentalist and extremist groups once again suppressing the aspirations of the Afghan people and forcing Afghanistan back to being a training ground and sanctuary for terrorist groups. Our vision of Afghanistan as a hub for economic activity, trade and transit linking South and Central Asia is shared by the Iranian side. India and Iran also share an interest in the stability of Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. It is but natural that our assessment of the regional situation is very similar. We need to move beyond mere articulation of positions as the Afghan conundrum deepens and could have a deleterious impact on our two countries and the region in case the forces of extremism and obscurantism are made arbiters of the fate of the Afghan people. Our cooperation and information sharing on counter-terrorism must be the subject of more intensive focus and attention in the future.

9. I had the pleasure of having detailed discussions with my Iranian counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister Fathollahi, during my visit to Tehran this February for Foreign Office Consultations. I sensed on many of the above issues, a convergence of views with my Iranian colleagues. I would today reiterate the need for structured, systematic and regular consultations with Iran on the situation in Afghanistan. It is also important that we build upon the progress already made on our joint cooperation projects in the region, and put in place mechanisms for carrying forward our cooperation in these areas. I would like to mention, in particular, the Chabahar Port Project, and the need for accelerating our joint efforts to fully realize the potential of the Port as well as the associated railway project. These are projects that are in the common interest of India, Iran and Afghanistan, but

also the countries of Central Asia. Improving the connectivity of Chabahar Port to the Zaranj-Delaram Highway (which was built with Indian assistance despite terrorist threats and with the sacrifice of Indian and Afghan lives, and has transformed the economy of Nimroz Province in Afghanistan) will open up the Indian market to Afghan agricultural and other exports. It will also help in combating the scourge of illicit drugs production and export which has affected Iran more than any other country, and assist the trade, transport and transit network of Iran. It will help India transport its goods, including humanitarian supplies, to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond.

This project is thus at the heart of the common vision that India and Iran have for Afghanistan and the region as a whole, of increased and easier flow of goods, and creation of a network of transport routes and energy pipelines that will bind our people together in an arc of stability, prosperity and peace. The International North South Corridor Project, which also includes Russia and the Central Asian Republics in addition to India and Iran, is also a concept awaiting operationalization on the ground. We would welcome greater interest on part of the Iranian Government and private sector in realizing these projects, which should be seen not only as commercial but also as strategic in nature, not just for India, but also for all the countries in the region.

10. Iran is a country extremely important to India from the perspective of energy security. There is a natural complementarity between the needs of energy-hungry India which hopes to grow at a rate of 8-10% in the coming years and Iran which is home to third largest proven oil reserves and second largest gas reserves. Iran is not only located relatively close to India permitting transportation of oil and gas at relatively low cost over sea as well as land, it also has the potential of being a transit country for supply of third country energy to India given its increasing links in this field with the landlocked countries of Central Asia. The Iran- Pakistan-India; Turkmenistan-Afghanistan- Pakistan-India and SAGE undersea pipeline projects deserve special mention in this regard. These projects, if realised, have the potential of making Iran an important element of a large energy corridor stretching from Central Asia to India. India has repeatedly made clear the fact that accessing energy resources from all parts of the world is absolutely critical to the continued growth of its economy and Iran has the potential to play an important role in this regard.

11. Economic relationships, including in the energy sector help develop further complementarities and interdependencies, which are, in the modern world, more valuable than any number of political sermons or speeches of goodwill. We must strive to nurture these relationships, with a strategic perspective in mind. Our bilateral Joint Commission, headed by our External Affairs Minister and the Iranian Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance, will be meeting from July 8-9 to discuss a range of bilateral issues which are of direct benefit to our two peoples. The Indian side looks forward to these discussions and the follow up meetings to instill fresh momentum in India-Iran relations, particularly in the strategic areas that I have identified above.

12. Another potential area of cooperation for our countries is in maritime security. Indian interest in the Indian Ocean region and the proximate neighbourhood of which both our countries are a part, focuses on the need for regional peace and stability, mutually beneficial relations with littoral states, accessibility of oil and gas resources, the freedom of navigation through the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Hormuz, and access to regional markets for our goods, technology, investment, labour and services. The Indian Ocean touches both our nations, and we cannot remain immune to the challenges that we face, including an increase in piracy off the coast of Africa, and beyond. We welcome suggestions from the Iranian side on how to carry forward a dialogue on cooperation in this area. We would welcome Iran's participation in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

13. I would like to briefly touch on the Iran nuclear issue. India's position on the issue has been consistent. We support the right of all States to undertake peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with their international obligations. We have conveyed to our interlocutors that all concerned should adopt a flexible approach to achieve a comprehensive solution to all issues. India has always supported dialogue and avoidance of confrontation.

14. The IAEA continues to provide the best framework for addressing technical issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme. We are justifiably concerned that the extra-territorial nature of certain unilateral

sanctions recently imposed by individual countries, with their restrictions on investment by third countries in Iran's energy sector, can have a direct and adverse impact on Indian companies and more importantly, on our energy security and our attempts to meet the development needs of our people.

15. As in the case of all multi-faceted, constructive relations between old friends, it is natural that we may have differences on one or the other issue, but I would submit that the areas of convergence far outweigh any differences. It is vital that we keep the larger picture of our relations in mind, in particular the strategic potential of our ties. I am confident that in the coming decade, the impulse in both our countries towards similar positions on a whole range of economic, political and strategic issues will remain strong. We are of the region and will belong here forever, even as outsiders come and go. Our region is, moreover, one that is rising, though yet to realize its full potential. It is in this long-term context that we must see India-Iran relations.

16. I look forward to carefully studying and learning from the outcome of your deliberations. I extend to our Iranian guests the warmest good wishes of the people and Government of India and through you to your leadership and your Government. The India - Iran relationship is good for the people of our two countries, for the region and for the world as a whole, and it is our historical responsibility to further enhance these relations.

Thank you.



374. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 16th session of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting.

New Delhi, July 9, 2010.

The 16th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on July 8-9, 2010.

The Session was co-chaired on the Iranian side by H.E. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Islamic Republic of Iran and on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. The meeting of the Joint Commission provided an opportunity to review bilateral economic and cultural cooperation. It was agreed that the next Session of the Joint Commission would be held in Tehran.

The following MoUs/Agreements were signed during the Joint Commission Meeting:

1. Air Services Agreement
2. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons
3. MoU on Cooperation in New & Renewable Energy
4. MoU on Cooperation in Small Scale Industry between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Iranian Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organisation (ISIPO)
5. Programme of Cooperation on Science & Technology
6. MoU on Cooperation between Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute of India (CPPRI) and Gorgan University of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (GUASNR)

During his visit, Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He also met Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor, and inaugurated a business seminar organized by FICCI on 'Investment Opportunities in Iran'. The business delegation accompanying Dr. Hosseini also held meetings with ASSOCHAM and CII.

India and Iran have been holding discussions at regular intervals on issues relating to economic cooperation under the aegis of the Joint Commission mechanism, which was established in July 1983. The last session of the Joint Commission was held in Tehran, Iran from October 30-November 2, 2008.



375. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi.

New Delhi, August 6, 2010.

At the invitation of Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi visited India for Foreign Office Consultations, held on August 6, 2010. The visit was part of the series of regular Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, covering, *inter alia*, bilateral cooperation, the regional situation including Afghanistan, and the menace of cross-border terrorism. During the visit, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister called on Hon'ble External Affairs Minister.



376. Media report on the summoning of the Iranian Ambassador to the Ministry of External Affairs to protest Iranian Supreme Leader's statement on Kashmir.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

India on November 19 summoned the Acting Iranian Ambassador to protest Tehran's observations on Kashmir even as New Delhi abstained from voting on a U.N. resolution, which alleged human rights violations in Iran, for the first time.

"Our decision on [abstaining from] the vote [on Iran] was made after due deliberation," said a Ministry of External Affairs official.

India issued a demarche to Iran, the third since June, after Iranian Supreme leader Ali Khamenei mentioned Kashmir in his message to Haj pilgrims. On all the three occasions, Iran called on the Muslim community to support the "struggle" in Kashmir and mentioned it with Gaza and Afghanistan.

In the latest instance, Mr. Khamenei said: "the major duties of the elite of the Islamic *Ummah* is to provide help to the Palestinian nation and the besieged people of Gaza, to sympathise and provide assistance to the nations of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Kashmir, to engage in struggle and resistance against the aggressions of the United States and the Zionist regime.

[Informed sources felt India needed to know whether there was any consistency in these statements coming from different wings of the Iranian power structure. Asked if India saw this stand as a setback, they felt the issue should be looked at in a "much larger perspective," especially because there was steady dialogue between both countries at high levels for the past one year and both sides were following up on the MoUs signed by them.]

"We attach high priority to our ties with Iran. We continue to pursue several projects such as development of the Chabar port, a link from there to Bam [a town on the Iranian-Afghan border] and the north-south

corridor project. None of them is under the purview of U.N. sanctions which, anyway, are not mandatory for members to observe. We are continuing discussions on them," media quoted an official source to say this.

Officials pointed out that this was not the first time such sentiments were expressed by the Iranian leadership and officials. Two demarches were served on Iran for similar comments by an official and a leader.

"There have been three such instances between June and November. There was this strain of opinion coming forth from Iran. So after due deliberation, the government decided to vote the way it did," they added.

[While 80 countries voted in favour of the resolution, 44 voted against it and 57 countries abstained. As compared to last year, six more countries voted in favour of the resolution. There was no consensus among Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) countries, pointed out the sources.]

[This item is based on the story published in *the Hindu* of November 20, 2010]



KUWAIT**377. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on the visit of a Kuwaiti Oil delegation.****New Delhi, September 28, 2010.**

Shri Mulri Deora, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and his counterpart from Kuwait Mr Sheikh Ahamad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah emphasized enhancing cooperation between the two countries in a meeting here today. Stating that India would like to further strengthen relationship with Kuwait, Shri Deora said that there are several areas where the two countries can work together in the oil and gas sector. These include long term arrangement of crude oil supply from Kuwait to India and mutual investments in various areas of hydrocarbon sector.

One of the important issues discussed was possible investment of Kuwait in the oil and gas sector particularly in petrochemical complexes and building of crude oil storage hub in India. Indian side invited participation of Kuwait in the E&P opportunities in India with the launch of ninth round of exploration blocks under new exploration licensing policy (NELP-IX) which India is launching soon. The talks also focused on participation of the companies of two companies together in E&P opportunities in third countries. India offered consultancy services of Engineers India Limited, a premier engineering and consultancy firm in the oil and gas sector. The cooperation in providing training facilities and building R&D facilities both in upstream and downstream sector were also deliberated. The two sides further discussed the offer of ONGC-TERI for bioremediation in Kuwait to clean up the soils affected by oil spills.

The bilateral meeting was also attended by Shri Sudhir Bhargava, Addl Secretary and other senior officers of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and oil PSUs CEOs from India. Kuwaiti delegation included Mr. Hussain Esmail, President, KPI and Mr. Yusuef Al-Qabandi, Deputy MD (International Marketing), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation among other senior officers and executives.

Earlier visiting Minister called on the Vice President Mohammed Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. He also met Minister of Information & Broadcasting Mrs Ambika Soni. The Kuwaiti delegation had detailed discussions with the top executives of Indian Oil and ONGC separately over last two days.



OMAN**378. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Gulf) on the visit of Foreign Minister of Oman.**

New Delhi, October 20, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to all of you. Let me introduce my good friend and colleague Mr. Rajiv Chander who is Joint Secretary (Gulf).

Later today we will welcome the Foreign Minister of Oman, His Excellency Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, who is coming on an official visit. He would be in India till the 22nd. An experienced diplomat and a senior leader, he has been the Foreign Minister of Oman since 1997.

The Foreign Minister and the External Affairs Minister would be holding delegation-level talks today; and would also be having a joint press interaction at 2000 hours today at Hyderabad House. They will be taking a few questions. All members of the media are cordially invited.

Besides delegation-level talks the visiting Foreign Minister would be calling on the Prime Minister of India tomorrow and would be meeting with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

We have very close, friendly, warm and issue-free relations with the Sultanate of Oman which date back many centuries. Our relationship has been underpinned by very close people-to-people contacts which have only grown over time.

India has always been one of the preferred destinations for Omanis for business, leisure, tourism and education. On the other hand Oman is home to over 550,000 people of Indian origin, some of who have been there for generations. Oman's population is 3.4 million. Therefore, Indians constitute a sizeable proportion of the population in Oman living and working happily side by side with their Omani brethren. No wonder we have over 125 flights every week between the two countries, and the frequency is likely to be enhanced in due course. I may add that people of Indian origin are held in very high esteem in Oman. They

have been contributing diligently and working vigorously in promoting peace, harmony, prosperity and development of Oman and relationship between our two countries.

Oman is one of our strategic partners and the ties are multidimensional. Our strategic dialogue with Oman dates back to 2002, and the seventh round of the Indo-Oman Strategic Consultative Group meeting was held in January 2009.

The ties have been nurtured by regular high-level attention. Prime Minister paid a landmark visit to Muscat in November 2008, which he described as a 'voyage of discovery'. He was accorded full state honours and received with exceptional warmth. Speaking at Muscat Prime Minister observed that India saw Oman as a "natural partner in progress".

This year we have already seen the visits of our Raksha Mantri and Commerce and Industry Minister to Oman. We have received the Minister of National Economy from Oman who came in July. Now we welcome the Foreign Minister who last paid a visit in December 2008.

During Prime Minister's visit to Oman, inter alia a MOU on establishing an 'India-Oman Joint Investment Fund' was concluded. The Fund would have a seed capital of 100 million dollars, and the amount can be raised to 1.5 billion dollars as per requirement. Detailed documents have already been signed in the presence of our Finance Minister and the visiting Omani Minister of National Economy on the 15 July, 2010. The Fund would be established in Mumbai, will operate out of Mumbai, and will be jointly managed by the State Bank of India and the Oman State General Reserve Fund.

At the same time, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and Advisor to H.M. the Sultan for Economic Planning, were entrusted with the responsibility by PM and Sultan Qaboos, to thrash out a blueprint to qualitatively raise our economic and business ties. The Committee chaired by them met twice and their report is awaited soon.

Trade and economic relations constitute one of the important pillars of our historical ties with Oman. In 2009 the non-oil trade increased 65% to \$ 3.3 billion. It is significant that in this period generally trade, because of the global economic issues had declined with most countries, but

with Oman 2009 it saw a sharp increase. Including oil, in 2009 our trade was 4.5 billion dollars and is maintaining an upwards trajectory. While on trade let me note that the GCC countries now have become the second largest global trading partner of India. In 2009 our trade with GCC countries was close to 100 billion dollars.

We also have established good institutional mechanisms to boost our important trade and economic relations. We have the Joint Commission meeting which is chaired by the Commerce and Industry Minister of India, and Omani Minister for Industry and Commerce. The sixth session of the Joint Commission meeting was held in Muscat in September 2010.

Significantly, we already have over 1500 India-Oman joint ventures covering 13 important socioeconomic sectors. Over 7.5 billion dollars have been invested, of which the Indian companies have contributed 4.5 billion dollars. As such sizeable Indian investments have flown into Oman.

One of the biggest public sector investments came from IFFCO which set up the Oman-India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) which is a billion dollar company. It was inaugurated in January 2006. Since then the entire production of fertilizers, both urea and ammonia, is imported by India.

Again late last year, Oman scaled up its stake in another billion dollar project, this time in Madhya Pradesh, called Bharat Oman Refinery Limited, to 26%. This year, Jindal Group has acquired one of the Omani steel companies for close to half a billion dollars. This is just to give you a flavour of the nature of our trade and economic ties.

By the same token, the Who's Who of Indian industries are already operating in Oman in vital sectors like oil and gas, mining, manufacturing, IT and telecom, power, energy, water, construction, healthcare, steel and tourism.

We have a slew of important agreements between the two countries which include the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, an extradition treaty, and a MOU on defence cooperation, amongst other important agreements.

I mentioned GCC. Oman is one of our most important partners in GCC. You are aware that GCC is home to a large section of the Indian expatriate community which is currently estimated at over 5.5 million. They remit something like 30 billion dollars every year back home. GCC is very important for us to meet our energy needs. About 75% of our crude requirements comes from GCC countries.

2010 is also a very important milestone in the history of Oman. It is being observed as the 40th anniversary of the renaissance under the visionary leadership of HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said.

As such we look forward to the important visit of the Foreign Minister of Oman. He will be holding wide-ranging discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations with External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. The two leaders will also discuss regional and multilateral issues of interest.

The visit marks the continuation of a very happy tradition of regular high-level exchanges which have been adding vigour and dynamism to our relations.

Thank you. We will be happy to take your questions pertaining to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Oman.

Question: Is any business delegation coming with the Foreign Minister? Are there going to be any business-level talk with the Indian business leaders?

Official Spokesperson: Thank you for the question. I would just like to draw your attention to the very recent visit, last month, for the sixth Joint Commission meeting of the Commerce and Industry Minister to Muscat. He was accompanied by a business delegation. JCM as you know, covers the entire gamut of the economic and commercial relationship. Talks also covered the SME sector and looked at various other facets.

Question: He is meeting the Prime Minister tomorrow, right? Is he carrying any letter from the Sultan of Oman? Secondly, can you highlight to us about the maritime relation in this regards because of this activity? You used to have lots of common meetings on the rim countries?

Joint Secretary (Gulf): As regards the call on the Prime Minister, I think it is entirely up to the Omani side if they have any message to convey to our Prime Minister. So, that is something which we will have to wait and see.

As regards the Indian Ocean Rim Association, there was a meeting which was held earlier this year. But in terms of any specifics as regards India and Oman, that may not be the central focus of the discussions over here. But this would form part of the discussions that we would have spread over the two days, starting and over tomorrow.

Official Spokesperson: Let me add that defence and security cooperation is again an important facet of our relationship with Oman.

Question: Sir, the Royal Navy of Oman had a proposal to train their technical sailors in the Indian Naval establishments in India. What is the status of that? **Joint Secretary (Gulf):** I would not be having a very specific response to that. But what I can tell you is that Raksha Mantri had visited in May of this year, and we also have a Joint Committee which has been set up under the MOU on Defence Cooperation. So, such questions of training, cooperation and other aspects of defence cooperation, deputation of defence personnel, these are part of the ongoing discussions that we have. But if you are interested in any specific aspect, we could get back to you on that.

Official Spokesperson: Under the MoU on Defence Cooperation we have regular port calls, exchanges, training and so on, between our countries. Rajiv mentioned that our Raksha Mantri had paid a very important visit. Also as he mentioned, we have constituted the Joint Military Committee meeting. The 4th round was held in Muscat in May 2010, which was co-chaired by our Defence Secretary and the Under Secretary for Defence of Oman.

Question: Sir, at one point there was a very active proposal of the Indian Air Force to buy slightly used fighters that the Omanis had - I think they were Mirage 2000s - and after some talk it got fizzled out. But apparently it has sort of come back again. Can you tell me where it stands right now? Also, there is a long-term proposal with the Indian Air Force to have a permanent airbase there. Where does that stand?

Official Spokesperson: I did mention that defence and security cooperation is an important facet of our ongoing cooperation. I have also mentioned about the recent visits and exchanges that we have had. Further details, if any, would be available with the Ministry of Defence.

Question: Has Oman or any of the other Islamic country asked any questions on Kashmir? Have there been enquiries? Have there been concerns?

Official Spokesperson: Let me refer to Oman here. We have a very important relationship with Oman. Oman has always been very understanding of our position on the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Thank you very much.



379. Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi Abdullah.

New Delhi, October 20, 2010

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you and welcome to the joint press interaction of Minister of External Affairs Shri S.M. Krishna, and His Excellency Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. First the External Affairs Minister would be making an opening statement. Next His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Oman will be addressing the media.

I would like to invite the Minister of External Affairs to please make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister of India: Your Excellency, the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Friends

I am extremely happy to have the privilege of welcoming to this interaction His Excellency Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible

for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, who is on an official visit to India at my invitation. I am also happy to note that we have just had a most useful exchange of views on various issues of mutual interest.

India and Oman have a historical relationship marked by warmth and cordiality which encompasses all aspects of our multi-dimensional strategic relationship. This relationship has been sustained over the years by regular high-level dialogue between our two friendly countries. The visit of His Excellency Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah is part of the happy tradition of regular high-level exchange of views in order to share our perceptions on issues of mutual interest and concern.

I conveyed to His Excellency Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah the warm greetings of the Government and people of India to the Sultanate and the friendly people of Oman on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Renaissance under the guidance of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said.

We had broad-ranging discussions on recent developments in our bilateral relations especially in the economic and commercial fields where our relationship has grown exponentially in the last few years. Our bilateral trade now amounts to US\$ 4.5 billion and we share bilateral investments worth US\$ 7.53 billion stretching across 13 sectors. There are around 1,537 joint ventures between our two countries. Oman is also one of the few countries in the world with which India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a joint investment fund. Through this mechanism, we also aim to channelise further investment in each other's economies for the benefit of our people.

The last few years have also seen enormous progress in our political understanding and dialogue, security & defence relationship and in people to people exchanges.

I also made use of this opportunity to express the appreciation and thanks of the Government of India to the Sultanate of Oman for being such a fine hosts to over 550,000 Indian nationals living in Oman. Through their hard work and dedication, they have enriched our excellent bilateral relations. They also serve as a vital link between our two countries.

I wish His Excellency Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah and the friendly people of Oman well in all their future endeavours.

I would now like to request my esteemed colleague, the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman to address the media. Thank you.

Foreign Minister of Oman: Good evening. It is a great pleasure for me to be here in New Delhi. Since we have arrived, we have received warm welcome and have got this opportunity to exchange views with my colleague S.M. Krishna on bilateral matters and the general view of the relationship between Sultanate of Oman and India. We always feel at home when we are in any part of India, particularly in this region and the southern India.

The links historically between Oman and India go deep into the history. That is reflected in our Oman. We are grateful for all the assistance India and the people of India have offered to the Sultanate of Oman to maintain this very ancient relationship between Oman and India not only in terms of business but much more in terms of culture. The culture which has linked Oman and India has been affected positively on this relationship. Indeed we are looking forward to maintaining and building on what we have already achieved.

I have had the opportunity to congratulate India through His Excellency on the success of the Commonwealth Games as well as on India succeeding in getting a seat in the Security Council of the United Nations. We are very happy to see India in the Security Council. We strongly believe that India will play a very positive role through the Security Council in the coming years.

As His Excellency has said, we have discussed the relationship, the projects, the number of exchanges, the number of Indian citizen in Oman, and that it has gone through the period of the last forty years very smoothly with benefits to both countries. We are grateful for all the Indian citizens who have been in Oman and joined us in building a new era of Oman through the forty years of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. We have no doubt that India and Oman will continue on this work and we will work together to reach the objectives

as neighbours, as strategic partners, in every field. Therefore, this visit has offered to me the opportunities to exchange views. We are satisfied with the present level of relationship, but we are working to add more on what we have.

His Excellency has mentioned the Joint Investment Fund. We have done this as a result of the visits of the Prime Minister of India to Oman a few years ago and we hope to see this fund will also participate in joining efforts in helping India building the infrastructure which is going on now in India. Therefore, I look forward Excellency to see you in Oman so that we can continue our discussions once more. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Excellency, thank you. The Ministers will be happy to take a few questions. You are requested to please indicate whom the question is addressed to.

Question: India always praised the relation between Oman and India as natural strategic partners, and it has been built through the years. How do the Omanis look at this? How do they assess this kind of relation especially the current situation in the Gulf where we have the problem of security and regard to the piracy at one angle and also the turbulent region with the military build-up? Does the Omani Hon. Minister see any role for India in bringing security to this region?

Foreign Minister of Oman: Indeed India has a role to play in the security sector for simple reasons: (a) India has almost something like eight million people working in the GCC countries; and (b) India is a neighbor to the Gulf countries. India has always played a role of peace. So, when time comes to discuss real terms of putting up a security for the Gulf, in our view as a Member of the GCC we see India should be also invited. I have said India but also there are others. There is Iran, there is Iraq, there are the six members of the GCC, there is Pakistan, and there are others who have a great interest in the Gulf. I wish to say that the United States of America as well as a number of European countries, and China, and Russia, we cannot secure that important area of supplying energy to the world without collective efforts to maintain security and peace in the region.

Question: My question is addressed to EAM. What is the current status of India-Pakistan dialogue? When do you think the next round of dialogue would be possible?

External Affairs Minister: I think that question has been answered repeatedly. India believes that a dialogue and continuation of talks that were initiated by me when I went to Islamabad will have to be carried on. The talks were inconclusive. I have invited the Foreign Minister of Pakistan His Excellency Qureshi to visit India. He has accepted my invitation to visit India. Originally it was due to take place by the end of the year. But now I think it will happen hopefully in the first quarter of 2011, and we will take up where we left in Islamabad.

Question: My question is addressed to the Omani Foreign Minister. Sir, this is with reference to the Joint Investment Fund that both you and Mr. Krishna referred to. It was set up two years ago. I was wondering when it is likely to become operational. It had an initial corpus of 100 million dollars with the provision to increase it to 1.5 billion dollars. What is the timeframe for the increase, if there is any? If I could just ask one more question, which sectors of India are Omani companies looking to invest in?

Foreign Minister of Oman: That is, as you said, in place and its seed fund. This was suggested by the Hon. Prime Minister of India when he was in Oman a few years ago. And we agree that this is going to be invested both in Oman and India. But of course we would like very much that fund to participate in the infrastructure projects in India. This money which has been planned for is not the end of that Fund, but depends on the size of projects which the Fund would be addressing in India or in Oman. Besides, we believe that this will initiate public funds from the people to be also supported this Fund for larger projects, big projects, particularly in the road sector. And the power generation sector would be probably the first priority for the Fund and other investors.

Question: Sir, my question is for the EAM. Very recently, Lashkar terrorist David Headley's wife has made some revelations that she had informed the US agencies in advance much before Headley's terror links. This also indicates that perhaps US had prior information on a possible attack in Mumbai, which eventually happened. Do you think, Sir, it casts a shadow on Indo-US Strategic partnership? And would this issue specifically be taken up in Obama's visit to India?

External Affairs Minister: India and USA are strategic partners. Our ties are multifaceted and have been transformed in recent years. We share a

common outlook on a host of issues including the scourge of terrorism, that confronts us all. Both sides have very good cooperation on matters of security and counter terrorism. We had received some general and non-specific information from the US Government, prior to the heinous terror attack on Mumbai in November 2008.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you, Sir. This brings the interaction to a close. Thank you for your presence. Goodnight!



PALESTINE

380. Statement issued by the Government of India on the incident involving boats carrying supplies for Gaza.

New Delhi, May 31, 2010.

India deplores the tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza. There can be no justification for such indiscriminate use of force, which we condemn. We extend our sympathies to the families of the dead and wounded. It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force.



The Gaza flotilla clash occurred in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, when Israeli naval forces seized a flotilla of six ships carrying international activists, known as the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla", who were planning to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian supplies. According to Israeli sources, IDF soldiers boarded the flotilla after it had declined to change its course to the port of Ashdod, where Israel had promised to inspect the aid and deliver non-banned items to Gaza. Of the six ships, aboard one, the Mavi Marmara, violence had ensued. Between nine and sixteen of its passengers were reported killed by Israeli soldiers who landed on the ship. Israel defended its actions, saying its soldiers were attacked with knives and metal bars. There were strong international reactions. Official responses varied from deep concern over the killings to strong condemnations. The UN Security Council formally condemned "those acts which resulted in the loss of lives". Many countries have called for international investigation.

381. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine.

New York, September 25, 2010

Please see Document No.143.



382. Statement by Dr.[Mrs] Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 51 - UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East' at the Fourth Committee of the 65th Session of the UNGA.

New York, November 2, 2010.

Please see Document No.725.



383. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative on Agenda Item 37 "Question of Palestine" at the UNGA.

New York, November 30, 2010.

Please see Document No.741.



SAUDI ARABIA**384. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Saudi journalists.****New Delhi, February 27, 2010.**

Q. 1. Hon. PM Both India and Saudi Arabia have hailed the visit of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah to New Delhi in January 2006 as a landmark development marking the start of strategic relations between the two countries. Today, nearly four years later, what is your assessment of the progress made in this reinvigorated partnership that was initiated as part of King Abdullah's 'Look East' policy? What are the most significant achievements so far?

Ans.: The visit of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to India as Chief Guest at our Republic Day in January 2006 was a landmark event. This was the first visit of a Saudi ruler to India after 50 years. The Delhi Declaration signed by His Majesty King Abdullah and me enshrined our commitment to pursue a common strategic vision for promoting regional peace and security and for the enhancement of our relations in the political, economic, security and cultural fields.

We have made considerable progress in realizing our vision to strengthen our bilateral partnership. There have been regular high level Ministerial exchanges as well as intensified interaction among the business community, academia and other sections of society. The meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission took place in November 2009, which has put in place an ambitious agenda for bilateral cooperation. Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner with two-way trade of over \$ 25 billion. The number of joint ventures in the Kingdom is over 500 with an estimated investment of over US\$ 2 billion. We welcome increased investments from Saudi Arabia into India especially in the infrastructure sector where mutually beneficial opportunities exist.

Q. 2. Please give me a brief synopsis of the talks that you intend to have with King Abdullah and other senior Saudi officials during your

visit to Saudi Arabia this month. The visit is significant for Riyadh since an Indian PM will be visiting the Kingdom after 28 years.

Ans.: India and Saudi Arabia belong to the same extended neighbourhood. In the Delhi Declaration, we had pledged to work together not just for our bilateral benefit, but also to promote peace, stability and security in the region and the world. Both King Abdullah and I reject the notion that any cause justifies wanton violence against innocent people. We are strong allies against the scourge of extremism and terrorism that affects global peace and security.

During my visit, I propose to discuss with King Abdullah how can we promote greater stability and security in the region. We also have a substantial agenda for the advancement of bilateral relations in diverse areas such as trade and investment, energy, defence and security, social and cultural cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges. I look forward to interacting with the members of the business community in Saudi Arabia and inviting them to be a partner in India's rapid socio-economic transformation through major infrastructure, energy, industry and services related projects.

Q. 3. Which are the agreements or MoUs, India will sign with the Kingdom during your visit? Please name them and spell out briefly the features of those agreements.

Ans.: Several cooperation agreements are likely to be signed during my visit which will represent a broad range of Indo-Saudi cooperation in the fields of economic cooperation, culture, science and technology and information technology. I am confident these will further enrich our close relations.

Q. 4. Your visit to the Kingdom takes place at a time when that region is in the midst of tension in Iran and also in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the US and the Western countries continuing to exert pressure on Iran over the nuclear issue. What role do you foresee India playing in this context in partnership with the Kingdom?

Ans.: We are witnessing significant geo-political developments, which will directly impact on the peace and stability in the region. All these issues need to be addressed through sustained efforts. I believe that

India and Saudi Arabia, as two major countries in the region, have an important stake and responsibility in this regard. In my dialogue with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, I propose to review the regional scenario, and discuss how we can work together to address the complex issues at hand.

Q. 5. How do you assess India's partnership with the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, when it comes to fighting terrorism? What collective measures India, with SAARC states and Gulf states, are taking to combat this evil?

Ans.: Terrorism remains the single biggest threat to peace, stability and to our progress. Global efforts are needed to defend the values of pluralism, peaceful co-existence and the rule of law. All the member countries of the GCC share India's concerns relating to extremism and terrorism. We reject the idea that any religion or cause can be used to justify violence against innocent people. We have institutionalised our cooperation with the Gulf countries by putting in place various security cooperation agreements, including extradition treaties.

SAARC as an organisation has committed itself to fighting terrorism. The SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting in February 2009 issued a Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism. Given the fact that today extremist and terrorist activities straddle South Asia and West Asia and constitute a grave threat to our peoples, I agree that the SAARC and GCC anti-terrorism efforts should be more effectively coordinated.

Q.6. Does India intend to conclude a defence pact with the Kingdom?

Ans.: We do not have a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia. Since the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to India four years ago, our defence ties have, however, diversified and become more substantial. We have exchanged visits of our service Chiefs and naval ships, and Saudi officers have participated in our training programmes, including at the prestigious National Defence College. We look forward to deepening our defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Q.7. There is concern in the Middle East about growing Indo-Israeli defense cooperation in recent times, which many fear could be at the expense of India's traditional support for Arab causes. How do you address this concern?

Ans.: I would submit that this concern is misplaced. Our relationship with no single country is at the expense of our relations with any other country. Indeed, India's relations with the countries in West Asia gives us the opportunity to interact in diverse ways with this very important region.

As far as India's support for Palestine is concerned, this is an article of faith for us. Our solidarity with the people of Palestine predates our independence. India supports a peaceful solution that would result in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Road Map and the relevant Security Council Resolutions. We also support the Arab Peace Plan.

I recently had the pleasure of hosting His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas and reiterating to him our steadfast support for Palestine and its people.

Q. 8. How do see the future relationship of India with Arab world?

Ans.: India's ties with the Arab world go back several millennia. While we recall our historic ties with great pride, we do recognize that relationships have to be constantly nourished and revitalized so that they respond to new realities and aspirations. India and the Arab world are witnessing a rapid modernization of their societies and economies. The India of today is vastly different from what we were at the time of our independence. The same is true of the Arab world.

There is no conflict of interest between us. To the contrary, our destinies are tied together and we have much to gain by intensifying our cooperation with each other. We have a huge stake in each other's success, and to that extent ours is a relationship that is of strategic importance.

I would like to see a much greater integration of our economies, higher flow of trade and investment, better connectivities and freer flow of ideas and people. This has in fact been our historical legacy, and we should revive that legacy. From our side, there are no impediments to a rapid, sustained and comprehensive expansion of relations between India and the Arab world.

Q.9. How can India play more active role in enhancing the dialogue between east and west? How do you view king Abdullah's initiative for the

interfaith dialogue which started in Madrid? What role can Indian Muslims can play to enhance the inter faith dialogue?

Ans.: India is a 5000 year old civilisation that today represents a confluence of religions, languages and cultures. We deeply value the principles of peaceful co-existence and harmony among nations. We will continue to work with all like-minded countries to create a just and equitable international order that is conducive to meeting the challenges of poverty, illiteracy and hunger.

We deeply appreciate and support the idea of an inter-faith dialogue. The knowledge of religious beliefs and practices of other people is important in itself and can foster greater understanding and tolerance. We have experience of this in our own country. Islam is an integral part of India's democratic and secular fabric. Muslims in India are part of our national mosaic, and have enriched our society. Like all other Indians, they enjoy the full protection of our laws, and the full rights guaranteed to every Indian under our Constitution.

Q. 10. Some 1.8 million Indians live and work in Saudi Arabia. What steps is your government taking for their welfare?

Ans.: We are extremely proud of the fact that the Indian community in the Gulf region has been contributing to the socio-economic development of the region. There are over 5 million Indian workers in the Gulf, of which almost 2 million live and work in Saudi Arabia alone. We are very grateful for the warm welcome they have received throughout the region.

The welfare of such a large overseas Indian community is a matter of high priority for my government. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, which we had set up six years ago, has worked tirelessly for the welfare of the Indian community in consultation with the host governments. The governments of several GCC countries have themselves set up mechanisms such as grievance redressal bodies and labour courts that are working closely with our officials. In addition, we have signed MoUs on labour and manpower with most of the GCC countries.

At the Indian end, we are in the process of reforming our own procedures, including better regulation of the recruitment process. We have also put in place arrangements in all Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, to respond

to workers' grievances. These include a 24-hour helpline, temporary shelters, counseling centres, and strengthened Community Welfare Wings in our diplomatic Missions.

Q.11. Your stated position is that while India is ready to keep talking to Pakistan, the stalled peace process can resume only if Islamabad acts against the alleged planners of the Mumbai attack. With the announcement of resumption of dialogue on secretaries level, does this considered a change in the government stand. What will be the basis of the forthcoming dialogue ?

Ans.: There is no change in our position. We seek a peaceful and normal relationship with Pakistan. We should be good neighbours. In that quest we have consistently sought to engage those in Pakistan who are ready to work with us. There is no alternative to dialogue to resolve the issues that divide us. Today the primary issue is terrorism.

Q.12. How serious is the Pakistan Taliban threat to India, especially to Jammu & Kashmir which has bubbled up again. How could the Kashmir issue be solved once and for all?

Ans.: As a neighbour, we cannot remain immune to the rise of extremism and terrorism in Pakistan, or on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Extremism and terrorism are major threats not only to India, but also to Pakistan, and all its other neighbours. It is in our collective interest that we resolutely oppose, resist and overcome terrorism and all those who nurture, sustain and give sanctuary to terrorists and extremist elements.

It is a fact that Jammu and Kashmir and its people have suffered repeatedly at the hands of terrorism from across the border. This has militated against the will of the people of the State, who have time and again voted in large numbers in democratic elections to unambiguously reject violence. We have taken several measures for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, and for its people to live in peace and harmony, as in the rest of the country. In so far as our dialogue with Pakistan is concerned, we are ready to discuss all issues with them in an atmosphere free from terrorism.



385. Statement issued by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

New Delhi, February 27, 2010.

I am leaving today on a bilateral visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

My visit carries special significance. I am conscious of the fact that this will be only the third visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia. I, therefore, have a vast agenda for discussions with the Saudi leadership.

My visit reflects the strong mutual desire of both countries to reinvigorate our relations, as manifested in His Majesty King Abdullah's historic visit to India in 2006 as the Chief Guest of our Republic Day celebrations. The Delhi Declaration that we signed on that occasion constitutes a valuable blueprint for our cooperation in the future.

The Gulf region is an area of vital importance for India's security and prosperity. India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have enjoyed special relations based on several millennia of civilisational and cultural linkages and people to people exchanges. The Kingdom is India's largest and most reliable supplier of our energy needs from the region. Saudi Arabia is home to an Indian community numbering about 1.8 million. As many as 165000 Indian pilgrims perform the Haj annually. Our trade and investment linkages have grown though they remain much below the potential of our two economies, and must be broad based.

I will have the honour of holding talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on how can we promote greater stability and security in the region, and impart a strategic character to our relations beyond the traditional areas of our cooperation. There is great scope for opening new frontiers of cooperation in the areas of security, defence, science and technology, space, human resources development and knowledge-based industries. I believe India and Saudi Arabia have much to gain by cooperating with each other in

combatting extremism and terrorism. I expect to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and other regional issues of mutual interest.

During my visit I look forward to addressing the distinguished members of the Majlis Al-Shura. A business delegation of CEOs is accompanying me, and I will address the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In addition, I will meet members of the Indian community.



386. Riyadh Declaration: 'A New Era of Strategic Partnership' issued at the end of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh, February 28, 2010.

At the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 13-15/3/1431H corresponding to February 27 - March 1, 2010.

During the visit, the Prime Minister of India addressed the Majlis Al-Shoura, and received the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Petroleum and Mineral Resources and Commerce and Industry. An honorary doctorate was conferred upon the Prime Minister by King Saud University.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh held in depth discussions on a wide range of issues in an atmosphere of utmost warmth, cordiality, friendship and transparency. They asserted that strong bilateral ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of India were to the benefit of their peoples and of all humanity.

The two leaders were unanimous that the visit of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to India in 2006, and the current visit of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia heralded a new era in Saudi-India relations, that

is in keeping with the changing realities and unfolding opportunities of the 21st century. This would be in accordance with the civilizational, historic and cultural links which bind them and their regions.

The two leaders reviewed the status of implementation of the historic Delhi Declaration signed on 27/12/1426H corresponding to 27 January 2006, and expressed their satisfaction at the steady expansion of Saudi-India relations since the signing of the Delhi Declaration. They re-emphasized the importance of full implementation of the Delhi Declaration through exchange of visits at the ministerial, official, business, academia, media and other levels.

Keeping in view the development of relations between the two countries, and the potential for their further growth, the two leaders decided to raise their cooperation to a strategic partnership covering security, economic, defence and political areas.

The two leaders reiterated their mutual desire to develop as knowledge-based economies based on advances in the areas of information technology, space science and other frontier technologies. They welcomed the agreements signed between the two sides in the field of Research and Education, Information Technology and Services, Science and Technology, and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of developing a broad-based economic partnership that reflects the ongoing transformation of their economies, and the changes such transformation are bringing about in the global economic order, including continuous coordination within the framework of the G-20 process. They welcomed the outcome of the 8th Session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation held in Riyadh in October, 2009.

The two leaders stressed on continuing to work towards strengthening their strategic partnership by meeting the two countries' vast requirements relating to infrastructure, energy and development, by augmenting the flow of their investments into each other's countries, and enhancing the bilateral trade in accordance with the potential and size of their economies. In this regard, the two leaders invited the private

sector in the two countries and the Saudi - India Business Council to increase their efforts to take advantage of the investment opportunities provided by the two countries.

The two leaders further emphasised the importance of strengthening the strategic energy partnership based on complementarity and interdependence, as outlined in the Delhi Declaration, including meeting India's increasing requirement of crude oil supplies, and identifying and implementing specific projects for cooperation including in the areas of new and renewable energy. India invited Saudi Arabia to participate in crude storage facilities in India. They directed the Joint Working Group on Energy to continue adopting all appropriate means to achieve the same.

The two leaders agreed on the role and importance of the youth in consolidating and strengthening the relations between their peoples, and directed the concerned authorities to prepare necessary programmes for activating this role in the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation in the educational field signed between the two countries in 2006, and also providing all necessary facilities to their students studying in both countries.

The two leaders mandated the Saudi-India Joint Commission to continue follow up of the implementation of this Declaration to build this strategic partnership.

The Prime Minister of India expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the excellent efforts made and services provided by the Saudi authorities to the Haj and Umra pilgrims from India.

The two leaders welcomed the level of existing cooperation in defence fields between the concerned authorities in the two countries, and agreed to continue strengthening this cooperation in a way that realizes their common interests.

The two leaders noted that tolerance, religious harmony and brotherhood, irrespective of faith or ethnic background, were part of the principles and values of both countries. These are the same principles advocated by the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for dialogue among different faiths and beliefs.

The two leaders renewed condemnation of the phenomena of terrorism, extremism and violence affirming that it is global and threatens all societies and is not linked to any race, color or belief. The international community must, therefore, resolutely combat terrorism. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in exchange of information relating to terrorist activities, money laundering, narcotics, arms and human trafficking, and develop joint strategies to combat these threats. They welcomed the signing of the Extradition Treaty and the Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

In the course of discussions on regional and international issues, the peace process in the Middle East was high on the agenda. The two leaders reviewed ongoing efforts and the latest developments, and expressed hope for the early resumption of the peace process in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Arab Peace Plan with a view to address all the key issues of the dispute comprehensively and within a definite timeframe leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestinian State, in accordance with the two state solution.

The two leaders emphasized that continued building of settlements by Israel constitutes a fundamental stumbling block for the peace process.

The two leaders emphasized the importance of regional and international efforts focusing on making the Middle East and Gulf Region free of all nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction

The two leaders reiterated their support for ongoing international efforts to resolve the issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme peacefully through dialogue and called for continuation of these efforts. They encouraged Iran to respond to those efforts in order to remove regional and international doubts about its nuclear programme, especially as these ensure the right of Iran and other countries to peaceful uses of nuclear energy according to the yardsticks and procedures of International Atomic Energy Agency and under its supervision.

The two leaders discussed the situation in Afghanistan and called for the preservation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and independence. They

expressed their full support for the efforts aimed at helping Afghanistan to develop its infrastructure and achieve social and economic development. They supported the efforts of the people of Afghanistan to achieve stability and security, protected from exploitation by the terrorist organizations, while upholding the values and principles of the Constitution of Afghanistan.

The two leaders discussed the situation in Iraq and expressed hope that the forthcoming elections will enable the people of Iraq to realize their aspirations by achieving security and stability, strengthening territorial integrity and consolidating its national unity on the principle of equality of rights and obligations among all Iraqis irrespective of their faith and sect.

The Prime Minister of India conveyed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during his official visit to the Kingdom.

Signed this Sunday, February 28, 2010 (14 Rabea Alawal, 1431H) in Riyadh.

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of the
Republic of India

Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
King of the Kingdom
of Saudi Arabia



387. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Majlis Al-Shura (Parliament).

Riyadh, March 1, 2010.

Your Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh,
Speaker of the Majlis Al-Shura,

Distinguished Members of the Majlis Al-Shura,

Distinguished Guests,

I am deeply grateful and privileged to have this opportunity to address the Majlis Al-Shura. This august body has come to symbolize participative governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Members of the Majlis Al-Shura have among them some of the best minds in the Kingdom, representing different segments of Saudi Arabia's rich culture and society. I am, therefore, deeply conscious of the honour done to me and to India by inviting me to address this august House.

Distinguished Members of the Majlis Al-Shura,

Saudi Arabia is the cradle of Islam and the land of the revelation of the Holy Quran. I have come to this ancient land with a message of peace, brotherhood and friendship. I bring to you the fraternal greetings of the people of India

.India regards Saudi Arabia as a pillar of stability in the Gulf region. Under the enlightened and sagacious leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Kingdom has taken rapid strides towards modernization. Its influence today extends far beyond the region.

As I stand before you, I am conscious of the wealth of history behind us, and the promise of a new partnership ahead of us.

We are two nations linked by the waterways of the Indian Ocean. Over 5,000 years ago, ships made with teak from Kerala freely traversed the waters of the Indian Ocean and linked the people of Sindh, Gujarat and Malabar with the different ports of the Gulf and the Red Sea, going up to Basra and Alexandria.

Commercial enterprises and exchange of foodstuffs and cloth for dates and pearls provided the basis for the development of deep people-to-people ties. Indian townships mushroomed across the Gulf. Arab traders established themselves along the coastline of western India. Our languages were influenced by each other. These linkages, over several centuries, have left an indelible mark upon our culture and civilization. This is reflected in the natural empathy and sense of comfort we have when we meet each other.

Islam qualitatively changed the character and personality of the people in Arabia as it enriched the lives of millions of Indians who embraced this new faith. It is said that during the reign of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, Indian pilgrims constituted the largest movement of people by sea.

Indian Muslim scholars went to Mecca in order to learn Islamic theology. Arab Muslim scholars came to India to learn mathematics, science, astronomy and philosophy. These exchanges led to the widespread diffusion of knowledge in the sciences, arts, religion and philosophy.

Today, Islam is an integral part of India's nationhood and ethos and of the rich tapestry of its culture. India has made significant contributions to all aspects of Islamic civilization. Centres of Islamic learning in India have made a seminal contribution to Islamic and Arabic studies.

Our 160 million Muslims are contributing to our nation building efforts and have excelled in all walks of life. We are proud of our composite culture and of our tradition of different faiths and communities living together in harmony.

Distinguished Members,

The foundations of our relations in the modern era were laid during the visit of His Majesty King Saud to India in 1955 and Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to the Kingdom in 1956. These foundations were strengthened by the visit of Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi to Saudi Arabia in 1982.

The tone for our relations in the 21st century was set by the landmark visit to India of His Majesty King Abdullah in January 2006. The participation of His Majesty as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations was a matter of deep honour for the people of India.

The Delhi Declaration that I signed with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques enshrines our shared vision for a new relationship. Our two countries pledged to work not just for the development and prosperity of our peoples but for the security and peace of the region as a whole.

My dialogue with His Majesty yesterday and my meetings with the other distinguished leaders of this great country have led to the reaffirmation of our close ties and our common interests.

We have agreed to impart a strategic character to our relations, and have put in place a roadmap for bilateral economic, political and security related cooperation that will constitute the core of our relationship in the coming years.

Distinguished Members,

India is in the midst of rapid socio-economic transformation. Over the last five years, our economy has grown at an average annual rate of 9 percent. Despite the global economic slowdown, we hope to achieve a growth rate of about 7.5 percent in the current financial year.

In the next 25 years we aspire to growth rates of between 9 to 10 per cent annually. This will enable us to lift millions of our people out of poverty and to transform India into one of the largest economies of the world. India looks to the future with confidence and hope.

Saudi Arabia is itself witnessing remarkable progress as the vision of its leaders to modernize and diversify its economy becomes a reality.

There is vast potential for cooperation between our two countries based on our inherent strengths and complementarities.

We seek Saudi investment in a range of sectors from infrastructure and manufacturing to the services and hospitality sector. Equally, Indian industry is ready to take advantage of the many opportunities that are opening up in the IT, banking, telecommunications, pharmaceutical and hydrocarbon sectors in Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom is one of India's major trading partners. Our bilateral trade has registered unprecedented growth in recent years and stood at over 25 billion US dollars in 2008-2009. We are looking at ways and means of expanding our traditionally strong collaboration in the energy sector.

Saudi Arabia is home to the largest Indian community abroad numbering about 1.8 million. Indian workers and professionals have participated in the extraordinary development of this region. Indeed, it would be difficult to identify a major project in this region with which Indians have not been involved in some way or the other.

As many as 165,000 Indian pilgrims perform Haj annually. This is the second largest group from any single country. A similar number perform the Umrah annually. We are grateful for the warm welcome that the Kingdom has given to the Indian community and to our pilgrims.

We have noted the high priority given to the development of human resources in the future development of Saudi Arabia. This fits in with our priority as well. We would like to see more contacts among our parliamentarians, scholars, scientists and students to renew the intellectual bonds between India and West Asia.

In addition to these areas of cooperation, there is scope for considerable expansion of our interactions in the political, defence and security spheres.

Distinguished Members,

West Asia is a vital part of India's extended neighbourhood. We have deep and intricate ties with the Gulf countries. We have a high stake in the peace and stability of the region. Neither the countries of the region nor the world can afford fresh turmoil. We sincerely hope that wisdom will prevail and that in the resolution of conflicts and differences, dialogue will triumph over confrontation.

There is no issue more important for peace and stability in the region than the question of Palestine. For far too long the brave people of Palestine have been denied their just, legitimate and inalienable rights, including most of all the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state. I wish to pay a special tribute to His Majesty for the initiatives he has taken to bring about a just settlement. We applaud and support the Arab Peace Initiative.

I take this opportunity of reiterating the principled, strong and consistent support of the government and people of India for the struggle of the Palestinian people. India has been making a contribution to the

development of the Palestinian economy and its human resources and we will continue to do so.

Distinguished Members,

Both our countries are today threatened by extremism and violence. The pursuit of terror in the name of religion or any other cause or grievance cannot be acceptable to civilized societies. It has no sanction in any religion. History teaches us that the scourge of terrorism must be confronted with determination and united effort.

Nowhere is this challenge greater than in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan have suffered for far too long. They deserve an atmosphere of peace and the opportunity to pursue a life of dignity and hope.

The government of Afghanistan needs the support of the international community in restoring peace and development in the country. The international community should support all sections of Afghan society who wish to work towards the emergence of Afghanistan as a modern, stable and sovereign nation. No sanctuary should be given to those who promote terror, violence or instability in the country.

India wishes to live in peace and friendship with its neighbours. I believe that all countries of South Asia should work to realize a common vision of peace and inclusive development for the region.

We seek cooperative relations with Pakistan. Our objective is a permanent peace because we recognise that we are bound together by a shared future. If there is cooperation between India and Pakistan, vast opportunities will open up for trade, travel and development that will create prosperity in both countries and in South Asia as a whole. But to realise this vision, Pakistan must act decisively against terrorism. If Pakistan cooperates with India, there is no problem that we cannot solve and we can walk the extra mile to open a new chapter in relations between our two countries.

Distinguished Members,

We live in a world where the interests of peoples and countries are intertwined. As two countries representing old civilizations, India and Saudi Arabia should work together to promote dialogue and peaceful co-existence among nations, religions and societies. We should work together as

partners in shaping the global discourse on issues such as energy security, food security, climate change and terrorism. We should cooperate to deal with regional challenges such as maritime security, piracy, narcotics, human trafficking and other non-traditional threats to security.

The Kingdom and the region are blessed with the benevolence and statesmanship of His Majesty King Abdullah. Our two peoples are desirous of peace and goodwill. Together, India and Saudi Arabia can become a potent moral force for a better world and for a more secure future for our children.

I thank you for your attention.



388. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the King Saud University.

Riyadh, March 1, 2010.

Your Excellency Dr. Khalid Mohammad Al Angari, Minister for Higher Education

Dr. Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al Othman, Rector of King Saud University

Members of the Faculty, Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am greatly honoured to address this distinguished gathering at the prestigious King Saud University. I recall my days as a university professor very fondly not least because of the opportunity it gave me to interact with inspiring young minds.

I wish to convey my deep appreciation to the King Saud University for conferring an Honorary Doctorate on me. I consider this as an exceptional honour bestowed on me by one of the premier centers of learning in the Arab world.

The University has been in the forefront of building a knowledge society. Its contribution in promoting fundamental human values, academic freedom, learning and innovation has been second to none.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Arab world has a long intellectual and educational tradition. History tells us that the Arabs translated and preserved teachings from Greece, India and Persia. It is these texts that inspired a mass movement in the field of education during the 12th century which produced great Arab mathematicians, scientists and scholars.

India's links with Saudi Arabia and the region go back several millennia. There were regular intellectual exchanges in various fields of human study. These linkages influenced our traditions of learning. Over the years, however, these links weakened and we need to revive such exchanges. The confluence of Arab and Asian ideas and culture will help us to rediscover each other and in the process enrich human civilization.

I am aware of the strong interest of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in the modernization of education infrastructure. We admire his vision for the development of human capital and for promoting a scientific temper among the youth while preserving cultural traditions.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have a similar vision for the development of education in our own country. Like Saudi Arabia, we too recognize the importance of education in social empowerment and progress. Almost 20% of the total expenditure of our current five year development Plan is earmarked for education. We are establishing 30 new Central Universities, of which half will be conceived as world-class institutions. We have laid equal emphasis on the development of our infrastructure for science and technology education. We have plans to build five more national institutes of science and more Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Information Technology.

We are keen to build our human resources for the next generation. Every year India produces among the largest number of scientists and engineers

in the world. We wish to expand India's knowledge economy and to build world class facilities for research and cutting edge science in the country.

I am happy that India and Saudi Arabia are seeking closer cooperation in the field of higher education. We signed a bilateral agreement for educational cooperation in 2006.

Yesterday His Majesty and I signed the Riyadh Declaration. In this Declaration we have paid special emphasis on the increasing role and importance of youth in consolidating relations between our two countries. We also reaffirmed our common desire to forge greater cooperation in the areas of education, culture, information technology and frontier areas of science and technology.

We would like to see greater number of students in our universities from Saudi Arabia. We are already receiving Saudi students under the prestigious "King Abdullah Scholarship Programme". These kinds of programmes should be expanded and popularized.

I am happy that the King Saud University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with one of the most prestigious institutions in India, the Indian Institute of Science. I hope that this will inspire similar collaborations between other centres of excellence in both countries.

I see many possibilities for cooperation in the area of human capital formation and skill development. We are both countries with young populations and our educational system should be geared to making every student employable. The knowledge economy offers many opportunities for creative young minds and we should collaborate in nurturing them.

I once again thank you for conferring this honour on me. I am continually inspired by the creativity, energy and dynamism of the younger generation. I wish all the students gathered here today good luck and continued success in the noble task of building this great country.

Thank you.



389. Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media onboard his special flight on way to New Delhi from Riyadh.

March 1, 2010.

Prime Minister: Dear friends, I just had a very productive and fruitful visit to Saudi Arabia. I have met all the top leaders starting with His Majesty King Abdullah, the Foreign Minister, the Oil and Minerals Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister. As a result of our interactions, we have agreed to upgrade the quality of our relationship to that of a strategic partnership and this strategic partnership will cover economic, trade and investment issues. Also it will include issues relating to energy security, investments in each other's country in upstream and downstream energy activities, investment in R&D in renewable energy resources and also it will cover issues relating to security cooperation in dealing with terrorism, strengthening arrangements for provision of information and intelligence.

Question: On whether solution of the Kashmir issue tops the foreign policy agenda of UPA II? If not then what is the main agenda? ,

Answer: UPA agenda is there for all to see. It is reproduced in the Congress Election Manifesto. That is the broad guideline of what we want to do. In improving of our relations with neighbours, living in a neighbourhood of peace and stability is a very important issue which we will be working hard upon. I do recognize there are difficulties but we have to bite the bullet.

Question: Today in Shura Council address also you had repeated your offer of walking that extra mile with Pakistan; this carries a lot of symbolism since you say that in a land which is seen as cradle of Islam, what are your hopes, as you just said improving relations with neighbours are very important?

Answer: Well I hope that the world community gets the right message that India is a victim of terrorism that we have a situation where our neighbour has promised unambiguously not to allow its territory for perpetrating terrorist attacks directed against India and yet, on the ground, progress has been rather nil. We are living today in an increasing interdependent world and whosoever I meet, the world leaders, I convey to them, that all

problems between India and Pakistan can be resolved through meaningful bilateral dialogue, if only Pakistan would take a more reasonable attitude in dealing with those terrorist elements who target our country.

Question: Now Saudi Arabia is also a victim of terrorism, and what is your assessment. Are the Saudis ready to support the Afghan issue, the Afpak question and our problem, to help with Pakistan?

Answer: My feeling is the Saudi Arabian leadership has a better understanding of the predicament that we face both in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. (interruption....inaudible) Well I can't say that but there is great deal of sympathy and support for India's point of view, that what we are asking is very reasonable

Question: Sir there has been a lot of concern over increase in petrol prices, will the government consider any rollback in petrol prices?

Answer: Any increase in prices does hurt some people. We have to take a long term view. We cannot save people from inflation. If we follow all along populist fiscal policies, sooner or later, these populist policies, if persisted with for a long time, will lead to erosion of the investment climate, will lead to erosion of our capacity to create new jobs, it will lead to the erosion of our ability to invest in our flagship programmes for the poor people so, we have to balance these factors. The increase in the fuel prices, the direct effect on the wholesale price index will be no more than 0.4 percent. There will be some escalation but my hope is now that the rabi crop is coming into the market, prices which have caused a great degree of concern,-- wheat, sugar, oilseeds, pulses, you will see some moderation and that the economy has the capacity to absorb this hike in oil prices without setting in motion an inflationary spiral.

Question: There are about 3000 young people who want to cross over the Line of Control, but there are now some political parties who want them to be turned back. I want to know your views about that?

Answer: Well any misguided young people, if they want to come back to the path of rectitude, we have to provide them an environment. At the same time, one has to recognize that the creation of these facilities also can be misused by terrorists, ideologically motivated people. So our task is to find practical ways and means to encourage those misguided young

people who have a change of heart to come back, to enable them to lead a life of dignity and self respect. At the same time, also to ensure that these facilities are not misused by hardcore terrorist elements who want to destabilize our country.

Question: One of the major problems which Indian community is facing in Saudi Arabia is labour issues. Any positive development in this regard?

Answer: Well at various levels, we have hinted at those issues, let me say that at all levels in the Kingdom, right from his Majesty to the various Ministers that I talked to, they showed great appreciation of the working of the Indian community. They described it as a honest community, a hard working community. So the Kingdom is very happy with the large presence of 1.8 million Indian citizens. There are of course problems, which our Embassy is there to address, and I am hoping that as a result of my visit, we have created an environment whereby when some representations have to be made to the Saudi authorities, they may take a more liberal view of the problems of the Indian workers. I have been successful in creating a climate of opinion to that direction.

Question: Given the primacy of place Saudi Arabia has with Pakistan, and given the fact that we are now in a strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia, do you think Saudi Arabia can be a credible interlocutor for some of the issues that we have with Pakistan?

Answer: Well I know Saudi Arabia has close relations with Pakistan. I did discuss the Indo-Pak relations with His Majesty on a one-to-one basis. I explained to him the role that terrorism, aided, abetted and inspired by Pakistan is playing in our country. And I did not ask for him to do anything other than to use his good offices to persuade Pakistan to desist from this path

*

*

*

*



390. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna, in Parliament on "Prime Minister's Visit to Saudi Arabia".

New Delhi, March 4, 2010.

I rise to inform this august House about the historic visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from February 27 to March 1, 2010 at the invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud.

2. The Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia took place 28 years after the last visit by an Indian Prime Minister, that of late Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1982. Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-powered delegation consisting of Ministers of Health and Family Welfare, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for External Affairs apart from senior officials.

3. Prime Minister was accorded an exceptionally warm welcome by the Saudi leadership. In a departure from protocol, the Prime Minister was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Defence and Aviation, Crown Prince Naif Bin Abdul Aziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Riyadh and members of the Saudi Cabinet. Prior to his talks with His Majesty King Abdullah a ceremonial arrival with an impressive Guard of Honour was held at His Majesty's residential Palace which is a rare honour. All these gestures reflected the special significance attached to the Prime Minister's visit by the highest levels of the Saudi leadership.

4. The Prime Minister's visit took place after the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah to India as Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations in 2006, when the Delhi Declaration was signed by both leaders.

5. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit provided an opportunity for the two leaders to review the progress in bilateral relations in recent years, and in particular the implementation of the Delhi Declaration. They also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest.

6. Saudi Arabia is an important country and a factor of stability in the region. It is the largest country and economy in the GCC. Economic ties constitute a solid foundation of our relations. Our bilateral trade has seen exponential growth exceeding US\$ 25 billion in 2008-09. Saudi Arabia is a reliable, valuable and major supplier of crude oil to India. We import about 20% of our energy requirements from Saudi Arabia which may be further increased over time to meet our energy and development needs. We have been assured of continued Saudi understanding and support in this regard.

7. The most important outcome of the visit was the signing of the historic Riyadh Declaration by the Prime Minister and His Majesty King Abdullah, in which India and Saudi Arabia decided to raise our cooperation to a strategic partnership covering security, economic, defence and political areas. In particular, both leaders emphasised the importance of strengthening the strategic energy partnership. It was also agreed that both sides would work towards meeting their vast requirements relating to infrastructure and development by augmenting the flow of investments into each other's countries.

8. The two leaders renewed their condemnation of the phenomena of terrorism, extremism and violence, affirming that it is global and threatens all societies and is not linked to any race, colour or belief. The international community must, therefore, resolutely combat terrorism. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in exchange of information relating to terrorist activities, money laundering, narcotics, arms and human trafficking, and develop joint strategies to combat these threats.

9. The Prime Minister conveyed our gratitude to the Saudi leadership for the arrangements made for Haj and Umrah pilgrims from India.

10. In addition, the following Agreements and MoUs were signed:

- i) Extradition Treaty;
- ii) Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons;
- iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology for cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

- iv) Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology and the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia; and
- v) A MOU on Cultural Cooperation between the respective Ministries of Culture.

11. Several other Agreements in the business, trade, research and education, media and information technology sectors were signed on the sidelines of the visit.

12. As a special gesture, the Prime Minister was invited to address the Majlis Al Shoura in Saudi Arabia. The prestigious Government University, the King Saud University, conferred an Honorary Doctorate on the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

13. A high powered CEOs delegation also accompanied the Prime Minister. They had productive interactions with their Saudi counterparts. There was significant interest in directing Saudi investible surpluses to our infrastructure sector and other mutually beneficial projects. The Prime Minister addressed captains of the Saudi business and industry.

14. The Prime Minister also interacted with a cross-section of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia, which numbers nearly 1.8 million and is the single largest population of Indian passport holders outside India. The Prime Minister applauded their hard work and assured them that their welfare was of paramount concern to us. The Saudi leadership expressed their deep appreciation for the contribution of the Indian community to the development of the Saudi economy.

15. The visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister was highly successful and has underscored the mutual desire of both countries to take our bilateral relation to a higher level.



391. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

New Delhi, April 12, 2010.

Today, Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari received HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to India from April 11-15, 2010. Both the leaders underscored the excellent state of bilateral relations, marked by historic and strong ties that are a part of our history and culture.

The two countries have forged a strategic partnership pursuant to the historic and landmark visits of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, to India in 2006, and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to Saudi Arabia this year.

The Vice President mentioned that given our common interests and concerns, our capabilities and needs, the two countries are poised for a qualitatively substantive and stronger relationship. Saudi Arabia figured prominently in India's energy security matrix, he added. The Vice President welcomed Saudi investments in Indian infrastructure. HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud emphasized the need for increasing economic and business interaction to promote greater mutual investments. He invited Indian business leaders to explore the Saudi market. He also acknowledged the stellar contribution made by the Indian community in the economic development of Saudi Arabia.

Both the leaders reiterated that extremism and terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, are inherently destructive and must be fought irrespective of their source with all available means.

Later in the day, HRH Prince Salman addressed the leaders of the Indian business community urging them to explore possibilities for trade and investment in the Kingdom. It was decided to exchange more business delegations between the two countries.

HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud also paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil.



SYRIA**392. Briefing by Secretary (East) Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's Visit to UAE and Syria.****New Delhi, November 19, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to all of you. You are aware that Rashtrapatiji, Hon. President of India, would be leaving very shortly on a state visit to United Arab Emirates and Syria. Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy is here to brief you on this very important visit of Rashtrapatiji. I would like to introduce two of my colleagues who have joined Secretary East. To her right is Mr. Rajiv Chander, Joint Secretary (Gulf) and to my left is Mr. Rajiv Sahare, Joint Secretary (WANA).

May I now invite Secretary (East) to please make her opening remarks?

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Thank you Vishnu and thank you friends for being here.

President of India Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil will be on a State visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) from November 21-29, 2010. While the UAE visit will be from November 21-25, the visit to Syria would be from November 26-29.

Rashtrapatiji's forthcoming State visit to UAE would be at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of UAE. It would be our Hon'ble President's first State visit to the Gulf region.

During the visit, apart from the President of UAE, she will be meeting the Vice President & PM of UAE & Ruler of Dubai; the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi & the Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, and the Ruler of Sharjah. Apart from Abu Dhabi, President will travel to Dubai and Sharjah. She is being accompanied by senior officials and a business delegation drawn from the leading industry associations.

India-UAE relations have been traditionally warm and friendly and based on continuity, trust and confidence without any irritants. India has had social and mercantile contacts with the Gulf and West Asian region since times immemorial. People-to-people contacts and barter trade have existed for centuries. India-UAE relations have flourished after the creation of the UAE Federation in 1971.

UAE is a significant trading and energy security partner. Indo-UAE trade, valued at US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, was valued at US\$ 43.4 billion in 2009-2010. UAE emerged as the top destination for India's export with 13.41% share of our total export in year 2009-10. UAE also ranks among the top five suppliers of crude oil to India.

There are more than 450 flights per week between various destinations in India and the UAE. Indians have emerged as important investors within the UAE, and the UAE has around US \$ 5 billion investment in India and is one of the biggest investors in terms of FDI.

The President will be addressing the captains of business and industry in UAE during her visit, both in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. In Sharjah, the President would be inaugurating the Indian Trade Exhibition Centre the objective of which is to promote two-way trade, tourism and investment between India and the UAE.

There is considerable goodwill for India in the UAE at all levels and our ties are multi-faceted and have benefited with the regular exchanges of high-level visits from both sides. Since the ninth Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) headed by EAM and the Foreign Minister of UAE, which took place in June 2007 at New Delhi, we have had more than 15 exchanges at Ministerial level between our two countries as well as the visit of Prime Minister and Vice President of UAE to India in March 2010.

The President will also be interacting with a wide cross section of the Indian community in UAE, which numbers nearly 1.75 million and is the largest expatriate community in the UAE whose role and contribution for the development of UAE is widely appreciated. The President will launch an Indian Workers' Resource Centre during her visit, which is designed to provide 24-hour helpline and counselling services to distressed workers. In addition, the President will inaugurate the premises of the Indian Islamic Centre in Abu Dhabi. In Dubai, she will be address the students and faculty of the Dubai International Academic City where several Indian educational institutions have their branches. In Abu Dhabi, the President will also interact with the students of the Abu Dhabi Indian School.

In the second leg of her tour, President will visit Syria from November 26-29 at the invitation of President Bashar Al Assad. Significantly, this will be the first Presidential visit to Syria from India.

India and Syria have ancient historical linkages dating back several millennia. Archaeological findings provide evidence of 4000 year old trade links between India and Syria and there are linkages between the Mauryan Empire and the contemporary rulers in Syria. It is said that Christianity and Islam reached the shores of India from this region.

President Assad paid a State visit to India in June 2008. The visit strengthened our bilateral political and economic ties. President's visit to Syria will provide the opportunity to carry forward our dialogue and engagement with the Syrian President and the leadership of Syria in all areas. Discussions will take place on bilateral issues - political, economic and cultural. Both sides will also explore investment opportunities in each other's country. On the regional and international front, Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and Syria's relations with its neighbours will be important segment of President's discussions.

India's engagement in the economic sphere has increased substantially in the aftermath of President Assad's visit: An IT Center is coming up with Indian assistance and would be functional soon; MECON is giving final shape to its feasibility study on utilization of phosphatic resources of Syria; the power project awarded to BHEL is partially funded by us through a US\$240 million Line of Credit; and Apollo International of India is up-grading a steel plant in Hama, for which we have extended a Line of Credit of US\$25 million

Our engagement in the hydrocarbon sector with Syria has been rewarding. OVL has investments in Al-Furat Petroleum Company and in Block-24 it has struck oil. OVL is now looking for other opportunities for oil exploration, making Syria important to our energy security. As Syria throws its market open and embarks on a massive development programme, there will be opportunities for India expanding economic links.

The two-way trade level stands at a modest \$530 million. The Indo-Syrian joint Commission that met in June this year has decided to work towards doubling the trade shortly. The visit will provide us an opportunity to strengthen economic relations, identify areas of mutually beneficial cooperation and to register our interest in sourcing phosphates, which would help us in our aim to achieve food security. The launching of

India-Syria Business Council during President's visit should also give further impetus to our economic relations.

President's engagements in Syria include a meeting with the President of Syria followed by delegation-level talks which are expected to cover bilateral relations, regional issues such as the MEPP and international issues as well. The President will, inter-alia, meet the Prime Minister of Syria, Eng. Mohammad Naji Otri and the Speaker of the Syrian Parliament - Mahmoud Al Abrash. President will address the Indian and local businessmen and launch the Syria-India Business Council. President would also be visiting the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo.

I think I have given you a broad outline of what the programme and what the meetings would be in both the countries. I will be happy to take your questions.

Question: Madam, Syria is one of the oldest ancient cultures in the world. Will any officials from the Culture Ministry also be accompanying the President?

Secretary (East): We are hoping to sign a cultural exchange programme with Syria on this visit. I am sure this will enhance our relations. This has already been negotiated between officials on the Indian side and the Syrian side. While we do not have specifically a delegation from the Culture Ministry, we will carry forward our discussions also on cultural cooperation.

Question: Madam, who all are accompanying the President?

Secretary (East): It is Mr. Bharat Singh Solanki, the Minister of State for Power; and Mr. K.A. Ismael from the Rajya Sabha; Mr. Vijay Bahadur Singh from the Lok Sabha, and Mrs. Masoom Noor from the Lok Sabha.

Question: Madam, you mentioned that the President is going to inaugurate the helpline. What would it cater to?

Secretary (East): This is a project which has been taken on through the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. And the idea is, given the very large number of workers, as you know in the Gulf overall we have over five million NRIs there and a very large majority of them I would say, on an average about 70 per cent in each of the Gulf countries, are people who

are working as workers in projects - both skilled and unskilled labour. They very often do run into problems with their contracts and they need to contact the Embassy in a hurry. They may be in distress, they may have injuries, they may need to be repatriated urgently, they may have a problem with the employer. One of the problems is, of course the Embassy is available and open, the Consular Offices are available, but there was the need felt for a 24 hour helpline so that they could call at any time, and for giving wide publicity taking out advertisements, advising them that you can call this number at any time once in 24 hours, funds will be made available for those in distress. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has undertaken a very wide-ranging programme. In fact, they will be calling in the Gulf Heads of Mission to discuss with them further how we can facilitate the life of our Indians there. There will be a meeting at the end of this month with all our Ambassadors here in Delhi. MEA and MOIA are working together on these programmes.

Question: So, in that issue 18 or 20 Punjabis were on death row in Dubai or Sharjah. Will there be any talk on them also? Even in the last month's meeting you were saying something.

Secretary (East): The matter is still sub judice in the sense that it is still being held in court. It is under appeal. We have provided legal counsel, we have facilitated visits by the family and others to these people. Taking it up with the Government or submitting a mercy petition would come at a later stage once we have exhausted all legal resources. But we are in touch with them and we are extending them all the necessary assistance.

Question: I just wanted to know the MEA and CAS stand over our claim to the United Nations Security Council membership. What has been their stand on Jammu and Kashmir?

Secretary (East): I will answer your second question first. Their stand has been that this is a bilateral issue to be settled by dialogue between India and Pakistan and they recognize our position. As far as the United Nations Security Council is concerned, both these countries supported our non-permanent membership and have expressed support for our permanent membership as well.



393. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to media on board her special flight on way to the UAE and Syria.

November 21, 2010.

Please see Document No.404.



394. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Press.

Damascus, November 27, 2010.

First of all I would like to say that I am very happy to be in Syria, a beautiful country and which like India is an inheritor of an ancient civilization.

I am visiting Syria to carry forward the dialogue that I had with President Assad when he visited India in June 2008. I have just concluded very constructive talks with President Assad and I am glad to share with the media the outcome of these discussions. The meeting today was held in a cordial atmosphere and covered bilateral matters, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

We are happy with the progress in India-Syria bilateral relations over the last few years, and are committed to further strengthening our ties.

The global economic downturn posed serious challenges since early 2008. Both India and Syria were affected, but have recovered and are confident of achieving higher rates of growth in the coming years. In Syria, this is the result of the pragmatic economic reforms being implemented under President Assad's leadership. Economic progress in the two countries would open up several new avenues for engagement between the industrialists and business communities of the two countries. In our discussions we recalled the decision taken at the bilateral Joint Commission that met in Damascus in June this year, to

double bilateral trade levels in the next 2 to 3 years and reaffirmed that this target should be achieved. The business delegation that is accompanying me would be discussing these new opportunities with their Syrian counterparts. The India-Syria Business Council to be launched tomorrow will focus on strengthening economic and commercial links. Areas that offer enormous potential for mutually advantageous co-operation are the phosphate sector and tourism.

One of the main reasons for economic engagement not having reached the potential is the lack of awareness of each others' requirements and capabilities. In the talks today, India has offered \$100 million Line of Credit to be used by Syria in sectors to be mutually agreed upon, keeping in view Syria's priorities. While this will be the third Line of Credit, the purpose behind this offer is to encourage Indian companies to involve themselves in developmental projects in Syria, which will give them good exposure to the Syrian market, and would also showcase to Syria the potential of Indian companies. This, I am confident, will lead to increased economic engagement.

The IT Centre for Excellence, a project of India-Syria co-operation agreed upon during President Assad's visit to India, will start functioning very soon. India looks forward to closer co-operation with Syria in fields such as IT and training in highly specialized fields. To facilitate this, as also for capacity building in other areas, the number of scholarships for Syria under the ITEC programme will be increased from the present 45 to 90. I call upon Syria to make full use of this offer.

A Cultural Exchange Programme and two agreements on co-operation between media organizations are being signed later today. These would facilitate greater flow of information and bring the people of the two countries closer.

India has consistently supported all just Arab causes. I would like to reiterate India's unwavering support for a lasting and comprehensive peace to the Middle East problem, based on relevant UN resolutions. I would also like to reiterate our strong support for Syria's legitimate right to the Golan Heights, and for its very early and full return to Syria.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Given the commitment of both sides, I am confident that in the coming years, relations between our two countries will continue to flourish. I would like to thank President Assad, the Government and the people of Syria for the great warmth and gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I wish the people of Syria a very prosperous and peaceful future.



395. Statement by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's engagements at Damascus.

Damascus, November 27, 2010.

As you are aware our President arrived in Damascus yesterday on a State Visit. As a special gesture, HE Syrian President Bashar Al Assad and First Lady Asma Al-Assad made a courtesy call on the President in the same evening. Earlier, President visited Ummayad Mosque which considered to be one of the oldest and largest mosques in the world. Significantly, the mosque also holds the relics of John the Baptist.

President commenced her official programme in Syria today with a ceremonial welcome accorded to her by President Bashar Al Assad at the picturesque Presidential Palace. There was a brief meeting between the two Presidents along with spouses. This was followed by delegation level talks led by both Presidents. From our side, Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power; Shri K.E. Ismail and Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, Hon'ble Members of Parliament; and Senior Officials participated in the talks. The Syrian side included Vice President Farouk Al-Shara; Foreign Minister Walid Al Moualem; Minister of Trade and Economy Lamia Marie Aasi; Minister for Presidential Affairs Monsour Azzam; Adviser to the President for Political and Media Affairs Bouthaina Shaaban and Senior Officials.

At the outset, President Assad extended a very warm welcome to President and the accompanying delegation. He said that this "first visit of the President is symbolic for every Syrian citizen and is a momentous occasion

in India-Syria bilateral ties" which both countries have been enjoying since the last six decades. He stated that India and Syria share common vision and have similar values and expressed hope that the visit would be fruitful in every way in strengthening the friendship and the historic ties between the two countries. This is indicative of the warm and cordial atmosphere in which the talks were held.

President Assad fondly recalled his visit to India in June 2008 which laid the foundation for further enhancement and strengthening of historical ties with India. Both leaders dwelt upon the strong civilisational linkages between the two countries dating back several millennia. Our President referred to her visit to the Ummayad Mosque which is a symbol of Syria's strong secular tradition which India shares as well. They underscored the need for further enhancing of the ties and strengthening the cooperation in all fields to take this relationship to a higher level.

The two leaders held wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. On the bilateral economic side, both leaders expressed deep satisfaction on the engagement between the two countries in the last two years which led to, inter alia, setting up of an IT Center of excellence in Damascus, a power plant being upgraded by BHEL, feasibility study on utilization of phosphates and upgradation of a steel plant. They also dwelt upon cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, particularly with reference to OVL's investments in oil exploration. President Assad also invited Indian expertise and companies in making Syria a pipeline hub by linking Central Asia, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Iran. Both sides discussed the possibility of long term arrangements for utilization of phosphate deposits in Syria for mutual benefit. Both sides also agreed to boost tourism in each other's country.

Responding to Syria's need for training and upgradation of its human resources in information technology, as also for capacity building in other areas, we offered to increase the number of scholarships under the ITEC Programme from the present 45 to 90.

Both sides also reviewed the level of trade which currently stands at US\$ 540 million and agreed to work towards increasing trade and commerce. In this regard, both sides welcomed the proposed launching of India-Syria Business Council tomorrow, which would focus on strengthening of

business and commercial relations. We offered a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit to be used by Syria in sectors mutually agreed upon. This was welcomed with great appreciation by the Syrian President. It would be pertinent to mention here that this would be the third line of credit extended by India; the earlier two being US\$ 240 million which is being utilized for upgradation of the Tishreen Power Plant and US\$ 25 million for upgradation of a steel plant in Hama by Apollo International of India. Both sides also discussed cooperation in frontier areas of science and technology such as bio-technology, information technology, pharmaceutical and food technology.

With regard to Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process, the Syrian side appreciated India's principled and unwavering support to the cause of Palestine and the Middle East. President reaffirmed "India's unwavering support for the Palestinian struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders side by side and at peace with Israel. India's solidarity with Palestine struggle for the realization of its fundamental rights is an article of faith for us and enjoys national consensus in India. India has and will always support the Palestinian people in their pursuit of their legitimate goals based on dignity."

President also reiterated India's support for the legitimate right of Syria to the Golan Heights and noted with appreciation the sober and peaceful approach Syria has adopted in addressing this issue.

Condemning incidents of terrorism as global phenomena, Syria reiterated its condemnation of the Mumbai terrorist attacks of 26.11.2008, of which the second anniversary was marked yesterday. Stating that extremism and terrorism must be contained, Syria renewed its support to India in this effort and offered to help in combating terrorism.

India appreciated Syria's support in our election to the Security Council for the term 2011-12 and welcomed Syria's support for India's membership as a permanent member to the expanded UN Security Council which was reiterated by President Assad.

The following three agreements were signed later this afternoon at the State Planning Commission, which would further enhance our bilateral ties:

- i) Executive Programme of Cultural Cooperation for the period 2010-2013, which envisages, inter alia, cooperation in the fields of cinema, archaeology, performing arts, libraries, exhibitions;
- ii) MOU of Cooperation between the Syrian Arab News Agency and the Press Trust of India for exchange of news, photographs and bilateral visits; and
- iii) MOU of Cooperation between Syrian General Directorate for Television and Radio and Prasar Bharati for exchange of TV and radio programmes, joint production of programmes and exchange of visits.



396. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet hosted in her honour by Syrian President Dr. Bashar al - Assad.

Damascus, November 27, 2010.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to express gratitude for the warmth with which we have been received and for the gracious hospitality extended to us. May I say that to be in your beautiful country is a wonderful experience. I bring to you and the friendly people of Syria, the very best wishes of the people of India.

India-Syria relations are marked by warmth, friendship and mutual respect. Our two countries are inheritors of ancient civilizations that have cherished and preserved their age old value systems, including respect for diversity and equal treatment for all religions. Our contacts go back at least 4000 years, when India used to send raw silk and spices to Syria, and receive in return gold and silk fabric. Our trading interaction through the ancient Silk route was accompanied with the awareness

about each other's culture and knowledge. These interactions have continued to the present day.

In the first half of the last century, both India and Syria were engaged resolutely in shaking off the yoke of colonialism. As independent nations from around the same time, we have been engaged actively in addressing the problems of our people. It is a matter of satisfaction that both our countries have achieved significant successes. India is hopeful of achieving 8.5 percent growth this year. As a national objective, India is committed to inclusive growth and is taking pro-active steps to ensure that no section of society is left behind.

I am glad to learn that the economic reforms launched in Syria under your guidance and leadership, have started yielding dividends. Your objective of working for a social market economy, is not much different from our approach of inclusive growth. The aim is to address poverty, even as we focus on rapid development.

There is scope for further strengthening of the multi-faceted relations between our two countries. The agreements that were signed today, US \$100 million Line of Credit extended by India, and the enhancement of scholarships for Syria under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, from the present level of 45 slots to 90 slots, would greatly facilitate this. I am also confident that the India-Syria Business Council to be launched tomorrow, will identify new areas for mutually beneficial economic engagement. Indian companies are already involved in the energy, petroleum and IT sectors, and are keenly looking forward to contributing and participating in Syria's development programme.

Excellency,

West Asia is of vital importance to us. We enjoy cultural and commercial links with countries in this region. 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 UN 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, side by side at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the

Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 and 1515. We have supported the Arab Peace Plan, which calls for withdrawal of Israel to pre-1967 borders, along with the recognition of Israel, and the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. We remain hopeful that the talks and negotiations would lead to a comprehensive peace process for the final resolution of the Middle East conflict.

I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for Syria's support for India's election to the UN Security Council for 2011-2012. Membership of the Security Council confers a special responsibility on us. During our forthcoming term in the Security Council, we will seek to discharge our duties and obligations constructively and objectively as a responsible member of the international community. We hope to work closely with other Member States for a balanced approach on peace and security issues. We highly appreciate the consistent support expressed by Syria for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

Excellency,

Ever since our arrival in your historic and beautiful country, we have been experiencing the feeling of friendship that the people of Syria have for India. I would like to wish you, Excellency and Madame Asma Al-Assad continued success in the coming years. I also wish the friendly people of Syria peace and prosperity. With our commitment to further strengthen bilateral contacts, India-Syria relations will continue to blossom in the coming years.

Thank you.



397. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Syrian - Indian Business Summit.

Damascus, November 28, 2010.

I am glad to participate in this important event which brings together the business communities of India and Syria. Bilateral trade links date back at least 4000 years. Apart from direct trade, Syria, in the centuries past, was the meeting point of traders from the East and the West and continues to be a hub in contemporary times. We should renew our focus on bilateral economic and commercial ties, which at current levels is far below potential. The Bilateral Joint Commission that met in Damascus in June this year, identified ways of strengthening these ties, including doubling bilateral trade levels in the next 2 to 3 years. We should now take it forward.

Both India and Syria are expanding economies that have successfully weathered the global economic crisis. This was possible due to an effective regulatory framework and a prudent monetary policy. Also, exposure to toxic assets and dependence on exports for growth was low. India is likely to register 8.5 percent growth in the current year, which should offer plenty of opportunities for the Syrian business community. I am confident that this growth rate will be sustained in the coming years also. I am glad to be informed that the Syrian economy has also been doing well, and that the outlook for the future is good. Syria is committed to economic reforms and has ambitious development plans, particularly in the infrastructure sector. I am sure that the India business delegation will identify several avenues to involve itself and contribute to Syria's developmental plans. Indian companies are already involved in the development programme of Syria. OVL is engaged in exploring for and production of oil; BHEL is putting up a power plant; and Apollo International is extending assistance in the modernization of the Steel Rolling Mill in Hama. MECON is close to completing a feasibility report on utilization of phosphatic resources of Syria. This, I am hopeful, would lead to greater Indian interest in this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over 13 centuries back, in 662 A.D. a Syrian scholar monk Severus Sebokht recognised with appreciation the skill of Indians in computing and said

'their computing ?? surpasses description'. By way of expressing gratitude to Sebokht for his prescient remarks, we are setting up an IT Centre of Excellence in Damascus. The Centre would become operational very soon. This would, no doubt, contribute to the growth of the IT sector in Syria.

An important item on the agenda for my talks with His Excellency President Assad was strengthening of bilateral, commercial and economic links. I was struck by the keen interest that President Assad evinced in this subject. I am thankful to him for the personal attention that he pays to relations with India. India and Syria are committed to inclusive growth or growth with social equity. The business community can and should contribute in this effort and the Governments would be happy to assist in this process, by creating a conducive environment.

FICCI and CII have signed MOUs with the Federation of Syrian Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Syrian Chamber of Industry respectively. These have facilitated frequent and closer contacts between the business communities of our two countries. Today we are launching the Syria-India Business Council. The formation of this Council would add to efforts to further strengthen trade and economic ties. I am confident that the Council will function effectively, will disseminate information on opportunities in the two countries, work closely with the Governments in addressing the specific problems that hinder the smooth flow of commerce and bring the business communities of the two countries closer, so that they become partners in development efforts. I extend felicitations to the two co-chairpersons Mr. V.R.S. Natarajan of India and Mr. Ali Khwanda of Syria and members of the Council, and wish them every success in what they are setting out to do.

I am sure that all of you would find the interaction that would follow this session fruitful. Let me wish the business persons every success in their efforts to see that the economic and commercial engagement between India and Syria further expands.



398. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception.

Damascus, November 28, 2010.

I am delighted to visit Syria, the cradle of civilization, and its capital Damascus, which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru described as a city where every stone tells a story of past history. I am happy to be amidst you this evening. I bring to you greetings and good wishes from India.

India and Syria share many things in common. Both countries are endowed with a rich heritage; we are pluralistic societies with secular credentials; we inherit a vibrant culture. Our time-tested links are civilizational, clocking almost four thousand years treaded via the Silk Route. We take pride in our traditional linkages. Moreover, India and Syria underwent similar experiences in the first half of the 20th Century, and through the sacrifice of their citizens, achieved independence from colonial rule around the same time. Since independence we have had close, friendly and cordial relations with Syria. That Syria highly regards our contribution to freedom movements all over the world is borne out in their decision, to name an important street here after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and one of the foremost freedom fighters of India, who supported such movements in Asia and Africa.

Since our arrival in Damascus, my delegation and I have been overwhelmed by Syrian warmth and friendliness. All of us fondly recall President Assad's visit to India in June 2008. We attach strong importance to our friendly relations with Syria. I had very cordial and fruitful talks with President Bashar al-Assad. To further enhance our traditional relations, a number of agreements were signed yesterday. I also had useful discussions with Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Naji Otri and Speaker Mr. Mahmoud al-Abrash.

India and Syria have weathered the global economic crisis. India is expecting to achieve a growth rate of 8.5 percent this year. I was glad to learn that the Syrian economy also has been doing quite well. In the two years between President Assad's visit to India and my visit here, we have made a conscious effort to enhance our economic cooperation. To cite a few cases, BHEL is carrying out a project in the power sector. Apollo

International is helping in the modernization of a steel rolling mill; an MOU has been concluded in October 2010 for cooperation in the phosphates sector; an IT Centre for Excellence is being set up in Damascus and will be functional very soon; and ONGC Videsh Limited has investments in the oil sector. Some Indian companies have forged joint ventures and long term contracts with their Syrian counterparts. I am happy to learn that Indian experts were involved in setting up of Syria's first cement plant some decades ago. The India-Syria Business Council launched today should prove to be useful in forging many more business ties. With both countries focusing on development, the future augurs well, and I am convinced that our relations will surely and steadily scale greater heights in the coming years, and that Indian companies will continue to contribute to the growth of the Syrian economy.

I am glad to learn that Indians are participating in many spheres and activities in Syria. Indian scientists in the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, have made valuable contributions to research. I will be visiting this facility tomorrow in Aleppo. Also Sisters from Missionaries of Charity from Kolkata are running 4 centres in Syria to take care of elderly persons. This evening I was happy to make a contribution to one of the Centres to enable it to enhance its facilities. I was very happy to meet them a few moments ago.

Fellow citizens, wherever my travels have taken me, I have always found Indian nationals commanding respect and assimilating with ease the milieu of the land and culture they live in. Syrian people are warm, friendly and hospitable. This should make it easy for you to adjust to the new environs, and contribute in whatever way you can to enrich Syrian society, and enhance friendly relations between India and Syria.

I convey to you my greetings and wish you all success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.



399. Statement by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's engagements in Damascus.

Damascus, November 28, 2010.

I am here to provide an update on the meetings and discussions held by our President since my last briefing yesterday. President met the Syrian Prime Minister, Mr. Naji Al Otri yesterday afternoon. The Syrian side included four cabinet ministers i.e. Minister of Industry Dr. Fouad Isa Al Jouni; Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources Sufian Alao; Minister of Electricity Dr. Ahmad Kussai Kayali; Minister for Presidential Affairs Mansour Azzam; and other senior officials. From our side, Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power; Shri K.E. Ismail and Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, Hon'ble Members of Parliament; and senior officials were present.

Prime Minister Otri extended a warm welcome to our President and noted that the diverse and historic bilateral relations have gathered a "new momentum", particularly in trade and economic relations, which PM Otri termed as 'important and strategic'. President thanked PM Otri and the Government of Syria for the excellent arrangements and warm welcome, and conveyed our Prime Minister's greetings. They reviewed the bilateral relations, our current economic engagement and explored new areas of cooperation.

PM Otri expressed satisfaction on the ongoing projects having India's participation and in particular mentioned the upgradation of Tishreen Power plant by BHEL, financed through our line of credit for US \$ 240 million and OVL's participation in exploration of hydrocarbons in Syria. PM Otri invited Indian companies to participate more in the 'expanding and promising' sectors of power and hydrocarbons. In response, MOS Power, Hon'ble Shri Bharatsinh Solanki conveyed our interest in power sector in Syria and said that PSUs like NTPC and Power Grid Corporation could be potential participants. PM Otri also sought Indian participation in phosphates and manufacturing of phosphate based fertilizers especially phosphoric acid. Our President said that long term arrangement for phosphates could be explored.

Our President and PM Otri discussed in detail the possibility of cooperation in agriculture and animal husbandry. The Syrian side also sought our participation in their railways and metro projects.

On cooperation in information technology, our President said that technical education and IT are key components to a knowledge economy and the IT centre for excellence in Damascus being set up by India would contribute towards it. India has strength in this sector and is willing to share it with Syria.

They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual importance particularly the Middle East Peace Process. Our President reiterated India's position of support to Palestine and to Syria on the Golan Heights.

In view of the enhanced engagement between India and Syria and the momentum generated by this visit, our President and PM Otri agreed that there should be more high level ministerial contacts to follow up all issues discussed during the visit. This was also suggested by H.E. President Bashar Al Assad in the meeting earlier. These could be in addition to regular meetings of the Joint Commission meetings chaired by the two Commerce Ministers.

In the evening, President Bashar Al Assad and the First Lady Asma Al Assad hosted a State Banquet in honour of our President and Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat. The banquet was attended by Syrian leaders and included the two Vice Presidents, the Speaker, and Ministers; senior Syrian government officials and representatives from the cultural, business and the civil society communities. You can observe from the banquet speeches, which have already been distributed to you, the warmth and cordiality in our relations.

Today, our President visited the Syrian Parliament and met the Speaker Mr. Mahmoud Al Abrash. From the Syrian side, five members of the People's Assembly, Minister for Presidential Affairs Mansour Azzam and other senior officials were present. They discussed cooperation between the parliamentary institutions of both countries, particularly in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Speaker informed our President that a Syria-India friendship group has been set up in the Syrian Parliament.

Our President visited a well known NGO "AAMAL" which provides excellent facilities for disabled children and helps them in rehabilitation. The institution also trains the trainers and families in these specialized fields. She was received by the First Madam Asma Al Assad who is also the chairperson

of this pioneer institute. President donated two million Syrian pounds (equivalent to Indian Rs.20 lakhs) for the activities of AAMAL.

In the afternoon, President attended the Syria-India 'Business Summit' and launched the India Syria Business Council. Syrian Minister for Trade and Economy Lamia Aasi was present and delivered an address at the event. You were present there and the copy of our President's address has also been circulated. As you may have noted, economic engagement between India and Syria and the ways and means to further enhance it was predominant in our discussions with the Syrian leadership at all levels. The launching of the Council would provide the forum and the platform to give a fillip to our economic and commercial relations.

I understand that FICCI has prepared a detailed report on their interactions with their counterparts in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Damascus during this visit.

In the evening, our President will meet the Indian community at a reception hosted by our Ambassador at Hotel Four Seasons. We have a small but active Indian community in Syria. There are approximately 1000 Indian nationals in Syria working in Indian companies, students pursuing religious studies, and officials of the Indian Army who are part of the UNDOF. Before the Indian Community reception, our President will meet the Sisters from Missionaries of Charity who have a number of old age homes in Syria. President would be making a donation of Syrian Pounds 1 million (approximately Rs. 10 lakhs) to meet the cost of equipment for their old age home in Aleppo.

Tomorrow, the President will conclude her State Visit to Syria. She will visit the International Centre for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo, another historical city in Syria. A number of Indian scientists are working at and closely associated with ICARDA. Dryland farming is an area of mutual interest.

I understand that ICARDA would be giving a presentation on ICARDA here. I am sure it would be of interest to all of you.



400. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil after completing her visit to the UAE and Syria on her special flight on way to New Delhi.

November 29, 2010..

I have just concluded a very successful visit to the United Arab Emirates and Syria, two friendly countries with whom we have enjoyed civilisational ties over the millennia. My visit reinforced these traditional bonds of friendship.

In my discussions with a broad section of the political leadership in the UAE and Syria, I had a useful exchange of views on a wide range of issues of common interest. There is deep appreciation of India's role in global affairs and acknowledgement of its growing importance.

The visit enabled me to put across to the leadership and business communities in both countries the possibilities and opportunities of increasing our economic engagement. The business delegation accompanying me had fruitful discussions with their counterparts. There is strong interest to explore the many complementarities that exist between our economies.

An important and, indeed, a very satisfying aspect of this visit was my interaction with a cross-section of the Indian community. It made me proud when I was told by the leadership of these countries as to how they valued the contributions of our countrymen. Their role adds another element of vitality to our relationship.

In the UAE, my meeting with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, was highly productive. We agreed that our bilateral multi-faceted relationship was progressing well, as also reflected by the fact that the UAE and India are each other's leading trading partners. We agreed on the need to further enhance our strategic partnership by focussing on areas such as education, science & technology, agriculture & food processing, energy security, desalination technology, regional security and many other potential areas for cooperation. Many of these would be addressed by the forthcoming

meeting in Abu Dhabi of the Joint Commission headed by the two Foreign Ministers.

It was agreed that to discuss the specific issue of UAE investments in India's petroleum sector, power generation and infrastructure projects, His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs would be visiting India at an early date.

In Dubai, I met the Vice President and the Prime Minister of UAE, the Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also reaffirmed the commitment of the UAE leadership to strengthen ties with India.

During my visit to Sharjah, the first ever by an Indian President, I was received by His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah. He was present in the function where I inaugurated the India Trade and Exhibition Centre that will work to further facilitate Indian business activity in the UAE and the region.

There was strong endorsement of India's candidature for a permanent seat on an expanded UN Security Council by the UAE leadership at the highest levels. My discussions with them on enhanced security cooperation, particularly to address issues relating to counter-terrorism and maritime security, were productive. Both sides now look forward to the early signing of the Agreement on Security Cooperation during the visit of the UAE Interior Minister to India at the invitation of our Union Home Minister.

In my meetings with the UAE leadership I had the occasion to convey our appreciation for their positive attitude towards the more than 1.75 million strong Indian community that has made the UAE their home. Indians, as the largest expatriate community in the UAE, have on their part been active contributors to the growth and development of the UAE, a fact appreciated by the UAE leadership.

I had numerous occasions to see the vibrant life of the Indian community - whether it was the visit to the Abu Dhabi Indian School; my inauguration of the Indian Islamic Centre whose foundation stone had been laid,

fortuitously by the first woman Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi; the function at the Indian Social & Cultural Centre in Abu Dhabi; and the India Club in Dubai where I inaugurated the Indian Workers Resource Centre meant to provide assistance to the large number of Indians working in the UAE. My visit to the Dubai International Academic City showed the growing footprint of Indian academic institutions in the UAE.

The second part of my journey was to Syria, where the entire leadership deeply appreciated the first Presidential visit from India. In the words of President Assad - the first visit was "symbolic for every Syrian citizen and a momentous occasion in India-Syria bilateral ties".

I had a number of meetings with President Bashar Al-Assad. We reviewed our bilateral ties since our last meeting in June 2008 when President Assad visited New Delhi. He expressed satisfaction on India's engagement in sectors of Power, Hydrocarbons, phosphates and the IT sector. President Assad invited Indian companies in making Syria a pipeline hub, by linking Central Asia, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Iran. We also discussed cooperation in bio-technology, pharmaceutical and food technology.

We reviewed the level of trade which currently stands at US\$ 540 million and agreed to work towards increasing it. India has offered a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit to be used by Syria in sectors to be mutually agreed upon. This was welcomed with great appreciation by the Syrian President.

I also had a fruitful meeting with the Syrian Prime Minister, Mohammad Naji Al-Otri, who invited India for enhanced engagement in the power, IT, oil and phosphate fertilizer sectors. We also agreed to explore areas of cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, railways and metro projects.

It was agreed that there should be more high-level ministerial contacts to follow up on all issues discussed during my visit. These could be in addition to regular meetings of the India-Syria Joint Commission.

President Assad reiterated Syria's support for a permanent seat for India in an expanded UN Security Council.

The Syrian leadership appreciated India's principled and continuous support to the cause of Palestine and the Middle East. I reaffirmed India's unwavering support for the Palestinian struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders side by side and at peace with Israel.

I also reaffirmed India's support for the legitimate right of Syria on the Golan Heights and noted with appreciation the sober and peaceful approach Syria has adopted in addressing this issue.

Syria reiterated its condemnation of the Mumbai terrorist attacks of 26 November 2008. Stating that extremism and terrorism must be contained, Syria renewed its support to India in this effort and offered to help in combating terrorism.

Three agreements were signed on the sidelines of my visit - two pertaining to cooperation in the field of media and one in field of culture, which would further enhance our bilateral ties. In addition, an MOU was signed setting up the India-Syria Business Council, which would focus on strengthening of business and commercial relations.

I also exchanged views with the Speaker of Syrian People's Assembly, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Abrash on the functioning of our respective Parliaments. We emphasized the importance of interaction between Parliamentarians in strengthening the relationship. He informed that an India-Syria Friendship Group has been set up in the Syrian Parliament.

I visited AAMAL, an institution for the physically challenged, run by the First Lady of Syria, Mrs. Asma Al-Assad and was very impressed with its work. I made a contribution of Two Million Syrian Pounds equivalent to Rupees twenty lakhs, to the institution.

I had an opportunity to meet the Indian community, which although small, is active and vibrant. I interacted with sisters from Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata, and donated One Million Syrian Pounds equivalent to Rupees ten lakhs, to one of their Centres, taking care of the elderly, to enhance its facilities.

Earlier today, I also paid a visit to the International Centre for Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo, another historic city in Syria. A number of Indian scientists are working in and are closely associated with ICARDA. Dryland farming is an area of great importance for global food security as well as for a second Green Revolution in India. As 40% of food production in our country is from dry land areas, the work being done in ICARDA would provide valuable inputs for improving our agriculture productivity and food production. ICARDA has agreed to my suggestion to take up, India specific research and development for which project assistance could be provided.

Overall, I am satisfied with my visit to the UAE and Syria, important countries in our extended neighbourhood. The momentum generated should take forward our bilateral relations with both these countries.

Like me, you too would have seen and experienced the affection and goodwill that exists for India in both the countries at all levels. I hope you enjoyed the trip and it was productive.

I thank all of you.



UAE**401. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Makhtoum.****New Delhi, March 11, 2010.**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Makhtoum, UAE Vice President & Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai paid a working visit to India on March 11, 2010. The visiting dignitary called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He was accompanied by HH Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, HE Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Head of Dubai Higher Committee for Financial Policy, HE Ms. Reem Ibrahim Al-Hashmi, Minister of State and other senior officials from UAE. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest to both countries were discussed, including greater collaboration in combating the menace of terrorism, and enhancing security cooperation. The two leaders also reviewed the state of bilateral relations in order to take the relationship between the two countries to a higher level, and to increase cooperation in technology, trade and investments so that the full potential existing in the two countries could be realized to their mutual advantage.

In 2009, UAE with \$ 45 billion bilateral trade has emerged as India's largest trading partner. Investments from the UAE also significantly increased, especially in the infrastructure sector.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed had earlier visited India in March 2007.



402. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-UAE Political Consultations.**New Delhi, September 21, 2010.**

India United Arab Emirates Political Consultations were held on 19th September 2010 in Abu Dhabi. The Indian side was led by Ms Vijayalatha Reddy, Secretary (East) and the UAE side by Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The high level consultations reviewed the current state of bilateral relations between India and the UAE. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the friendly relations based on historic links and agreed to intensify high level bilateral exchanges to consolidate the excellent relations. In this context the need for early convening of the Ministerial level India-UAE Joint Commission meeting was underscored. The sides also expressed satisfaction at the growth of trade and economic links particularly that they had become largest trading partners for each other. Discussions focused on UAE investments in the aviation, ports, telecommunications and oil and gas sectors. The Indian side proposed that the India-UAE Trade policy forum set up by the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade should be made more active. It requested more investment from the UAE in India especially in the infrastructural areas.

The two sides reviewed the status of proposed agreements, such as on Security cooperation, Transfer of sentenced persons, Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters etc. They agreed to expedite the conclusion of these agreements.

The sides exchanged views on major regional and global issues, including the middle-east peace process, reform of the United Nations, reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan etc. They noted similarity of perceptions and agreed to have regular consultations.

The two sides acknowledged the positive role of the Indian community in the development of India-UAE relations and the Indian side thanked the UAE side for protecting the welfare of the Indian community.



403. Briefing by Secretary (East) Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's Visit to UAE and Syria.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Please see Document No.392.



404 Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on way to the UAE and Syria.

November 21, 2010.

Today I commence my first official visit to the Gulf and the West Asia regions, with journeys to the United Arab Emirates and Syria. My visit will, I am confident, reaffirm India's interest to strengthen ties with countries in these regions, which are a part of our extended neighbourhood.

I am visiting the UAE at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. I will be meeting with a wide cross section of the UAE polity and society during my visit, which takes me to Dubai and Sharjah besides Abu Dhabi.

India has enjoyed historic, warm, friendly and multifaceted relations with the UAE. These relations stretch back over millennia and our civilisational links are well known. The Arabian Sea was the ancient highway across which our ancestors exchanged goods, ideas and much more. It is, therefore, no surprise that our ties which flourished through the ages have deepened and broadened in contemporary times. Since the creation of the UAE Federation in 1971, these links have been nurtured and sustained by exchange of high level visits.

Our relationship with the UAE is free of any irritants which enables us to focus on the many positives that define our relationship. I look forward to my discussions with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa, as well as other dignitaries, so that we can look at ways and means to further strengthen

our bilateral ties in order to realize the full potential that exists between our two friendly countries.

I will also be interacting with the business community, both Indian and local, in the UAE. Our bilateral trade which stood at a modest figure of around U.S. Dollars 180 million in the early seventies, is today valued at U.S. Dollars 43 billion, which makes the UAE one of our leading trade partners. While emphasizing the possibilities of further expanding our trade, I will highlight the tremendous scope for investing in India's infrastructure. Our fast growing stable economy with its strong fundamentals, makes India an attractive investment destination.

The UAE is one of our leading suppliers of crude oil, playing an important role in the energy security of India. As a country whose energy requirements will increase significantly in the years to come, continued co-operation in this sector is important.

In particular, I look forward to meeting with our countrymen who, thanks to the welcome and encouragement received from the host Government and people, have through their hard work and dedication, contributed to the development and well-being of the host country. Their positive contribution is no doubt a major factor behind the fact that the Indian community is the largest expatriate community in the UAE. My programme includes several elements, which would give me a glimpse of the various facets of the Indian community in the UAE. I would be interacting with the children of the Abu Dhabi Indian School and meeting with the students at the Dubai Academic City. I would also have the opportunity to inaugurate the new premises of the Indian Islamic Centre in Abu Dhabi. The welfare of the overseas Indian community, particularly our workers, is always uppermost in my mind. I am, therefore, happy that I will be inaugurating the Indian Workers' Resource Centre in Dubai.

In the second segment of my tour, I will be visiting Syria which will be the first Presidential visit from India. India and Syria enjoy traditionally friendly ties and cooperate actively in the UN and NAM. Significantly, Syria has expressed support for India's Permanent Membership of the UNSC. India, too, on its part, has always supported all just Arab causes, and has consistently supported the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, which remains occupied by Israel since 1967.

President Bashar Al Assad visited India in June 2008 when I had the opportunity to have an extensive dialogue with him on bilateral, regional and international issues. During my visit, I look forward to continuing discussions with President Assad (), with a view to further strengthening our ties. I will also be exchanging views with the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Syrian Assembly.

On the economic and business aspects, apart from discussing these with the Syrian leadership, I will be addressing Indian and Syrian business persons and launching the India-Syria Business Council. We seek to increase the level of our bilateral trade which stands at a modest U.S. Dollars 540 million. As Syria intends to open its markets and embark on massive development, there should be plenty of opportunities for India to expand its economic links. Syria is also important to us for our energy security. OVL already has investments there and is looking for more opportunities for oil exploration.

The Indian community in Syria though small compared to our presence in the Gulf countries, is participating in diverse activities in Syria. I will have an opportunity to meet and interact with them. I will be travelling to Aleppo - a historical city in Syria - to visit the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, where many Indian scientists are doing commendable work. I will also meet representatives of the Missionaries of Charity who are doing excellent work in Syria with older persons. I will be visiting AAMAL, a Syrian organization for the disabled managed by Mrs. Asma Al Assad, the First Lady of Syria,

India seeks to further reinforce relations with the UAE and Syria and, it is in this context, that I look forward to my visit to both these countries. I also hope that you have a good trip.

Thank You.



**405. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
at the Social and Cultural Centre.**

Abu Dhabi, November 22, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to visit the India Social and Cultural Centre, and address members of the Indian community. The global Indian Diaspora, spread across several continents has made India proud both by their contribution to the country of residence, and to their mother land - India.

Our trade links with the Arab world have seen Indian pearl traders reaching the shores of Dubai, Sharjah and Fujairah centuries ago. From there it has been a long journey for the community. Today, the Indian community is estimated to be around 1.75 million strong, making it the largest expatriate community in the UAE. Besides, with its presence in almost all spheres of economic activity, the Indian community has emerged as an important expatriate community for the host country. Be they skilled workers involved in the construction of modern high tech buildings, or professionals in the knowledge based sectors, or those in health care, hospitality and tourism, they have played a vital role in forging the abiding links between India and the UAE.

Let me congratulate each one of you for this contribution. You have earned a reputation for being disciplined, hard-working and law-abiding. You are a microcosm of India, reflective of its vibrant diversity and its talents. We are proud of your achievements. I am equally happy to note that the UAE Government has been extending support to the Indian community for its socio-cultural needs.

Over time, the profile of the Indian community in the Gulf is undergoing transformation. Though large numbers of Indian skilled workers were employed in the UAE in the 1990s as a result of the construction boom, gradually more and more professionals in the fields of finance, banking, insurance and information technology have gained employment in this friendly country. This transition in the profile of the Indian community is reflective of the UAE economy, which is gaining momentum in the knowledge-based service sector. By providing highly skilled service at a

competitive cost, your role has proved to be important for the UAE economy. Your sustained remittances over the years have contributed to the foreign exchange reserves of India. I would also like to mention that India is the biggest recipient of remittances by expatriates.

Despite the global economic downturn, the Indian economy has witnessed rapid and sustained growth rate. The macro-economic fundamentals are sound and we seek to further expand our growth. Our infrastructure financing needs are estimated to be 1 trillion US Dollars in the next five years. India offers a large and a growing market. The UAE is also going through a significant transformation. The space for India to play an increasing role in this transformation is widening. More employment avenues will open up in knowledge-based industries like IT, finance and insurance, as the UAE economy is bracing for a larger role by the service sector. This will ensure that there will be a demand for senior executives and professionals for some more years to come. I urge the Indian community to retune itself and remain responsive to the changing needs of this country. The UAE will remain as one of the largest trading partners for India and a gateway for Indian exports to the region.

I am also aware of the challenges and aspirations of the expatriate Indian community. The Government of India and the UAE Government are engaged in continuous dialogue on various matters concerning Indian labour. There is already an existing Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in India and the Ministry of Labour in the UAE. New schemes have been proposed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to ensure the welfare of Indian workers in the UAE. I am happy that during my visit, I will be launching, the Indian Workers' Resource Centre, to provide a 24 hour helpline and counseling services for Indian workers in the UAE. This will be an important step to take the grievance redressal mechanism to the doorsteps of the large number of Indians, who are in distress and in need of urgent assistance.

I am impressed by the Indian Social and Cultural Centre and its facilities. That the Indian community has accomplished this task of establishing an impressive institution, reflects a strong sense of responsibility you feel, as members of the Indian community. While financial status may provide materialistic comforts, it is a sense of belonging to a group, and being a

part of a cultural and social identity that generates a sense of well-being and satisfaction.

Let me congratulate the founding members of this institution for having envisaged a viable and a vibrant cultural centre for the benefit of the Indian community. I urge the President and the members of the Board of Trustees of this institution, to continue their earnest efforts in catering to the diverse needs of the Indian community. I would like to emphasize that each one of you as members of the vibrant Indian community has done India proud. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each one of you, for your contribution to strengthening our relations with the UAE. I wish you and members of your family all the very best.

Thank You.

Jai Hind!



406. Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy on President's engagements at Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi, November 22, 2010.

Shri Sailas Thangal, Director (XP): Good evening friends. Thank you for coming to this briefing today. We have with us Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy who would be briefing you on today's events. Let me also introduce officers on the dais. On the right of Secretary (East) is Ambassador of India to UAE Mr. M.K. Lokesh whom all of you I am sure, would know him. To the left of Secretary (East) is Mr. Rajeev Chander, Joint Secretary in-charge of Gulf Division, in the Ministry of External Affairs. Secretary (East) will be making opening remarks after which she will take few questions on the visit of Hon'ble President to UAE.

May I now request Secretary (East) to make the opening remarks please.

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Dear friends, thank you for making it convenient to come to this briefing.

Today, the President commenced her official programme in the UAE with a ceremonial welcome accorded to her by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE. This was immediately followed by talks and an official banquet hosted by H.H. the President in her honour. Several Ministers were present from the UAE side - Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Presidential Affairs, Foreign Minister, Education Minister and others.

The talks between the two leaders were warm and friendly reflecting the close ties between India and the UAE. Both leaders dwelt on the long tradition of friendship between the two peoples which are based on historical ties between the two countries. They emphasized the need to further develop and enhance this relationship to a new level of cooperation given the potential that exists.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the trade relationship had grown substantially resulting in both countries becoming the largest trading partners for each other in 2009-2010 with bilateral trade crossing the US\$ 43 billion mark.

Both leaders agreed to enhance the strategic relationship by focusing on areas such as education, science and technology, regional security and many other areas where there is potential for cooperation. They agreed that specific proposals in this regard should be taken up in detail at the forthcoming meeting in Abu Dhabi of the Joint Commission which is headed by the Foreign Ministers.

Another important area of cooperation discussed was that of food security where our President invited UAE investments in projects for enhancing agricultural production in India and especially in the area of food processing. This received a positive response from His Highness the UAE President who stated that this idea should be pursued.

Our President spoke of India's keenness to further strengthen our energy security ties with the UAE and invited their participation in both upstream and downstream activities in the petroleum sector in India which would further our energy security. The UAE side was also invited to invest in the infrastructure sector including in our railways.

The UAE Minister of Higher Education mentioned that there was an agreement between UAE and India on the plantation of palm trees in India. It was agreed that this could be useful in areas such as Rajasthan.

Another important proposal discussed related to the reduction of the present high costs of setting up of water desalination plants which would provide valuable water resources needed by UAE and by India. Our President's proposal that this could be the subject of a joint research project was welcomed by His Highness.

Discussions were also held on the need for enhanced security cooperation particularly to address issues relating to counter-terrorism and maritime security. Our President emphasized that the agreement on security cooperation should be signed as early as possible by the concerned Ministries on both sides.

The President thanked His Highness for UAE's support for India's recent election to the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council and sought continued support for a permanent seat for India in an expanded Security Council. His Highness stated that UAE would certainly support India, which had the right to be a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council.

Our President mentioned the contribution of the Indian community and the positive support extended to them by the UAE authorities. Our President expressed appreciation and thanked His Highness for his Government for extending many facilities to the large Indian community numbering around 1.75 million, which is the largest expatriate community in the UAE. The two leaders agreed that any issues with regard to the welfare of the Indian community, particularly the workers, should continue to be discussed by the UAE Ministry of Labour and the Indian Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and expressed confidence that these would be resolved and the processes to address these would be further strengthened and streamlined.

Thank you. That brings me to the end of this briefing. I will be happy to take some questions.

Question: Madam, you mentioned that the leaders agreed to develop the relations in various areas. Among the areas you mentioned was regional security. Could you be a little more specific as to what ideas were discussed where the two countries could cooperate with each other? Could you please put it in context?

Secretary (East): I think it was expressed as a desire to enlarge our cooperation in this area. It was mentioned as an area with potential cooperation. I have gone into detail that there is an agreement on security cooperation which is to be signed between our Home Ministry and the Interior Ministry here in UAE, and that will really spell out the details. In other words, cooperation exists. Our desire is that the cooperation should be enhanced and strengthened further.

Question: When is the agreement going to be signed?

Secretary (East): It is due to be signed. Our Home Minister has invited the Minister from the UAE to visit India for the signing of this agreement.

Question: Will it be done within this month?

Secretary (East): I cannot give you a timeframe, I am afraid.

Question: Is there any method of exchange of prisoners between India and UAE?

Secretary (East): No, but again there is an agreement under discussion on exchange of sentenced prisoners. That I believe is also at an advance stage.

Question: Regarding the palm trees, Kerala is one of the areas but Rajasthan is mentioned.

Secretary (East): I think the idea is that because palm trees grow very well in Arab countries, particularly in UAE and other areas, where there are dry desert conditions. And it may not necessarily be palm oil it could be date palms also. It is different varieties of palms that could do well in a desert climate.

Question: Regarding the invitation to invest in food security and agricultural sector, have you any concrete commitment from the UAE?

Secretary (East): I think the real issue which our President mentioned is that of course India has a great need for food security. The second issue is, less than two per cent of our food production goes into processed foods. So, the specific area mentioned was that we would welcome investment and cooperation in the area food processing. So, this would be an important

area, and of course whatever technical collaboration is possible on the overall issue of agricultural production.

Question: Madam, I have two questions. First, can you confirm that the UAE has backed India's bid to UN Security Council? And did the President of the UAE release a statement?

Secretary (East): Yes, I can confirm that there was support extended for India to occupy a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. What I have stated I will say it again. It was that His Highness stated that the UAE would certainly support India which had the right to be a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council. There was no statement that issued at the end of the meeting but this is what was stated at the meeting.

Question: Just a follow-up question about the food security issue. Is the Indian Government looking for investments into the research and development sector as well?

Secretary (East): We are looking for investment into all sectors, I can say that quite confidently.

Question: Related to food processing.

Secretary (East): That is right, but also to agricultural production. We already have some programmes going on with various countries in the area of agricultural production, how to increase yields, how to adopt more progressive methods, and how to increase productivity. We would certainly be interested in all of that given the fact that we have a very large population.

Question: What was said about furthering energy security?

Secretary (East): I think on energy security what we had said was that we recognize that the UAE is a very valuable partner in ensuring India's energy security. We had given out the figure, which I believe amounts to US\$ five billion last year, of import of crude from UAE. And the idea of inviting investment in the upstream and downstream sectors in the petrochemical industry would be to see how else we can collaborate besides the simple purchase of crude oil.

Question: Madam, you mentioned that there has been a 43 billion dollar trade between India and UAE. Does it include petroleum?

Secretary (East): It does. It includes the five billion dollars of petroleum as well. But if you look at the overall figure of 43 billion, five billion is only a small part. So, unlike what most people imagine, our trade with UAE is very multifaceted in many sectors. Actually, of that 43 billion, I believe we exported 24 billion dollars. So, it was a balanced trade. And in that fiscal year, 2009-10, we actually in fact had a positive trade balance with the UAE.

Thank you.



**407. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.**

Abu Dhabi, November 23, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to be amongst the members of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The UAE in general and Abu Dhabi in particular, have made astonishing economic progress within a generation. Abu Dhabi has been transformed from a fishing village to one of the most-modern metropolises of the world. This has been possible not only because of the oil wealth but also due to the farsighted and visionary policies of the rulers of this country, especially the founding father of UAE, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE has continued to make significant progress on the economic front and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has played a significant role in this regard.

The warmth with which I have been received in this country by its leaders reinforces my belief that our partnership will be an important element of the global economy in the years to come. Our prudent policies helped us to weather the effects of the economic crisis fairly well in comparison to other major economies. But we need to join hands to strengthen the current fragile recovery of the global economy.

India shares historical, trade and civilization links and cultural affinity with the entire Arab world, especially the United Arab Emirates. This makes us natural partners for the economic and social development of our respective countries. The Gulf region as a whole, is important for India not only because of geographical proximity and for meeting our energy needs, but also because of the large Indian Community, which is contributing to the growth of economic and business activities in the region, while acting as a bridge between us. The recent opening of the Sheikh Khalifa Special Economic Zone in Abu Dhabi will serve to enhance Indian economic presence in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

With an annual bilateral trade turnover of over US\$ 43 billion, India and the UAE are leading trade partners for each other. Considerable potential exists between the two countries for further enhancing the present level of trade and economic cooperation. The UAE has become a gateway for our trade with the rest of the region. Our trade relations are more or less balanced and encompass diverse products. There is an element of complementarity in our trade. These strong fundamentals should be taken advantage of, so as to substantially increase our trade volume. Trade exhibitions are excellent ways of showcasing each other's potential areas for increasing trade and investment. There are large infrastructural projects being undertaken in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the transport, communication and energy sectors. There are many competent companies in India, both in the private and public sectors, which are successfully executing such projects abroad. The representatives of some of these companies are present here today. I call upon the members of the Abu Dhabi Chamber to develop joint ventures with these companies to undertake projects here as well as in other countries. There is need for reactivating the India-UAE Joint Business Council and increase the frequency of exchange of delegations between our apex chambers of commerce and industry. India has already started negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and we are hopeful of finalizing it in the near future.

India has emerged as the fourth largest economy in the world on Purchasing Power Parity basis. It is a trillion dollar economy which is

vibrant and expanding. India's growth in the four years preceding the onset of the global financial crisis was around 9 percent. During the global economic crisis it came down to less than 7 percent. It is now expected to grow 8.5 percent in the current financial year and 9 percent in 2011-12. The strong fundamentals of our economy combined with a young population will continue to generate huge demand in every economic sector in India and especially in the area of infrastructure. India is an attractive destination for foreign investment. Therefore, it is only natural that we expect Abu Dhabi, being home to some of the largest sovereign funds in the world, to have a significant presence in the Indian economy. India has embarked upon an ambitious program of disinvestment in its public sector undertakings. India has a huge requirement for developing basic infrastructure like roads and ports, power generation and communications, among others. There are also a large number of Special Economic Zones in India that beckon UAE investors. I call upon the members of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote investments from the UAE to India, especially in the area of infrastructure which will be mutually beneficial.

I thank the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry for giving me this opportunity to meet with all of you. I hope that the Chamber will prove to be a catalyst in enhancing not only trade links, but also the more enduring partnership in long term investments and participation in each other's developmental efforts.

Wishing you all well, thank you.



**408. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
at the Indian Islamic Centre.**

Dubai, November 23, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to inaugurate the Indian Islamic Centre Abu Dhabi. The Center has an illustrious history. Its foundation stone was laid in 1982 by the then Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi, who strengthened the secular fabric of India, that we are privileged to witness today.

Historically, India has been the meeting place of diverse races and cultures. Indian civilization shared its richness with other cultures and was itself enriched by this interaction. The coming of Islam to India in the 8th century A.D., and its sustained interface with a vibrant civilization with deep cultural roots, had a profound impact in all spheres of life in India. The Islamic heritage of India is an integral part of Indian culture.

The immense contribution of the Arab world to our heritage is visible in our monuments, literature, language, administration, arts and culture. The translation of many Sanskrit works into the Arabic language during the second Abbasid period of the 8th century A.D., brought to the Arab world, the ancient wisdom of India. The Arabs evinced great interest in Hindu sciences, especially in medicine and astronomy. There was a process of cultural osmosis.

The founding fathers of modern India, recognizing the long-standing tradition of tolerance and respect for diversity so ingrained in our society, chose to enshrine these principles in the Constitution of free India. These have provided the underpinnings for our secular and democratic credentials and have served India well. Given the attempts that we see in the contemporary world to divide and discriminate against people on the basis of their religion, the foresight of our founding fathers more than 60 years ago is, indeed, remarkable. It is part of our core belief that religions are meant to bring peace and harmony amongst humanity, and should not be a source of strife and violence. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation said "I believe in absolute oneness of God and therefore also of humanity?..for me the different religions are beautiful flowers from the same garden or they are branches of the same majestic tree".

The Indian presence and influence has been a regular feature of the Arab landscape. Whether it was trade in pearls, which were the major produce of this region before the discovery of oil, or the export of Indian timber from which Arab dhows were constructed, the destinies of our two cultures have been closely intertwined. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is part of both the cultures in all of us, whether Arab or Indian. It is, indeed, very satisfying to see two old cultures forging new links while preserving old ones.

India and the UAE have much in common in their promotion of religious harmony and tolerance towards different shades of thoughts and beliefs. The rulers of this country have adopted benevolent policies, and provided generous support to Indian Community organizations belonging to all religions. I am happy that the Indian community has through its hard work and dedication over the decades contributed very positively to the development of the UAE. I understand that the UAE is home to many nationalities that are living in perfect harmony with each other. This "unity in diversity" is also a hallmark of our society.

The Indian Islamic Centre is a tribute to the collective efforts of community leaders. It is, indeed, a reflection of the strength of character of the Indian Diaspora, in nurturing its links with the mother country, while successfully adapting to the local conditions in the host countries. The Centre will no doubt, prove to be a valuable cultural bridge between the UAE and India, and stand as a symbol of our celebrated links. While inculcating pride among the community members about their Indian heritage, I hope the Centre will also serve to highlight among the Emirati community, the close and friendly ties between our two countries. I would like to commend the leaders of the community, whose hard work and dedication has made the Centre a reality.

Finally, warm words of thanks to our gracious hosts - the Government of the UAE. Their generous assistance has contributed to the realization of this project. I bring with me the greetings of the Government of India to the Government of the UAE and the greetings of the people of India to the people of the UAE.

I wish you well. Thank you.



**409. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
at the Indian Community Reception,.**

Dubai, November 23, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to meet all of you here today. You are all leading members of the Indian Community in the UAE, and your contribution in promoting ties between India and the UAE is greatly appreciated by the Government of India. At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Indian community to the growth and transformation of this country. In this regard, the role of Indian workers requires special mention, as do their problems and issues, which should receive our careful attention.

I thank the Ministry of Labor of the UAE Government for initiating many welfare measures to help our workers. The Government of India, under the leadership of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has initiated programmes for the welfare of Indian workers abroad, including the setting up of the Indian Community Welfare Fund. I am happy to launch today, the Indian Workers' Resource Center which, apart from assistance including counseling, will provide a 24-hour helpline for workers. I hope that the Indian community will extend all assistance to the Indian Mission in the UAE to enable this Center to fulfill its responsibilities.

India is a country with great vitality in political, economic, cultural, educational and other fields. This vitality emanates from our dynamic civilisational heritage. We can be proud that ours is one of the oldest continuous civilizations of the world. Its contribution to human advancement has been as phenomenal as its contribution to the evolution of thinking, and of philosophical approaches of the human race. Our culture has taught us to live with and respect diversity, and to be resilient in the face of adversity. Our adherence and commitment to 'unity in diversity' has strengthened our vitality. As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'a nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people'

The cultural exchange between India and West Asia has been going on for centuries, with each drawing from each other's strengths. In the pre-

colonial days, the Western coast of India, especially the Malabar Coast had been a major center of world trade. The extensive trade ties between India and the Arab world was reflected in Indian ships with Indian sailors sailing along the Arabian Sea and to the Red Sea, carrying Indian goods which were in great demand. Many of your families came to this part of the world long before oil was discovered here. Indians played an active role in the pearl trade which was a major economic activity in the pre-oil era. The discovery of oil and the resultant growth in economic activities, led to a quantum jump in the arrival of Indians. The Indian community has made vital contributions to strengthen political, economic and cultural contacts between the UAE and India.

You have proved to be valuable goodwill ambassadors for our country and your contributions have been appreciated by the rulers of this country whose benevolent policies have enabled you to make a living here. I appreciate the assistance and attitude of the Government of the UAE. You have been an integral part of the success story in which the UAE has made rapid strides transforming itself, in a single generation, into a global economic powerhouse. Through your collective efforts and hard work, you have built enduring institutions, and this India Club is one such symbol of your laudable achievements.

The Indian community in the UAE is a microcosm of India with diverse cultural backgrounds, but retaining the unique Indian identity. As the popular saying goes, 'you can take Indians out of India, but you cannot take India out of Indians'. During the years since our independence in 1947, India has achieved much success. Our democracy is deep-rooted and our international profile has shown consistent linear progression. Our voice is heard with respect in major international fora including at the G-20. We have recently been elected to the Non-Permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and we are thankful to the Government of the UAE and the ruler of the UAE, that they have extended support to India's permanent membership in the reformed UN Security Council. India is currently the fourth largest economy in the world on the basis of Purchasing Power Parity. Having successfully weathered the global financial crisis, our economy is now one of the fastest growing in the

world. Our annual growth rate is 8.5 percent, but we are confident of taking it to double digits, sooner rather than later.

With a predominantly young work force and a vibrant market, India has become an attractive destination for foreign investors. During the last three years, India has received cumulative Foreign Direct Investment worth over 100 billion US Dollars. As our economy expands, it offers opportunities for collaboration between India and overseas Indian communities. I invite you to make use of these opportunities in India.

The Indian community in the UAE has been a strong supporter of our economic growth and through its regular remittances has stood by India in its difficult times. I am aware that the Indian community, with its high emphasis on educational opportunities for its children, would like to have more educational facilities in India than what it offers now. The Government is considering ways to address these demands. Our Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs runs a Diaspora Scholarship Scheme that offers scholarships to PIO and NRI students studying in Indian universities. I note that some educational institutes from India have set up institutes of advanced learning in the UAE. I look forward to seeing your greater involvement in this endeavour.

I wish each of one of you and your families the very best in the years to come, and also hope that the India Club will continue to serve the community for many years to come. I do hope that the India Club will continue to serve the Indian community in the years ahead.

Thank you.



**410. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil
at the Dubai International Academic City.**

Dubai, November 24, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to meet scholars and faculty from not one, but four Indian Institutes, brought together under the umbrella of the Dubai International Academic City. I am happy to note the presence of Principals and faculty members from the over fifty Indian schools in the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE is part of our extended neighborhood. There has been regular exchange of ideas and knowledge between our communities on either side of the Arabian Sea over centuries. When the contribution of Indian community to the growth of UAE is appreciated, we should remember that India has made rapid strides in the field of human resource development, because of the importance we attach to the acquisition of knowledge.

I am aware of the primacy accorded to the education sector by the UAE in the Vision Document 2020. The clustering mode followed initially by the Knowledge Village, and now by the Dubai International Academic City has ensured that the best talent from all over the world is attracted. I am also aware of the focus on quality in education, the emphasis on students and parents making informed choices, and the efforts to ensure affordability of education. We in India empathize with these missions and goals. I wish to felicitate the visionary leadership of the UAE for the successes in their endeavours, and assure them of India's continued support and interest in their initiatives.

Historically, Arabia and India have been recognized as the sources, receptors and repositories of knowledge from the early days of our contacts. We have shared the conviction, since as early as the days of Nalanda, that knowledge is the one treasure that increases manifold by sharing. According to different etymological constructions, Nalanda means "giver of knowledge". Nalanda was a residential university which attracted students and travelers from all over the world, including from the Arabian Peninsula. Subjects ranging from science, astronomy, medicine and logic

to meta-physics, philosophy and scriptures were pursued. The Nalanda University Bill of 2010, and the efforts being made in cooperation with our friends in Asia, are a reaffirmation of our commitment to "borderless knowledge".

We recognize that education is the fastest vehicle for enabling socio-economic mobility and change. India seeks to realize its demographic dividend in a scenario where young persons will outnumber the old for many years to come. To optimize this human resources advantage, India's systems of teaching and learning have also been undergoing rapid changes. The Right to Education Bill seeks to ensure that every child between the age of 6 and 14 has access to free education. We are also expanding our higher education infrastructure. We are confident that the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, which has recently entered project mode, will bridge the gaps between urban, mofussil and rural India ensuring that every scholar, irrespective of location will be able to access the best academic resources available in India.

We are also aligning our syllabi to globally accepted standards. Teaching methodologies that promote active learning are being encouraged. The accent of our education system has two deliverables - preparing students to become productive forces in the economy, whilst pursuing the quest for pure knowledge. This trend will ensure that the growth of social capital will keep pace with growth of human capital.

Not long ago, it was the brilliance of only some individual Indians which attracted global interest. Thereafter, premier institutes of higher learning like the IITs and the IIMs emerged, and soon became regular by-words for excellence across boardrooms and R&D labs in all continents. I am heartened that such globally recognized Indian brands of education are increasingly venturing outside and setting up bases abroad in clusters like the Dubai International Academic City. Brand India has been served well by our world recognized educational institutes.

The Indian student community in the UAE has the unique privilege of being recipients of knowledge transferred in the Indian way, even as they are exposed to a global milieu. Your campuses undoubtedly pulsate with the intellectual ferment characteristic of multi-cultural and multi-linguistic

settings, which makes learning enjoyable. In the coming millennia, the world will see a lot more of India and through your work and conduct, you can contribute to its visibility and growth. Hence, you should aim to be not merely symbols of the success of individuals and institutions, but represent the strengths, potential and future of a resurgent India on the world stage.

Wishing you all well and lots of good wishes!

JAI HIND!



411. Briefing by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy and Consul General of India Sanjay Verma on President's discussions with UAE Dignitaries.

Dubai, November 24, 2010.

Archana Datta: Friends, we have Secretary (East) with us. Along with her are JS (Gulf). You have already met both of them. Consul General based in Dubai also is present here. Secretary (East) will brief you about this morning's activities.

Secretary (East) (Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy): Good afternoon. I hope you are all comfortable and well in Dubai. If you are not, you know who to blame. I thought I will ask Consul General to join us because being the local person, some of your questions perhaps he could answer in more detail.

I think at yesterday evening's press briefing I had briefed you in detail about President's interactions with the Indian community. I thought today would be a good opportunity to meet with you and bring you up to date on the discussions held with H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and the Ruler of Dubai - this meeting was held earlier today; and with H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE; and also with the Minister of Presidential Affairs which was held in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

I will begin with the meeting that was held yesterday with H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan. For your information, His Highness heads the International Petroleum Investment Company, an entity of the Abu Dhabi Government responsible for all foreign investments in the oil and petrochemical sector. He is also Chairman of the Emirates Investment Authority, one of the leading sovereign wealth funds of the UAE, and also a Board Member of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority that is considered to be the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world.

In the areas of mutual interests discussed, investment opportunities in India and the UAE were focused in the context of the discussions which had earlier been held between our President and His Highness the President of the UAE on 22nd November, the first day of her visit. These included UAE investments in the energy sector in India including in power generation projects, agriculture, food processing, and infrastructure projects. Our President pointed out that India was looking at one trillion US dollars in investments in the infrastructure sector over the next five years, and that our Government was planning to disinvest up to US\$ 8.7 billion in our PSUs, and that these would both present very good opportunities for UAE businesses and for the UAE Government. It was also agreed that H.H. Sheikh Mansour would visit India in the coming months to further discuss investment opportunities in India.

It can also be recalled that the two Presidents had agreed earlier that the next meeting of the Joint Commission, to be headed by the two Foreign Ministers, will be held shortly in Abu Dhabi to take up issues discussed between the two leaders. So, there would be two follow-ups - one at the Joint Commission meeting and perhaps very soon thereafter or around the same time a visit by H.H. Sheikh Mansour.

Hon. President met earlier today here in Dubai with the Ruler of Dubai, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Other Dignitaries from the UAE who were present on the occasion were: His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Deputy Ruler of Dubai;

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the Chairman of Dubai Airports, and President of the Dubai Department of Civil Aviation, and

Chairman and CEO of the Emirates Airlines, a very eminent figure in aviation.

Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Bint Khalid Al Qasimi - whom you would have all seen, the Minister in Waiting - who is the very eminent UAE Minister of Foreign Trade; and H.E. Reem Al Hashemi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum warmly welcomed the President on her first visit to the UAE and to Dubai. And our President recalled his own state visit to India in 2007 and more recent visit in March 2010. She complimented His Highness on his leadership which had led to the impressive development of this country and particularly Dubai.

Our President recalled the traditional ties between the West Coast of India and Dubai and Sharjah. Based on this foundation, our multifaceted relationship has grown immensely particularly after 1971. Our President informed His Highness that she had brought with her a large Business Delegation of 56 persons from India, and that there were also a large number of local Indian companies who had joined with the Delegation here. She mentioned that she had already had a successful business interaction in Abu Dhabi, and was looking forward to her interaction here with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

There were enormous areas and opportunities for cooperation between the countries in education and in infrastructure, particularly roads and the energy sector. She pointed out the scope for Indian PSUs to participate in projects as well as public-private partnership opportunities. One important area discussed was bilateral security cooperation. H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum mentioned that India and UAE already had very good cooperation in this area. Our President also reiterated that the agreement on security cooperation should be signed early as this would help us concentrate further on counter-terrorism and maritime security issues. She pointed out that we already had agreements on extradition and on mutual legal assistance. H.H. Sheikh Mohamed agreed that we should continue with our cooperation to assist each other with security concerns.

The President once again thanked the UAE Government for their support for India's election to the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council. His Highness reiterated that the UAE also supports India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

Moving on to the question of agriculture, the President reiterated that the area of agriculture, food security would be a good one to further develop joint projects. She also stressed the proposal already discussed with the President for having a joint research and collaboration in creating economical desalination procedures.

The two leaders agreed that there was vast scope to increase our trade which had already reached US\$ 43 billion. They also recognized that the UAE acts as a gateway for Central Asia, Africa and West Asia for Indian exports, and offers excellent re-export facilities. His Highness mentioned that there was also excellent scope for India and the Gulf countries to think of having joint ventures in third countries.

The two leaders discussed the question of empowerment of women and took note that both countries had women Ministers in their Cabinet and had been working on the empowerment of women including in the area of higher education.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum said that the UAE was very happy with our bilateral relationship which was already very good but has progressed to an even better level and that the President's visit will give a further impetus to our relations.

Thank you. I will be happy to take some questions.

Question: I believe there was an informal consultation between the local NRI businessmen and the Business Delegation. Could we have something on that?

Secretary (East): The formal business interaction with the Chamber of Commerce will take place tomorrow. As is normal in the President's visit, she normally has an informal internal meeting with our Business Delegation to get an idea from them as to what have been successful projects, where do we need to concentrate more, where do they see

untapped opportunities. There is a very good exchange of views. In this case, since we had both our own Indian Business Delegation which came from India - the combined delegation from CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM - as well as, as I mentioned, a number of local Indian businesses who are already active here, they were able to have a very good exchange, and some of the questions brought up by our Indian Delegation were almost answered directly by them. But certainly they made certain suggestions to the President and through her to the authorities in India of further things that could be considered either for taking up with the UAE Government or in our own procedures. These were different things like for instance that there are some issues with getting long-term business visas or for getting residence visas for some of the Executives. What we have decided is that a list of all the suggestions made would be incorporated by the Embassy and forwarded to us in India, and we would take these up suitably at different levels both in India and with the UAE.

Question: Madam, you said that India and UAE are looking forward to have joint ventures in the third countries. What are the spheres?

Secretary (East): We did not have specific discussions in detail on this. This was a suggestion from the Vice-President and Prime Minister the Ruler of Dubai that this could be an area to explore that India and Gulf countries could look at joint ventures in other countries.

Question: Madam, was there any discussion on the nuclear agreement? The UK Foreign Minister is in Dubai and the Queen is also here. They are going for the same thing again. Did something like that happen?

Secretary (East): No, this was not a subject that was discussed.

Question: Can you give us a little detail of the state of cooperation between India and UAE in various areas?

Secretary (East): What has your experience been, Sanjay? Maybe you would like to say something.

Consul General of India (Shri Sanjay Verma): The ideal type of relationship would be the surplus which UAE generates by selling us oil

and the investment opportunities in India, essentially establishing cross investments whether they invest in our midstream or downstream oil sector, that chunk in itself. They are I think in the top five of our oil suppliers worldwide. In that aspect the relationship probably can be tuned further.

Question: What is the magnitude of surplus?

Consul General of India: The trade figures you have are of non-oil trade. All oil they are selling us is surplus for them. The current account surplus is essentially because of the oil. That is one part of the relationship which can be worked out further to mutual advantage, not just to UAE but to the entire Gulf region, the redistribution of wealth, thanks to oil resources and the opportunities available in India in the infrastructure sector or many other sectors for that matter. Yes, we have 43 billion dollars worth of trade. But if you look at the composition of the trade, there is a lot of scope of adding variety because as of now 80 per cent of that trade is essentially jewelry, gold and diamonds. In a sense it is a counter-trade with the jewelry, diamonds, etc., going to India for processing and coming back comes back and sold worldwide. In that sense, when you say US\$ 43 billion, the trade can be much more and we all have to work much harder.

Question: Just value addition there and that is all.

Consul General of India: Yes.

Question: We have been talking about cooperation in the agriculture and food processing sectors. Does the UAE have sizeable agriculture, and do they have sizeable companies in order to participate or cooperate with the Indian companies?

Consul General of India: In a very limited way. In food processing, probably fruit juices is one area where they have some strength. They have state of the art facilities in fruit processing, not food processing as such. But they have companies with a lot of surplus which can be used in the agro-processing sector in India. In terms of the agricultural strength of the UAE, it is minimal in that sense. Most of their potable water is through desalination plants, etc. But dates is an area.

Secretary (East): I mentioned also in my briefing in Abu Dhabi, if you recall, that what we would like is for them to invest and to help us to develop our food processing sector. I think that is the way they are looking at it. Incidentally, in answer to your previous question, one area which had been mentioned was that we could look at third country projects in Africa in agriculture, joint ventures between either the UAE Government or private companies and our companies or public sector for that matter. I think there is a fair amount of interest because we must not forget that there are several Arab countries in Africa as well. So, there is a certain organic link between Arab countries and Africa. About eight countries in the 22 countries in the Arab League actually also belong to the African Union.

Question: This is regarding the helpline started yesterday. When you call that number, the answering machine starts. In the case of those persons who do not understand English or any other language, if he does not understand how to operate it, he cannot make use of it. Is it not possible for the consultants to pick up the phone and directly answer the questions?

Consul General of India: That is how it should be. I think there are some teething problems. It was launched yesterday. It is the first initiative. It will also be implemented in phases. Right now they are focusing on a 24x7 helpline and with multiple languages facility. The counseling bit is right now on appointment. Gradually, over the next six weeks, I think you would have counseling services five times or six times a week from 8 to 4. So, it is a build up. These are services which were being done in the Consulate. For instance, we ran free legal counseling every Thursday afternoon for the community, and psychological counseling every Saturday the entire day. We were doing it for the last two-three years. The essence of the IWRC is to ramp up those services, move them up from what was essentially social work, social service, voluntary nature of services provided by the Committee, to a professional basis round the clock, five to six days a week. So, this will take time to come to speed. But we expect in the next three-four weeks things will change. I am surprised actually to hear that people are not getting the response on the phone that you are expecting.

Question: In fact they have got response. They have got fifty calls since yesterday evening till today 7 am. But that problem was still there. If the answering machine answers your call, some people may find it difficult.

Consul General of India: I think these are little creases which will smoothen out over the next couple of days. Before you leave, tomorrow try calling up and I think the act would be in place.

Secretary (East): If there are no more questions, I understand we are standing between you and the Burj Khalifa. May I wish you a very pleasant visit!

Consul General of India: Madam, with your permission I just have one suggestion to make. We have tried to arrange a visit to Shyam Bhatia's place. I have been to his house. He has converted his outhouse, about 3000 square feet, into a shrine to cricket. He has got an amazing collection of cricket memorabilia. I think outside the Lord's Stadium this is probably the best. Visual Media especially will get good visuals. He is very passionate about the game. It is a delight. So, you should spend 30 minutes there. It is a good soft side story.



412. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dubai, November 25, 2010.

It gives me immense pleasure to address this distinguished gathering representing leaders of business, trade and investment. Your presence here is testimony to the fact that there is deep interest in expanding India-UAE economic and trade ties.

India has been a dynamic partner of the UAE in the trade and economic fields. For thousands of years, our ancestors sailed across the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to exchange goods, ideas and experiences. This interaction over several millennia has left an indelible mark on our history, providing us a fertile ground for accentuating our traditional links in the modern context. Trade and investment will be the cornerstone of our partnership in the evolving global scenario.

The India-UAE bilateral trade, which was dominated by traditional items such as dates and fish, underwent a sharp change after the discovery of oil in the UAE, with India starting to import a sizeable quantity of oil from the UAE. At the same time, with the emergence of the UAE as a unified entity in 1971, our exports also started growing gradually over the years. The real impetus, however, started after Dubai positioned itself as a regional trading hub by the early 1990s and about the same time, the economic liberalization process started in India. The UAE, a long standing commercial and business hub in the region, has also emerged as the third major re-export centre in the world after Singapore and Hong Kong, which is clearly reflected in our growing trade. India-UAE trade, valued at US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, is today in excess of US\$ 43 billion making the UAE one of India's leading trading partners.

Both India and the UAE, through their prudent policies before, as well as the stimulus measures after the global economic crisis, have successfully weathered the financial crisis, and are now contributing to the stability of the global economy. It is a matter of some satisfaction that, despite the world economic crisis, although it did affect us to some

extent, India has come out as one of the fastest growing economies in the world and is poised to register a GDP growth rate of over 9 percent in the coming years. Our exports are recording impressive growth since November - December 2009, and we have seen a substantial rise in corporate earnings and profit margins. Capital flows and business sentiments have improved tremendously.

As I have already mentioned, India and the UAE are leading trade partners, for which a large part of the credit must go to the persistent efforts of the trading community in both the countries. The visionary policies of the rulers of Dubai in building excellent infrastructure, have transformed this city into a throbbing metropolis and a great hub for international commerce and trade. There is potential for the current level of Indo-UAE trade to be boosted considerably in the coming years. For this we would need to take several measures. The institutional arrangements like the India-UAE Joint Business Council and the India-UAE Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Co-operation (JCM) should be reactivated. Both countries should increase their participation in specialized trade fairs and exhibitions. Immense potential also lies for a mutually beneficial partnership in the energy sector and also in the agriculture and food processing sectors. India is one of the leading producers of fruits, despite this only 2 percent our trade is in this area. Both countries must consider more co-operation between their respective oil-industry sectors for establishing a long term relationship in the field of petro-chemical industries, not only in India and the UAE, but in third countries also.

India is a large and growing market with healthy micro-economic fundamentals and robust banking and financial institutions. This makes India one of the most attractive FDI locations in the world. Our plans for expansion of our infrastructure, energy and industrial sectors, presents opportunities for investment. I call upon the investor community from the UAE to participate in the growth story of India. India extends to all of you a hand of partnership, and invites you to participate with us in the new phase of rapid development and prosperity on which we have embarked. Indian companies, on their part, will be able to bring in their

technology, manpower as well as capital to partner in the development programme of the UAE.

The large presence of Indian business companies in the UAE can act as a springboard to elevate our economic partnership to new levels. While trade has been the bedrock of our economic partnership, strengthening of the flow of Foreign Direct Investment between the two countries, can be another significant pillar of our relationship. I thank the members of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their immense contribution to promote and strengthen trade and economic links between India and the UAE. I would also like to thank the Chamber for giving me this opportunity to interact with the Dubai business community.

Thank you.



413. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil after completing her visit to the UAE and Syria on her special flight on way to New Delhi.

November 29, 2010..

Please see Document No.400.



CENTRAL ASIA**ARMENIA****414. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Armenia.****New Delhi, November 11, 2010.**

Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, who is on an official visit to India, held delegation level talks with Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, on November 11, 2010. The two Ministers reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen and expand bilateral ties. They also discussed regional and global issues of mutual concern. After the conclusion of the talks, an executive programme on cultural co-operation between the two countries was signed.

The Armenian Foreign Minister called on Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari on 10th November and conveyed the desire of the Armenian leadership to expand interaction with India. The Armenian Foreign Minister also delivered a lecture on "Armenia and her Neighbourhood: Prospects for New Dynamics" at the ICWA, Sapru House on November 11, outlining the policies and relationships of Armenia.

The visiting dignitary is scheduled to visit Kolkata where he is expected to call on Shri M.K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal. He will also meet the members of the Armenian community there and visit the Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth and the Armenian College & Philanthropic Academy, all of which represent the glorious past of the Armenian presence in India and the contribution it has made to India's diverse culture and multi-religious society. He is accompanied by his wife, who was born in India when her father was posted as senior diplomat in former USSR Embassy in New Delhi.

India and Armenia have traditionally enjoyed friendly and cordial relations. There has been understanding and convergence of views on a wide range of issues of mutual concern, bilateral as well as international. Bilateral contacts between India and Armenia date back to the 2nd century BC.



KAZAKHASTAN**415. Excerpts relevant to Kazakhstan from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference.**

Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you all. I believe some of you went to the Convention Centre and I hope that you found the arrangements up to the mark.

Yesterday, Foreign Secretary had briefed you about Prime Minister's meeting with President Obama. The Prime Minister has since had a number of engagements. I would like to brief you about three of his bilaterals - with the President of Kazakhstan yesterday and the Prime Ministers of Morocco and Canada today.

Let me start with Kazakhstan. The meeting between our Prime Minister and President Nursultan Nazarbayev took place yesterday evening. It lasted about 45 minutes. Prime Minister was assisted by the National Security Advisor and other officials. The President of Kazakhstan was assisted by the Oil Minister and the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is one of our key partners in Central Asia and also one of the most important countries in the region. You would recall that President Nazarbayev had visited India in January 2009 when he was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. During his visit, a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership was adopted which foresees comprehensive cooperation in a variety of sectors. The two leaders met again on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June 2009 and have also maintained telephonic contact.

Yesterday the two leaders reviewed the relationship, the agreements, the initiatives that had been agreed upon since President's visit to India. President Nazarbayev spoke very appreciatively of India's economic development and evinced interest in seeing Indian companies play a

greater role, having an expanded presence in Kazakhstan. Both sides evinced an interest to enhance cooperation in a number of areas especially agriculture, civil construction, mining, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals as well as other sectors. They particularly spoke of concretizing collaborations and having projects and initiatives which could be implemented on ground at the earliest.

President Nazarbayev mentioned to Prime Minister that they were planning 170 major projects in a variety of sectors, to speed up the industrialization of Kazakhstan, and invited Indian companies to participate in these projects. He also noted that there was a Customs Union between Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia; and that Indian companies present in Kazakhstan could supply their goods, their services within the entire Customs Union.

As you are aware, there are interalia two pillars of our cooperation namely the hydrocarbons sector and the energy sector including the civil nuclear energy sector. During the visit of President Nazarbayev to India an agreement of cooperation was concluded between ONGC Videsh and KazMunaiGas in the Satpayev oil block which is a large oil block and said to be rich in hydrocarbon assets. Also, an MoU of cooperation had been concluded between NPCIL and Kazatomprom envisaging cooperation between the two sides, including for supply of uranium to India and other aspects.

During his meeting with Prime Minister, President Nazarbayev invited Indian companies to establish thermal power plants in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is hydrocarbon rich and they are keen on having more thermal power plants. He also told the Prime Minister that a framework for greater cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector would be approved soon by the Kazakh Government. As I mentioned, Indian companies have already evinced interest in E&P contracts in Kazakhstan. It was also agreed between the two leaders that an inter-governmental agreement on civil nuclear cooperation would be concluded soon.

Our External Affairs Minister is likely to pay a visit to Kazakhstan in May this year when a roadmap to implement the agreements and initiatives during the visit of President Nazarbayev is likely to be finalized.

I may add that the two leaders also discussed regional issues of interest including the situation in Kyrghizstan and Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed on the need for stability, security and economic development of Afghanistan, and also evinced concern at production of narcotics and trafficking of narcotics. President Nazarbayev was very appreciative of India's role in reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, and he remarked that once the situation in Afghanistan stabilizes, that would pave the way for a direct surface link between India and Kazakhstan.

The President invited Prime Minister to pay a visit to Kazakhstan which was accepted with pleasure. He also invited Prime Minister to participate in the third CICA Summit. CICA is the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. You would recall that Prime Minister Vajpayee had represented India in the first CICA Summit in Kazakhstan, which was held in June 2002. That is what I have on Kazakhstan.

*

*

*

*



416. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ERS) on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Kazakhstan.

New Delhi, May 10, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon and good to see you all. As you are aware, External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna will be leaving for Kazakhstan tomorrow on a bilateral visit. His visit will be from the 11th to the 13th May. My colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (ERS) and I wanted to give you a perspective on the visit.

Kazakhstan is one of our most important partners in Central Asia. We are both multi-ethnic and multicultural societies. India and Kazakhstan also have a strategic partnership which was unveiled during the visit of President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, when he had come to India in January 2009. He was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations then. Both countries have an ambitious and forward looking agenda of cooperation.

Let me take you through the programme of EAM and the delegation that would be accompanying him. EAM would be accompanied by Ms. Latha Reddy, Secretary (East); Mr. Jawahar Sarcar, Secretary (Culture); Mr. Raghavendra Sastry, Advisor to EAM, my colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, I and a few other members. He would also be accompanied by a delegation of business leaders representing leading organizations and business houses like Tata International Limited, Sun Group, Apollo Hospitals, Punj Lloyd, Tata Motors, BHEL, ONGC, etc. That is a sizeable business delegation that will be accompanying EAM.

In terms of programme, as I said, the Minister will be leaving tomorrow. The day after he has delegation-level talks with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan. He would be calling on the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and the President of Kazakhstan. EAM will also address an India-Kazakhstan Business Forum. I already mentioned to you the names of some of the members of the Business Delegation that will be accompanying the External Affairs Minister.

It is, as I said, one of the most important relationships that we have in Central Asia. The leadership of both countries have been paying close attention to the relationship in order to deepen mutual cooperation. I mentioned the landmark visit of President Nazarbayev to India in January 2009. Prime Minister and President Nazarbayev have been maintaining regular contacts. They have also been meeting on the sidelines of the international fora. For example, they met in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg on the sidelines of the SCO Summit. Again they met last month in Washington on the 11th of April on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit.

Vice-President of India has visited Kazakhstan in 2008. Last year, our Petroleum Minister led the Indian Delegation to Kazakhstan for the 7th Inter-Governmental Joint Commission meeting which was held in Asthana. This is just to give you some examples of how at the highest levels attention is being paid to deepen our ties. We have a very broad canvas of cooperation that includes sectors like agriculture, energy including thermal energy, civil construction, mining, fertilizers, information technology, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and so on, and of course, the cultural sector, people-to-people contacts. That is a kind of canvas of cooperation that we have been working on.

Kazakhstan has also been very supportive of India's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Both sides are keen to draw a blueprint of collaboration in diverse sectors so that we have concrete benchmarks of cooperation and we can move ahead rapidly. Just to give you one example, Kazakhstan has been very appreciative of India's economic development. They have noted with great deal of appreciation the role and the energy of the private sector in India and are keen on investments by the Indian private sector, and of course public sector, in Kazakhstan.

Some of you may also know that there is a Customs Union between Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia. Kazakhstan has pointed out that Indian companies which are based in Kazakhstan can export to the entire zone, all the three countries in the Custom Union.

It will be of interest for you to know that Kazakhstan has initiated an Accelerated Innovation Industrial Development Programme under which

they are planning more than 170 major projects for industrializing Kazakhstan. This is a multi-billion dollar initiative spread over a few years. They have said that they are keen to see active Indian participation. By the way, on the 12th of May when there is the India-Kazakhstan Business Forum Meeting, a presentation would be made to the Indian companies accompanying EAM on this initiative of Kazakhstan.

Amongst others, and I have already enumerated a number of sectors of cooperation, I would like to highlight that two important sectors of cooperation include the hydrocarbon sector and the energy sector including civil nuclear energy. Both countries are actively discussing modalities to take our cooperation forward in these sectors as well as other sectors.

During his visit the EAM will review progress in bilateral relations especially since the visit of President Nazarbayev and discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest. They will particularly discuss a broad-based cultural exchange agreement. You perhaps know that we have an Indian Cultural Centre in Asthana. Both sides would also discuss a roadmap to implement some of the major initiatives taken or outlined during the visit of President Nazarbayev.

In short, we believe that EAM's important visit would further boost our bilateral ties and reaffirm our interest in and the importance that we attach to our relations with Kazakhstan.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions relating the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Kazakhstan.

Question: Kazakhstan and India have been having very interesting discussions on the civil nuclear cooperation, as you have mentioned, including on small reactors, uranium mining. Is there any agreement ready to be signed during this visit? Will a delegation of the Department of Atomic Energy also be a part of this visit? Would Russia also be a part of this cooperation in nuclear energy between Kazakhstan and India?

Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria): Yes, a member of the Department of Atomic Energy will be a part of this delegation. You may

be aware that an inter-governmental agreement is under discussion between the two sides. This inter-governmental agreement is a broad-based agreement like the one we have with Russia which envisages cooperation in the complete range of nuclear related activities which means all the things that you have mentioned. It envisages cooperation in fuel, in terms of uranium, mining. And it also mentions nuclear power plants and construction of nuclear power plants. A draft of this agreement has been floating. We expect further discussions to take place. It may not necessarily be signed during the visit. But certainly discussions would take place on this agreement.

As for your other question, we have a separate agreement with Russia which has a whole range of activities envisaged and discussions take place, and a separate one with Kazakhstan.

Question: On Satpayev oil block, are we going to be doing our production agreement with Kazakhstan? Secondly, how do we look at CICA? Prime Minister probably would be going, that is what we were told, to that CICA Summit in June. How do we look initiatives like CICA?

Official Spokesperson: Let me answer your question on CICA and I will request my colleague to take on your question about Satpayev oil block. As you know, CICA has 18 countries as its members. India is one of the member countries of CICA. In the very first summit meeting in 2002, Prime Minister Vajpayee had participated in CICA. We believe that CICA is a very important initiative and we have been very closely associated with it. So, that is the position with respect to CICA.

Joint Secretary (ERS): On Satpayev, you are right. It is certainly one of the most important issues to be discussed during this visit - cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector and particularly on Satpayev. We have accompanying the External Affairs Minister a delegation of experts from the Ministry of Petroleum as well as from ONGC Videsh Limited which is the key corporate involved in these negotiations. We are hopeful that the sides will make progress. There is indeed an exploration and production agreement on Satpayev that is on the anvil. We hope that there would be positive movement on this during this visit.

Question: What about External Affairs Minister's phone call to his Pakistani counterpart?

Official Spokesperson: On the phone call, you know that the External Affairs Minister has already said on the floor of the Parliament that he will be speaking to his Pakistani counterpart. In Thimphu, you are aware, both Prime Ministers asked their External Affairs Ministers and Foreign Secretaries to meet as soon as possible. So, the framework is there. The only thing is to decide, to identify a mutually convenient time slot to have the telephonic conversation. Both sides are in touch with each other to identify that slot.

Thank you.



417. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Media.

Astana (Kazakhstan), May 12, 2010.

I am very happy to be here in the elegant capital city of Astana. This is my first visit to Kazakhstan. We are struck by the rapid development and progress that Kazakhstan has achieved since its independence.

India and Kazakhstan enjoy warm and friendly ties going back several millennia. We are part of the same neighbourhood. Both India and Kazakhstan are multi-ethnic, multi-religious and secular societies. We have also forged a strategic partnership to give a qualitative boost to our ties.

The landmark visit of President Nazarbayev to India as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations last year provided a significant impulse to our bilateral ties. We have rapidly moved to implement the far reaching initiatives taken during his visit, in diverse sectors like energy including hydro-carbon, thermal and nuclear, fertilizers, agriculture, Information Technology, Space, pharmaceuticals, trade and investment, culture. I am here to build further on our mutually beneficial engagement and also to discuss a road map for bringing projects in diverse sectors, to fruition.

I have had a very warm, cordial and fruitful meeting with His Excellency State Secretary-Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev. We conducted a comprehensive review of our bilateral ties in all spheres including political, strategic, security, economic, commercial, social and cultural affairs.

I am looking forward to calling on H.E. President Nazarbayev and H.E. Prime Minister Massimov later today.

I am pleased to say that India and Kazakhstan have a strong congruence of views on major regional and international issues. Both our countries are strongly opposed to terrorism. I would like to thank Kazakhstan for its steadfast support to India in our fight against terrorism, particularly after the dastardly terror attack in Mumbai in November, 2008.

I would also like to thank Kazakhstan for its steady support for India's Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council.

Very good progress has been achieved in our discussions to deepen cooperation in the hydro-carbon sector. I am confident that an Agreement between ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and KazMunaiGas on exploration and production in the Satpayev Oil Block will be concluded soon. I would like to thank the leadership of Kazakhstan for earnestly supporting this important initiative which would pave the way for greater cooperation in diverse sectors.

I am confident that an Inter governmental Agreement on Civilian Nuclear Energy cooperation will be finalized soon. This sector has immense possibilities for bilateral cooperation including for supply of uranium ore, investment by Indian companies in mining in Kazakhstan, construction of nuclear reactors and others.

Discussions in several other promising areas like thermal power plants, transportation and banking are in an advanced stage. For instance a premier Indian Bank - Punjab National Bank - will soon commence commercial operations in Kazakhstan.

A large delegation of Indian business leaders is accompanying me. This is testimony to the strong and keen interest that Indian businessmen

and industrialists have in strengthening and diversifying relations with Kazakhstan. We would also like to invite Kazakh companies to invest in India and take advantage of the huge market that India has to offer.

Both India and Kazakhstan are factors of peace, stability, development and growth, not only in the region but also in the world. Our cooperation is a win-win proposition and I am happy to see a strong commitment on the part of government and people in both our countries to take the process to a qualitatively higher level.

Thank you.



KYRGYZSTAN

418. Press Releases issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the situation in Kyrgyzstan, evacuation of Indians to Bishkek from Southern Kyrgyzstan and their travel to India and provision of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan.

June 14, 2010.

About 116 Indian nationals are stranded in Southern Kyrgyzstan, due to the ongoing difficult law and order situation. These include around 15 students in the city of Jalal-Abad and around 99 students, a professor and a businessman, in the city of Osh.

Our Mission is in close and regular touch with several of the Indian nationals, as well as with relevant departments of the Kyrgyz Government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and security agencies.

Everything possible is being done to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian nationals, within the constraints posed by the difficult ground situation. Our Mission in Bishkek is monitoring the developments closely and additional steps would be taken as soon as the situation becomes more conducive.

June 15, 2010

A number of Indian nationals, primarily students were stranded in the towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad in Southern Kyrgyzstan due to civil disturbances. Despite the heavy odds, the Embassy of India in Bishkek, in close coordination with the Kyrgyz authorities, managed to safely evacuate all the Indian nationals to Bishkek late last night.

Hostel accommodation and meals as possible under the circumstances, have been arranged for the students at Bishkek, by the Embassy. Some of the students have lost their passports. Our Mission will issue new passports and other travel documents as required in such cases.

While some of the students want to stay on at Bishkek, some others would like to return to India. Our Mission is making efforts to ensure that the students travel to India over the next few days by commercial or chartered flights, which are operating normally in and out of Bishkek.

The Embassy of India, Bishkek has worked hard to assist the Indian nationals in distress and continues to extend all possible assistance to them.

June 15, 2010.

All the Indian nationals stranded in the southern Kyrgyz towns of Osh and Jalal-Abad were safely evacuated last night by air to Bishkek. They are expected to return to India over the next few days. Flights out of Bishkek are operating normally.

The airlift of the Indian citizens was arranged by the Embassy of India in Bishkek with the active cooperation and support of the Kyrgyz authorities.

June 16, 2010.

105 Indian nationals who were safely evacuated by the Embassy of India from Southern Kyrgyzstan, are in Bishkek. Arrangements for their stay at university hostels and meals have been made by our Mission.

The Government's primary concern in situations of distress for Indian nationals is to get them out of harm's way by the fastest possible means. This is precisely what was achieved when the Embassy chartered an aircraft to bring our nationals from troubled Osh and Jalal-Abad to Bishkek.

Some of these students are planning to stay on in Bishkek, while some others want to come to India for summer vacations. Commercial and chartered flights are operating normally in and out of Bishkek and our Mission is assisting the students with the travel arrangements.

In accordance with established consular procedures, the Mission has offered to buy tickets for those students who may be facing temporary financial difficulties. In such cases, as per Government rules, the passport is handed over to the Mission which issues an Emergency Certificate and procures a one-way ticket to India. The individual, who avails of the facility, repays the money to the Government in due course and gets his passport back. This offer is available to all the students who were evacuated from Osh and Jalal-Abad.

It is understood that a couple of chartered flights are likely to operate within the coming days between Bishkek and India. We are hopeful that all students who wish to travel to India will be able to do so.

Some of the students have left their passports in Osh or have visas that have expired. Our Embassy is providing them with free passport to facilitate their travel.

July 1, 2010

India has been closely following recent internal developments in Kyrgyzstan, a friendly country in our extended neighbourhood. We are happy to note that calm has returned to southern Kyrgyzstan after the unfortunate incidents of violence in mid-June. The events, however, left thousands in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

In response to the appeal by the Kyrgyz Government, the Government of India has decided to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the people of

Kyrgyzstan, in their hour of need. The assistance comprises food items, medicines and tents and will be despatched in two Indian Air Force IL-76 aircraft over the next few days. The supplies will be delivered to the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan at Osh, through our Embassy in Kyrgyzstan*.



419. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs felicitating Kyrgyzstan on its historic parliamentary elections.

New Delhi, October 22, 2010.

The Government and the people of India felicitate the Government and people of Kyrgyzstan on the successful and peaceful conduct of the recent historic parliamentary elections**. We are delighted that Kyrgyzstan, a fellow developing country, is strengthening its democratic parliamentary system to answer the needs of its secular and pluralist society. These values are dear to India and indeed to all liberal democratic societies in the world.



* Ethnic riots broke out in southern Kyrgyzstan where Kyrgyz attacked Uzbeks killing residents and torching their houses and businesses. Russia led defence alliance of seven ex-Soviet states, Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) meeting in Moscow agreed on a "set of measures" to help stabilise the situation in Kyrgyzstan, said Russia's Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev. Without giving details he said "no options are ruled out" to stop inter-ethnic violence. Meanwhile, a full-fledged humanitarian crisis broke out in the south of Kyrgyzstan as thousands of Uzbek residents of Osh, Jalal-Abad and neighbouring villages were trying to cross the border to Uzbekistan. Authorities in Uzbekistan said they had registered 45,000 refugees, not counting children. Kyrgyz border guards reportedly closed the border, leaving thousands stranded on the Kyrgyz side of the border, without food or water. The official death toll from the clashes that began the previous week rose to 124, but unofficial reports said 700 Uzbek residents had been killed in Jalal-Abad alone.

** This was the first ever parliamentary election in a Central Asian country.

TURKMENISTAN**420. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.****New Delhi, May 25, 2010.**

Your Excellency President Berdimuhamedov,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you and members of your delegation to India. We have been eagerly awaiting your Excellency's first visit to India. I am confident that your visit will further consolidate and strengthen our relations.

Our countries share old historical and cultural bonds, connected on the Silk Route in ancient days. Our multi-ethnic and diverse societies today stand for pluralism, mutual respect and tolerance. Our countries have developed bonds of friendship and cooperation on the basis of shared political perspectives, convergence of interests and our cultural affinities.

Excellency,

We, in India, admire the remarkable progress achieved by Turkmenistan. We admire your commitment to advancement in the education, economic and social sectors. As nations, we have similar priorities - economic development, social justice and creating a skilled human resource.

Cooperation in education holds many promises for our countries. Turkmen students are pursuing their studies and receiving training under our ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships. We will be happy to expand this cooperation. Exchanges in education and learning each other's languages build long term bonds. In this context, we are delighted that a Hindi Chair has been established in the Azadi Institute, Ashgabat and that a proposal to set up an Urdu Chair in a Turkmen University is being considered. We also need to increase people-to-people contacts and cooperation in arts, culture and archaeology. As friendly countries, we should foster and nurture bonds which bring us closer.

India has developed expertise in high technology areas such as Information Technology, Space, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals. We are ready to share our skills in these sectors with our partners in developing countries.

Excellency,

A multifaceted economic partnership will further fortify our traditionally close relationship. As the role of the business community in building a stable and strong economic partnership is very important, we must encourage them to explore and avail of all opportunities of trade and investment.

Turkmenistan is richly endowed with mineral resources. India is keen to deepen its engagement with Turkmenistan, especially in the hydrocarbon sector. India is an attractive market and also has expertise, technology and trained manpower in the hydrocarbon sector. We would be happy to invest in Turkmenistan in the hydrocarbon and other high-technology sectors. India is also keen to see progress on the TAPI gas pipeline project.

Excellency,

We congratulate you for your vision and leadership in integrating Turkmenistan with the global community. The Permanent Neutrality policy of Turkmenistan has contributed to regional peace and security.

India attaches importance to its extended neighbourhood and enjoys friendly relations with Central Asian countries, Iran and Afghanistan. With a view to maintaining stability and combating extremism in the region, India is cooperating with all the neighbouring countries.

India is against all forms of terrorism and to firmly deal with this menace which has assumed world-wide dimensions, global coordinated efforts are required. We regard Turkmenistan as a valuable partner in the fight against terrorism.

Excellency,

Our two countries share common perceptions and views on most issues of regional and global concern. We have collaborated in many

international fora. We are committed to working with Turkmenistan to achieve the goals of common concern and in building a strong bilateral relationship.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now invite you to join me in a toast to:-

- the health and well-being of President Berdimuhamedov,
- the prosperity and well-being of the friendly people of Turkmenistan;
and
- the strong and ever growing friendship between India and Turkmenistan.



**421. Joint Statement issued during the State Visit of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.
New Delhi, May 25, 2010.**

His Excellency Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan, paid a State Visit to India from 24 to 26 May 2010. The President of Turkmenistan was accompanied by a delegation comprising members of the Cabinet of Ministers and representatives of mass media.

2. During the State Visit, the President of India and the President of Turkmenistan held discussions on matters of mutual interest. The President of India hosted a State Banquet for the honoured guest. The President of Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of India chaired delegation level talks and exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. The Vice President of India and other senior political leaders called on the President of Turkmenistan.

3. The State Visit reaffirmed the mutual understanding between the two countries at the highest political level and provided an opportunity to exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two sides noted with satisfaction the excellent state of friendly

relations and cooperation between India and Turkmenistan and expressed their firm commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations and diversify areas of cooperation.

4. The leaders of both countries declared that terrorism, transnational crime and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs were among the main threats to security and sustainable development of countries of the world. The two leaders reiterated their strong condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai (in November 2008) and elsewhere in India. The two sides agreed to cooperate with each other in dealing with the scourge of global terrorism. The two leaders emphasized the need for intensifying bilateral and global cooperation in combating international terrorism. Both sides also called for early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.

5. The two sides noted that relations between India and Turkmenistan had roots in history. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Cultural Exchange Programme and stated that it was a fitting recognition of the historical and cultural legacy that the two nations share. They expressed confidence that this exchange programme would facilitate exchange of cultural troupes and delegation from educational and other institutes of learning and building vibrant relations between the peoples of the two countries. The two sides agreed to facilitate joint research studies on common historical heritage and developing the historical sites existing in India and Turkmenistan with the objective of their protection and preservation. Both sides also agreed to organize cultural festivals for showcasing their rich heritage in each other's country. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the setting up of a Hindi Chair in the Turkmen National Institute of World Languages named after Dovletmamed Azadi in Ashgabat. The Turkmen side agreed to take forward a proposal from the Indian side to establish an Urdu Chair in one of the higher educational institutions of Turkmenistan.

6. The two leaders agreed on the existence of significant potential in terms of increasing trade volumes between the two countries. They agreed that the Governments and the Chambers of Commerce & Industry need to take necessary measures to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation. A joint study by designated agencies of the two

Governments and Chambers of Commerce & Industry was recommended with a view to identify measures, which would deepen economic engagement. The leaders welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation and hoped that this would pave the way for enhanced economic engagement. The Indian side also offered complimentary exhibition space to Turkmenistan in the India International Trade Fair in 2010 for promoting their products and services in India. The Turkmen side, on its part, offered to facilitate organizing an exclusive Indian exhibition in Ashgabat.

7. The leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction on the ongoing discussions between the oil/natural gas companies of India and Turkmenistan under the framework of the Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons and hoped that this would create conditions necessary for mutually beneficial cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector of Turkmenistan. It was agreed that the Ministers on both sides responsible for oil and gas will take forward ideas for intensifying joint efforts in various projects in the oil and gas sector. The leaders also hoped that the discussions on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project would continue with a view to realize it early. To intensify economic engagement and extend cooperation in areas in which India had gained considerable expertise, the Indian side proposed to conduct a feasibility study on setting up a gas based fertilizer plant in Turkmenistan. The Turkmenistan side agreed to take forward this proposal.

8. The sides expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Education Exchange Programme and the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, which would facilitate interactions in the spheres of science and technology, organizing visits of students and faculties, development of links between educational and scientific institutions and implementation of joint scientific and research projects. The sides noted with satisfaction the positive experience of cooperation in the field of education within the framework of the programmes implemented by the Government of India and welcomed the establishment of an Information Technology Centre in Ashgabat with India's developmental and technical support.

9. The two leaders reviewed the functioning of the bilateral mechanisms for cooperation and discussed new areas for intensifying relations. The two sides appreciated the role of the India-Turkmenistan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation in enhancing trade and economic cooperation as well as cultural relations. The sides noted that the Commission had held three productive meetings and emphasized that the Commission and the Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons should be held regularly. The sides also welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for holders of Diplomatic Passports and noted that this would help in facilitating and intensifying official level exchanges.

10. The Indian side conveyed that India holds Turkmenistan in high esteem as a partner country in Central Asia and appreciates the overall development of Turkmenistan in a relatively short period of time. The Indian side noted that the President of Turkmenistan had succeeded in increasing the stature of his country by his far-sighted vision and unflinching commitment to nation-building.

11. The President of Turkmenistan conveyed that Turkmenistan values highly the impressive achievements of the Republic of India in its socio-economic development, active policy in the international arena, facilitating the strengthening of peace, stability and mutual understanding between peoples, and its ever-increasing political, economic and scientific potential.

12. The two sides reiterated their call for strengthening the role of the United Nations in international affairs and for utilizing the UN framework in maintaining stability and security in the world. Both sides agreed to work together on all issues related to UN reform. The Turkmen side expressed support for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of UN Security Council for 2011-12. The Indian side appreciated initiatives of Turkmenistan in the establishment of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for the Countries of Central Asia in Ashgabat. The Indian side also appreciated the resolutions initiated by Turkmenistan in the UNGA, on safety and security of energy transit

routes and also the organization of a high level conference on the subject in Ashgabat.

13. The President of Turkmenistan expressed his deep and sincere condolences in connection with the tragic plane crash in India on 22 May 2010 which had resulted in the loss of many lives.

14. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the State Visit and stated that it had contributed positively to the strengthening of friendly ties and raised bilateral relations to a qualitatively higher level. The President of Turkmenistan expressed deep gratitude to the President and the Prime Minister of India for the warm reception and gracious hospitality extended to him and his accompanying delegation. The President of Turkmenistan invited the President and the Prime Minister of India to visit Turkmenistan at a mutually convenient time. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - VII

AFRICA

422. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a African Union delegation.

New Delhi, March 12, 2010.

A 15-member delegation from the African Union is currently on a visit to India from 10-13 March 2010. The delegation consists of the Members of the Bureau of the Multilateral Affairs Sub Committee of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the African Union and is led by the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the African Union, H.E. Mr. Jacques Alfered Ndoumbe Eboule and includes the Permanent Representatives of Egypt, Sudan, South Africa and Benin. Ambassador John K. Shinkaiye, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission leads the 9-member Commission delegation as part of the AU Team. The visit was to finalize the Plan of Action of the Framework for Cooperation of the India Africa Forum Summit.

2. At a meeting chaired by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West), on 10.3.2010, the Plan of Action was agreed upon and the implementation process of the decisions taken at the India Africa Forum Summit was discussed. The meeting was attended by the AU delegation and the African HOM's in New Delhi, as well as senior representatives from various Ministries / Departments of Government of India and representatives of the Institutions, which are partners for the implementation of the Plan of Action. During the meeting, Secretary (West) said that the Action Plan released on 10th March, which was a product of the consultative process which has been undertaken between India and the African Union and its member states, is based on the principles enunciated in the Delhi Declaration and the Framework of Cooperation and reflects our joint commitment to work in a full partnership.

3. During the meeting, the African Union delegation conveyed their appreciation for the manner in which India had engaged with them to implement the decisions. The Chief of Staff of the African Union Chairperson said that they appreciate India for believing in this multilateral relationship with Africa and for putting on the table the

resources required to implement the commitments it has made. Throughout the process, India has listened carefully to Africa's views and taken them in full consideration in making its proposals. "Sometimes, the way cooperation is given is better than the content of the cooperation." He further said that in Africa's partnership with India, both the way the cooperation has been given and the content have been exemplary.

4. The AU Delegation called on Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs on 11.3.2010. In his address, Dr. Tharoor said that the Plan of Action is an ambitious programme of cooperation with the entire African continent. He expressed confidence that concrete results will emanate from it. Dr. Tharoor assured the delegation that India's commitment to Africa was total and sustained by our understanding of Africa as fellow developing countries. Our process of consultation on a regular basis with them would continue and he emphasized that now that the Plan of Action had been readied for implementation and the deliverables laid out, a follow-up mechanism for its regular monitoring must come into play at the earliest.

5. The African Union delegation told the Hon'ble Minister that they would endeavour to select the countries which would host the 19 institutions offered by India at an early date. They conveyed their heartfelt gratitude for the serious intent shown by India in implementing the decisions of the IAFS. The Permanent Representative of Sudan said that the comprehensive Plan of Action was the most clear and detailed document among their partnerships. Other members of the delegation also conveyed their happiness at the meticulous detail and planning with which the Indian side had undertaken the engagement with the African Union for the implementation of the IAFS decisions.

6. In addition to capacity building programmes in a wide variety of areas, the programme also provides for setting up of several institutions in select African countries which will cater for all the countries in the continent. These institutions include five major institutions viz. (i) India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade, (ii) India Africa Diamond Institute, (iii) India Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, (iv)

India Africa Institute of Information Technology, (v) Pan-African Stock Exchange; 10 Vocational Training Centres and five human settlement institutes to support low-cost housing technologies. An important aspect of the capacity building programmes is the offer of 300 scholarships in the field of agricultural education and research over four years.

7. The AU delegation also visited partner institutions like the Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Education Consultants India Ltd. (EdCIL), and National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA), and had detailed interaction. They also participated in a discussion with academics and scholars at the Indian Council of World Affairs.

8. The African Heads of Mission in New Delhi were also engaged in the meetings with the African Union delegation.



423. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the 6th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership 2010 "Developing Synergies: Creating a Vision"

New Delhi, March 15, 2010.

Your Excellency, Mr. John Dramani Mahama, Vice President of Ghana,

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Togo, Hon'ble Ministers from Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DRC, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Swaziland, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

My colleague, Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry,

Your Excellency, Mr. Jonathan Wutawunashe, Dean of Diplomatic Corp,

Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs,

Shri Sanjay Kirloskar, Chairman CII - Africa Committee

Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII,

Distinguished Guests from African countries,

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is an honour and privilege to deliver the inaugural address at the 6th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership 2010. This Conclave has become a flagship event for promoting entrepreneurship and business between India and Africa. The large numbers of governmental delegations and private sector businessmen from Africa as well as the presence of so many Indian companies and entrepreneurs at senior levels is a manifestation of the success of this Conclave. The Ministry of External Affairs is happy to have been an active part of this process and remains engaged with it in a supportive manner.

Just a few days ago, we had launched the Joint Action Plan between India and Africa to follow up on the important decisions taken at the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in April 2008. We are confident that the implementation of the decisions of the India Africa Forum Summit will substantively contribute to our African partners' desire to fulfil the millennium development goals.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, India will establish 19 Institutions to develop human resources and capacities in Africa under the decisions of the IAFS. These will include the Africa-India Institute of Foreign Trade, Africa-India Diamond Institute, Africa-India Institute of Information Technology and Africa-India Institute of Education Planning and Administration. We will also create 10 vocational training institutions and five human settlement institutes. Our endeavours through these commitments will supplement our ongoing training programmes through the ITEC programme. Many of these proposed institutions will provide support to the creation of skilled professionals in Africa who could either work for themselves or with local companies or with foreign investors including those from India.

I am sure that the private sector who is gathered here in great strength will also contribute to the enhancement of capacity building activities in Africa and I would encourage the CII to use its vast network of partners in Africa to create similar training modules in select African countries to augment what the Government of India intends to do.

On our part, we are now going to work on another programme which will seek to provide internships for African students already in India by engaging with industry in select centres where we have a substantial number of African students. We believe that such new initiatives in association with Indian industry and its institutions like the CII, will allow us to enhance our engagement and provide a better connect between what we as a Government do in Africa and with the efforts of our entrepreneurs.

We are also looking at organising through the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, an African cultural festival later this year, to highlight our age old cultural links. I am also happy that the Indian Council of World Affairs has agreed to re-establish the annual Africa Day Lecture to mark our close and abiding relationship with Africa.

I have mentioned these various efforts in order to emphasise the fact that India remains engaged with Africa at various levels and in a variety of sectors and today when we meet at this Conclave, we remain confident that the overall engagement between India and Africa remains vibrant and full of vitality. In such a positive ambience, there are no hurdles to the enhancement of business and entrepreneurship and in that I would like to wish you full success as you move together for mutual benefit.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, in January this year, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari, visited Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. This high level visit at the start of this year is a signal of our desire to sustain and enhance our political level engagement with Africa. We wish to make the positive emotive engagement between India and Africa into a successful economic engagement for mutual benefit and propose to utilise our Government's financial commitments to Africa to catalyse greater trade and investment.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had in April 2008, announced at the IAFS that India would provide \$ 5.4 billion in lines of credit to African

countries and institutions to support infrastructure and the development goals of our African partners. We are happy that in the first year of implementation we have nearly attained the annual commitment expected of us and will continue to strive for full engagement in this area.

Similarly, through the grants-in-aid to Africa segment of the budget of my Ministry, we will implement the decisions of the IAFS for creating the capacity building institutions in Africa which were mutually agreed upon through the Joint Action Plan. One of the most significant contributions that we have made is the Pan-African e-Network Project to which 47 African countries have adhered and it is already implemented in about half of them. This visionary project creates networks among African countries and provides them opportunity for tele-medicine and tele-education linkages with Indian hospitals and universities. This project complements the close relationship that India has always had with Africa for human resource development and capacity building. Similarly, efforts at the bilateral level also continue and over the last year, we have signed agreements to establish the India-Lesotho Centre for Advance Education in Information Technology; procurement and supply of medical equipment for Victoria hospital, Mahe, Seychelles; Hole-in-the-Wall Education Project in Namibia; Procurement and supply of Solar Photovoltaic equipment for 35 schools of rural areas of Rwanda; supply of computers and buses to Benin and others.

The India-Africa relationship has evolved and matured into a vibrant one. In this the role of the private sector in particular has acquired larger and significant dimensions. In many parts of Africa we see Indian investors and businessmen enhancing trade, capacity building and contribution to the development goals of our African partners in a visible manner. We in the Government of India, remain committed to continue to support our African partners and the Indian private sector towards these goals. The CII EXIM Bank Conclave will remain an important part of our engagement and I compliment the Confederation of Indian Industry for its continuing efforts to contribute to our growing engagement and develop new ideas and strategies to keep adding vitality to our friendly relations.



424. Address by Minister of State Dr. Shashi Tharoor at the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership.

New Delhi, March 15, 2010.

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers, Eminent Heads of Institutions, Industrialists,

Ladies & Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be a part of this celebration of India's close and abiding relationship with Africa. Your presence here today and representatives of friendly governments, business organizations and entrepreneurs, is a true symbol of our friendship. I believe that over the years, the India Africa Conclave has acquired an important role in the development of functional collaboration between India and Africa. Your presence here from so many countries and institutions is a tribute to our successful partnership. It has become fashionable these days to ask openly what we expect of each other. This perhaps overlooks the fact that India and Africa have been close to each other over so many centuries that our relationship is not one of imminent give-and-take but has been that of a family where each one provides the best advice, the best support and the best sharing of experience, so that when we walk the same path, we learn from each other and not make the same mistakes.

2. In many ways our path has been common as the trade routes linked us over centuries and kept us in contact. As colonization came, our contacts acquired different dimensions. Some of those remain with us. In the period of decolonization and the fight against apartheid, we stood shoulder-to-shoulder and welcomed an increasing number of African countries into the international comity of nations.

3. In this background, we sought to re-engage in the modern world in the 21st century by redrawing our framework of cooperation and devising new parameters for an enhanced and enlarged relationship commensurate with our new role in a changing world. The renewed vigour in the India-Africa relationship has been a response to the challenge of globalization

and what has emerged from it has been immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.

4. Our model of cooperation, which we now seek to implement, therefore, emerges from the success of the first India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. The Delhi Declaration and the Framework of Cooperation both synergized the Indian approach which had been followed so far and gave it a new direction and emphasis in consultation with our African partners.

5. I recall the Delhi Declaration:

"This partnership will be based on the fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, and understanding between our peoples for our mutual benefit".

It will also be guided by the following principles:

" respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of state and commitment to deepen the process of African integration; collective action and cooperation for the common good of our states and peoples; dialogue among our civilizations to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, linguistic and racial diversities as well as gender equality with the view to strengthening the trust and understanding between our peoples; the positive development of intra-regional/sub-regional integration by complementing and building upon existing/sub-regional initiatives in Africa; recognition of diversity between and within regions, including different social and economic systems and levels of development; and further consolidation and development of plural democracy."

6. The first point that I would like to emphasize with the model of our cooperation with Africa is, therefore, clearly one seeking mutual benefit through a consultative process. We do not wish to go and demand certain rights or projects in Africa but we do want to contribute to the achievement of Africa's development objectives as they have been set by our African partners. The India Africa Forum Summit and the implementation of its decisions is following this consultative mechanism.

7. We are sometimes accused of being slow in our implementation. It is true that as a democratic country we have to have consultations and build consensus. Sometimes our strong bureaucracy also acts as a check and balance on decision-making. But in all this, the reality is that once we take a decision and go forward, the decision is firm and well thought-out. We believe that the Framework of Cooperation announced at the IAFS in Delhi in 2008, was a result of a similar process both within the country and with our African partners.

8. Besides the consultative process and the spirit of friendship, both of which are clearly linked to our desire to fulfill the developmental aspirations of African countries, there is also the element of a sharing of knowledge and experience for which many African countries often want to relate to us. The multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-party pluralistic democracy that India is, is often an attraction to many of our African partners. So are our Parliamentary institutions and procedures, so also our manner of conducting free and fair elections. Our ability to work with the non-governmental sector and civil society in our quest for inclusive growth are also important lessons which many African countries have wanted to share with us. This sharing of experiences on political cooperation is, therefore, another aspect of our non-intrusive support to the development of democratic institutions in our partner countries.

9. Similarly, areas of human resource development and capacity building have been at the forefront of our partnership with Africa. The over 15,000 African students present in India, many of them on a self-financing basis, and nearly 500 of them per annum coming on scholarships, add to the experience of many African countries with Indian teachers and professors. This partnership in human resource development has been augmented by the tele-education component of the Pan African e-Network project which is visionary in its appeal and impact. The role of ICT, science & technology, research and development, has contributed to the enhancement of our engagement with Africa in this important area of human resource development. The 1600 training positions offered under the ITEC programme to Africa have also become important avenues of capacity building which in turn contribute to the fulfilment of developmental goals in so many countries. India will establish an India-Africa Institute of Information Technology, India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade, India-Africa Institute

of Educational Planning and Administration, India-Africa Diamond Institute, 10 Vocational Training Centres and 5 Human Settlement Institutes in Africa to contribute to capacity building.

10. Thus, sharing of experience of which I have given the two instances in political institutions and human resource development is another important aspect of India's model of cooperation with Africa. We see this as growing further and becoming a part of our investment in human capital and sustainable political systems.

11. Another important aspect of our model of cooperation is the private sector investment in Africa which has acquired much greater visibility in the last few years. This has been more manifest ever since India liberalised its own economic system in 1991 and in the 21st century, private Indian investment in Africa is giving the relationship a new diversity and advantage. This type of investment is not government-led or government-subsidized. It seeks commercial opportunities and Indian investors are respected because they are reputed to create the maximum employment generation, transfer of technology and contribution to intra-African trade. Entrepreneurship skills for which the Indian private sector has been well known have been matched with India's growing economic prowess leading to sustained investment flows which are contributing to the fulfilment of domestic demand in African countries, intra-African trade as well as enhancing the foreign exchange earnings through exports. India's investment in pharmaceuticals in Africa for instance, largely fulfils domestic demand and caters to some intra-African trade. Investment in agriculture and horticulture on the other hand contributes mainly to exports, and investments in manufacturing contribute both to domestic demand as well as exports. The success of the India-Africa Project Partnership is heightened as it provides greater avenues for African countries to seek investment flows from the Indian private sector.

12. These investment flows are matched by a commitment by the Government of India made at IAFS 2008 for up to \$ 5.4 billion in new lines of credit in a five-year period. This quantum leap in governmental commitment to support the economic growth of Africa acted like a stimulus package even though such packages became well-known only

after the financial crisis in 2009. Under this programme, we are expected to commit about \$ 1 billion annually every year for the five years 2009-2013 and I am happy to say that in the current year we have almost attained that target. The combined net flows from India to Africa emerging from governmental credits and private sector investment, therefore, form another part of our sustainable model of cooperation with Africa which has in turn given huge impetus to many Indian companies to seek opportunities in Africa. The lines of credit besides the asset creation that they provide, also act as a catalytic confidence builder leading to many investment decisions.

13. At the India Africa Forum Summit 2008, we announced a multi-tiered cooperative partnership with Africa. We have had a successful bilateral partnership with most African countries over decades. We started the process of establishing similar partnerships with some of the Regional Economic Communities. At the IAFS, we brought in these two tiers of cooperation and added a Pan-African or continental-tier for enhanced cooperation. This introduction of multilateralism into our relations with Africa brought with it a transparency of its decision-making and reflected our full partnership and respect for our partners. A substantial amount of funds was committed for capacity building in Africa at the IAFS and almost half the allocation is being channelled through AU-led decisions and a similar amount is committed to the bilateral and regional tiers. The action through the AU was concretized through the announcement of a Joint Action Plan a few days ago in which we had shared the decision-making on the allocation of resources, the creation of training programmes and the establishment of 19 institutions in Africa with the African Union Commission and the member states. This is an important feature of our new model of engagement with Africa.



425. Address by Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur at the Conference organised by ASSOCHAM on "India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture".

Patiala, (Punjab), March 27, 2010.

Your Excellencies,

Ambassadors and High Commissioners of friendly countries of Africa

Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly

The business representatives and farmers from our State,

The members of Assocham

Ladies & Gentlemen.

Today I am delighted to have the Heads of Mission of several friendly countries with us in Patiala. I on behalf of the Government of India and the people of Patiala welcome all of you to the historic city of Patiala. Your presence gives a substantive engagement to our bilateral relations by according an opportunity of establishing a direct contact with agriculturists and potential investors from Punjab.

Friends,

Our relationship with African countries is long-standing. We have walked the same path of seeking independence from colonialism and join the same road for development of our countries and peoples. In many African countries, India is deeply respected for the political support it offered in the period of struggle against colonialists and invaders. Later the role of Indian educationists and businessmen has been greatly valued. The familiarity with which India and Indians are known in Africa is the expression of a true bond of friendship and the creation of strong bonds of our common experience and dreams for our people.

Excellencies,

The State of Punjab which occupies only 1.5 per cent of the geographical area of the country meets two-third of the food grain requirements of our country. Further over 95 per cent of the food grains that are moved interstate

to feed deficit areas through the public distribution system are the stocks procured from this state. No doubt Punjab is called India's bread basket. The reason for India becoming a food surplus country from a food deficit country is mainly because of the success of the green revolution in Punjab.

The rising food prices in India and internationally and food shortages, in the recent years, have highlighted the importance of food security for every country. The crisis is more pronounced in the developing world where the food output has not kept pace with the growing population. The food inflation is expected to affect the developing countries, where food constitutes a major portion of the household spending and the rising prices effectively denies access to the millions of poor people.

The initiative, to strengthen our relations with African countries, especially in the field of agriculture, is an important component of our larger vision of close, cooperative and multi-sectoral partnership with African countries. Just a few days ago, we had launched the Joint Action Plan between India and Africa to follow up on the important decisions taken at the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in April 2008. The Action plan which mainly focuses on capacity building in varied fields including agriculture, through training, field visits of Indian professionals, consultancy and sharing of knowledge and information will substantively contribute to our African partners' desire to fulfil the millennium development goals.

The Indian investment in Africa from the private sector is nowadays attracting the largest attention. Our investors have traditionally been important players in the transfer of technology, creation of local employment and the promotion of intra-African trade besides contributing to exports. The Indian investment in agriculture in Africa is a recent phenomenon but due to the commitment and goodwill enjoyed by our private sector entrepreneurs, it has seen a warm welcome in many African countries. The agricultural investment is aimed at utilising the unproductive arable land in many of these countries to provide mutually beneficial food security to all of us. I am sure with the strengthening of our co-operation in agriculture, Africa can become a major export market in agriculture commodities. I would also like to assure that in the process of transferring technology and providing capital, we remain mindful that we want to contribute to the genuine welfare of the farmers of African countries and would like to utilise unutilised-land and not displace people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased that several Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the African countries have come all the way to Patiala to participate in this Symposium and highlight the opportunities in the agricultural sector in their countries today. I am confident that our agriculturists, industry bodies and government representatives, will benefit immensely with their country wise presentations and deliberations. Through these forums I would like to demonstrate the sincerity of India's engagement with Africa that could be seen as harbingers to promote sustainable development on both sides.

Finally, I appreciate ASSOCHAM's initiative in organising this important event for the first time in Patiala and wish the conference success and hope that the outcome of these brief deliberations could lead to tangible cooperation in times to come.

Thank you



426. 'Africa Day' Lecture "India-Africa Relations" by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna.

New Delhi, May 26, 2010.

Ambassdor Balumuene, Dean of the African Diplomatic corps,

Ambassador S.J.S.Chhatwal, Governing Body Member, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA),

Shri Sudhir Devare, Director General, ICWA,

Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary(West), Ministry of External Affairs,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of African Missions in New Delhi,

Learned colleagues from the academia,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I extend my heartiest congratulations on the important occasion of Africa Day, which was commemorated yesterday. The founding of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963 marked a resurgence of African identity, to which India's commitment has been steadfast.

I would also like to acknowledge the positive role played by the Indian Council of World Affairs, which has worked closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, to reintroduce the Africa Day Lecture. This is another manifestation of our unwavering commitment to our African brothers and sisters.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Today I wish to share some thoughts on India's relations with Africa. Since our independence, Africa has always occupied a very special place in the minds of the Indian leadership. Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru had said in 1955 "it is up to Asia to help Africa to the best of her ability because we are sister continents". He went on to say in 1961 that "I think the whole world owes it to the African people not to hinder them, but to help them in freedom in every way." Our common struggle against colonialism provides the historical underpinning of our special relationship. Africa has always been, and rightly so, a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Today our relations have transformed into a genuine long-term partnership. With India's sustained economic growth over the last two decades and political consolidation across Africa, our cooperation has flourished and now encompasses all priority sectors integral to the developmental goals of Africa in the 21st century. We have to jointly face the challenges of a rapidly changing, globalised world.

India's relationship with Africa was given a new structure during the First India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. At this Summit, leaders of India and Africa designed a programme of cooperation for a structured interaction in a variety of areas, which include human resources, capacity building, education, science and technology, agricultural productivity and food security, industrial growth

including the small and medium enterprises sector, health and communications and information technology.

These programmes were extensively deliberated with our African partners through the African Union and I am happy that we have concluded the Action Plan of Cooperation in March this year. We have decided to establish 19 India-Africa institutions, including (i) India Africa Institute of Foreign Trade; (ii) India Africa Diamond Institute; (iii) India Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration; and (iv) India Africa Institute of Information Technology.

Government of India's Pan African e-Network Project is another good example of India-Africa partnership. I am very happy to learn that 47 countries have already joined this Project to provide quality tele-education and tele-medicine.

Our bilateral trade with Africa is on the upswing, having grown from US\$3 billion in 2000-01 to US\$39.3 billion in 2008-09. I feel that there is considerable potential for further growth and expansion. Through the Government's 'Focus Africa programme', we are actively encouraging the private sector to seriously look at the African market. We are also encouraging enhanced Business-to-Business interactions between the Chambers of Commerce and trade bodies on either side. On our part, we have offered a Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries, 34 of whom are in Africa, to enable them to gain preferential access to the Indian market. 16 of these countries have already started availing benefits under this Scheme.

Our Official Developmental Assistance in the form of concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) and Grants-in-Aid continue to be important instruments for supporting infrastructure and development projects as prioritized by the African nations themselves. Over the next five years, an amount of US\$5.4 billion, i.e., US\$1.1 billion per year has been earmarked for Africa in the form of credits and another US\$ 500 million as Grants.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

In a rapidly changing world, an important dimension of India-Africa Partnership is our meeting of minds on pressing global issues. These issues include the reform of the United Nations, combating International Terrorism,

Climate Change, WTO, reform of international financial institutions, combating diseases, eradication of hunger and poverty and promotion of inclusive democratic societies and polities.

The current global architecture is many decades old and is no longer capable of adequately meeting the increasing challenges before us. The United Nations, in particular, needs to be reformed and strengthened. The absence of Africa and countries like India from the permanent membership of the UN Security Council makes the body unrepresentative and undemocratic. India strongly supports Africa's demand to get its due role as permanent members of the Security Council. We appreciate the widespread support of African countries for India's permanent membership of the Security Council.

Both India and the African Union have advocated expansion of the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories. We both emphasize that the new permanent members of the Security Council should have the same rights and responsibilities as the existing permanent members, though the G-4 proposal envisages this to be a step-by-step process. Given that text-based inter-governmental negotiations on UN reform will start in the UN General Assembly on 1st June 2010, we now need, more than ever, to work together to ensure stronger presence of the developing world in the UN Security Council.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, all of us are living under the shadow of the threats posed by the scourge of International Terrorism. No part of the world can claim to be immune from its tentacles. Continuing terrorist attacks in various parts of the world are a reminder that the international community needs greater cooperation and stronger collective action to defeat terrorism. India had proposed a draft for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in 1996, whose adoption will demonstrate the strong will of the international community to act unitedly against terrorists. Most of the differences over the draft have since been reconciled. The remaining issues can be resolved if the international community shows sufficient political will. We particularly look forward to working with Africa for early adoption of the Convention. We also need to evolve a coordinated response for tackling the menace of Piracy in the Indian Ocean in order to safeguard our sea routes and ensure uninterrupted movement of goods and people.

The WTO has the responsibility to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed countries, secure a proper share in the growth of international trade, commensurate with the needs of their economic development. That is why the development dimension of the Doha Round is especially important and the reason why market access gains cannot be the sole touchstone of the Round. Early, balanced and successful conclusion of the Doha Round, with development at the core of its heart, will benefit developing countries which is particularly important in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of unprecedented reach and its concomitant adverse effects on the availability of trade finance.

The recent global economic meltdown points towards the urgent need for bringing about reforms in the international financial institutions, in which the interests of the developing countries should be fully safeguarded. The resilience of the economies of Asia and Africa even in these turbulent times could offer some lessons to global financial planners.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude by saying that I am deeply convinced that together with the rise of Asia, it is the emergence of Africa that will bring about the most far-reaching changes in the existing world order. Back in 1963, Pandit Nehru had said that the emergence of Africa is "a major event in history and, what is more, it is going to play an ever-growing part in the coming years. We in India have naturally welcomed it." I only need add here, on Africa Day today, that I find Africa's revival and growth an extremely gratifying and happy development that augurs well for India and the world. We in India are proud to be partners in Africa's growth. It is a privilege to cooperate and work with Africa's developmental projects, and I would like to particularly thank my African friends present here for giving us to opportunity to do so. We remain firmly committed to working closely with Africa in order to help fulfil Africa's developmental targets, and the aspirations of its people. We also look forward to working together on major global issues.

As we rejoice in Africa's growth and development, let us pledge to make the coming decade the 'Decade of India-Africa Partnership'.

Thank You.



427. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India's participation in 15th African Union Summit.

Kampala, July 26, 2010.

An Indian delegation led by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, participated in the Executive Council Session of the 15th Summit of the African Union held in Kampala, Uganda. This was in keeping with India's consistent engagement with the African Union multilaterally and its Member States bilaterally.

During the Summit, Shri Vivek Katju and the delegation called on H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. Various aspects of the continuing engagement with Africa and the follow-up of the decisions of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) of April 2008 were discussed. The Chairperson expressed immense satisfaction at the model of engagement created by India and said it was the most unique and preferred of Africa's partnerships. He also expressed satisfaction at the determined pace at which implementation of the proposals of the IAFS had been undertaken. The Action Plan of the Framework of Cooperation of the IAFS was announced in March 2010 and among the decisions currently under implementation are the placement of the first batch of 75 scholars under the Special Scheme for Agriculture Sciences in the Institutions of ICAR; the initiation of the CV Raman fellowships for Scientific Research; the implementation of several new training programmes, including the holding of capacity building courses by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in 9 African countries so far.

India is to establish 19 institutions for building African capacities of which 4 are at the continental level and the others on a regional level. The African Union has decided on the locations of some of these institutions in West and Central Africa and communicated those decisions to the Indian delegation at the meeting.

During the Summit, Shri Vivek Katju also met with several Foreign Ministers on a bilateral basis to review the existing level of bilateral engagement and to further the agenda set at the IAFS in April 2008. These include the Foreign Minister of the host country of the Summit - Uganda; the Chair of the African Union - Malawi; Rwanda; Burundi; Ethiopia; Kenya; Lesotho;

Mauritius; Seychelles; Zambia; Namibia; South Africa; Djibouti; Republic of Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Liberia; Sierra Leone; Senegal; and the forthcoming Chair of the African Union - Equatorial Guinea.

The issue of UN reform and the common African position was a subject of discussion at the Summit and was also discussed with the Foreign Ministers, particularly the Committee of 10 of the African Union.

On the sidelines of the Summit, the delegation also met with the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, several Commissioners and representatives of the Regional Economic Communities.



428. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of the second-phase of Government of India's Pan African e-Network project.

New Delhi, August 16, 2010.

Your Excellencies the High Commissioners and Ambassadors;

Secretary (East);

Senior officers of Ministry of External Affairs and TCIL;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my proud privilege to inaugurate the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network Project today in respect of 12 African countries - Botswana, Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia - along with senior Ministers of these countries.

I had useful interactions with all the Ministers during which we not only exchanged views on the issues relating to the implementation of the Project but also on other aspects of our bilateral relations.

Friends, the Pan-African e-Network Project is one of the finest examples of the growing partnership between India and Africa. I understand that this is the biggest project of distance education and tele-medicine ever undertaken in Africa.

It is a matter of great pride for India to be the driving force for such an ambitious project, which is fully financed by the Government of India and has an approved budget allocation of Rs 540 crores (US\$ 125 million).

Conceptualized on the vision of India's former president Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam of connecting India with all the fifty three (53) countries of the African Union with a satellite and fibre optic network for sharing India's expertise in education and health care, the project is being implemented in 47 African countries, of which actual commissioning has been completed in 34 countries.

Under this Project we have made available the facilities and expertise of some of the best universities and super-specialty hospitals in India to the people of Africa. The project is also equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other services in the African countries, besides providing VVIP connectivity among the Heads of State of the African countries through a highly secure closed satellite network.

I am happy to learn that more than 1700 students from several African countries have already registered with the Indian universities for the various courses being offered by them under the tele-education component of the Project.

Regular tele-medical consultations have also started between the African doctors and the Indian specialists through this network. Likewise, nearly 700 CME lectures have been held delivered by our doctors from the Indian Super Specialty hospitals.

Taking into account the enthusiastic and encouraging response from our African partners, we have decided to offer training at the regional level by conducting workshops in the tele-medicine and tele-education modules for the benefit of African participants to facilitate better utilization of different aspects of this Project. I am confident that at the end, both sides would find themselves enriched through mutual exchanges and interactions.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the Pan-African e-Network Project has been conferred with 'The Hermes Prize for Innovation 2010' by the European Institute for Creative Studies and Innovation for its contribution in the field of sustainable development. I would like to congratulate all the participating countries on this shared achievement.

I would also like to congratulate all the 47 countries which have joined this Project and especially the 12 countries represented by Your Excellencies where the second phase of the Project was formally inaugurated today.

I commend officials of the TCIL for the sincerity and dedication shown by them while implementing this gigantic project.

Thank you!



429. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the inauguration of the Second Phase of Pan African e-Network Project.

New Delhi, August 16, 2010

The External Affairs Minister Sh. S.M. Krishna, , inaugurated the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network Project covering twelve countries at TCIL Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of High Commissioners and Ambassadors of African countries and senior officers of MEA. The twelve countries include: Botswana, Burundi, Cote d' Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia.

EAM held online interaction on bilateral matters with senior ministers and other high-ranking dignitaries in each of the twelve countries individually through the network. He urged all the countries to take full advantage of the complete range of services offered by India in the tele-education and tele-medicine fields.

After the inauguration, EAM addressed the participants including members of the media, when he described the Pan-African e-Network Project as one of the finest examples of the growing partnership between India and

Africa. He noted that this is the biggest project of distance education and tele-medicine ever undertaken in Africa. The project is also equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other services in the African countries, besides providing VVIP connectivity among the Heads of State of the African countries through a highly secure closed satellite network.

A total of 47-countries have already joined the project. The network already covers 34-countries and the remaining would be progressively brought within its scope. The first phase of the Pan African e-Network Project was inaugurated in February 2009 in respect of eleven countries by the then External Affairs Minister. (These countries included: Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Seychelles.)

The basic objective of the Pan-African e-Network project is to assist Africa in capacity building by way of imparting quality education to 10,000 students in Africa over a 5-year period in various disciplines from some of the best Indian Universities/Educational Institutions. Besides, this would provide Tele-Medicine services by way of on line medical consultation to the medical practitioners at the Patient End Location in Africa by Indian Medical specialists in various disciplines/specialties selected by African Union for its Member States.

The Pan African e-Network Project was conceived by former President Hon'ble Dr. A.P.J. Kalam and approved by the Union Cabinet on 5th July, 2007 at a budgeted cost of Rs.542.90 crores (US\$ 125 million) which covers the cost of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of hardware and software, end-to-end connectivity, satellite bandwidth, O&M support, and providing the tele-education and tele-medicine services to 53 African countries for 5-years. The Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal ministry for the project while Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is implementing the project on a turnkey basis.

Regular Tele-Medicine & Tele-Education services have already been started on this network. At present, the Tele-Medicine consultations are regularly being conducted from Super-Specialty Hospitals from India to the African countries on need basis. Moreover, regular Continued Medical

Education (CME) sessions have been started with effect from 22nd April, 2009 from 11 Indian Super-Specialty Hospitals. So far 654 CME sessions have been conducted on this network.

Regarding Tele-Education services from India, more than 2000 students from Africa have been enrolled in 5 different top ranking universities in India in various disciplines like MBA, Master in Finance Control, PG Diploma in IT, M.Sc. in IT and Bachelor in Finance & Investment Analysis and many others. Regular Tele-Education live sessions are being conducted from India and students have shown great interest in the courses.

TCIL has established the Network with a Data Center in TCIL Bhawan, New Delhi that acts as a gateway to the Hub Station in Dakar for connectivity of Indian institutions on the African side.

Complete details on the project are available on Pan-African website www.panafricane-Network.com



430. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during his interaction with journalists from Africa.

New Delhi, October 12, 2010.

1. It is a pleasure to welcome you to India. I hope you are having a professionally fruitful and pleasant stay in New Delhi.
2. I am particularly happy that for the first time ever, we are hosting distinguished journalists, from ten of our closest friends in Africa.
3. We have historical linkages with the African continent, having shared many trials and tribulations together. It is gratifying that our relationship has transformed in recent decades and years. We have now become developmental partners, looking out for each others interests and well being.
4. India, the largest democracy in the world, is a developing country with numerous challenges and strengths to bring a better life to our people,

particularly the most vulnerable among them. We have the vision, determination and ability, to overcome our principal challenge, that of poverty alleviation. For this purpose, we have to address all that which stands in the way including infrastructure bottlenecks.

5. We have accumulated a host of developmental experiences, which are perhaps more relevant to fellow developing countries. We are privileged not only to share them, but also to share our limited resources with friends in Africa.

6. The India-Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008 was based on the new architecture, the common vision we share with African countries. It is based on the Banjul Formula and is not an unilateral exercise. In order to implement the decisions taken at the first summit, a joint action plan has been developed which focuses on capacity building, human resource and infrastructure development, bridging the information gap and forging closer media contacts.

7. We are committed to go by the priorities and wishes of our African friends, in crafting programmes of cooperation through a consultative process.

8. This is greatly facilitated by regular high level political exchanges. We have had the honour of hosting a number of African leaders in the last couple of years. I paid a most fruitful visit to Seychelles, Mauritius and Mozambique last July.

9. We look forward to the second India Africa Forum Summit in Africa in 2011.

10. I am also pleased to note that a number of initiatives jointly agreed to in 2008 are already taking shape including, the 20,000 scholarships over a five year period, a Pan-African E-Network, infrastructure projects including Pan-African Centers of Excellence, as well as two billion dollars in fresh lines of credit.

11. Last but not the least, India and Africa need to infuse new vigour in our cultural and people to people ties. We have been fascinated by each other's cultural traditions and have a lot to offer in both directions.

12. In this pleasant task, I seek the support and partnership of our media friends from Africa and India, without which this objective cannot be achieved. India is an open book. I would like you to read a few leaves from this book and draw your own conclusions during the few days of your stay in India.



431. Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 62[a] & [b] - Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; 2001-2010: Decade to roll back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa at the UNGA.

New York, October 14, 2010.

Please see Document No.694.



432. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a delegation of African Regional Economic Communities.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

In order to further enhance institutional engagement between India and Africa, the first ever meeting between India and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) was held in New Delhi between 14 and 16 November 2010.

It was attended by the Secretary Generals of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC), the President of the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS), the Deputy Executive Secretary of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Adviser in-charge of Political Affairs of Community of Sahel-Saharan States CENSAD, the Director of Political Affairs of Union of the Arab Maghreb (UMA/AMU) and senior officials from their delegations.

Africa has a large number of Regional Communities and eight of them are recognised by the African Union. These include the above and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). 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 India Africa Forum Summit in April 2008.

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 also at the regional level through the RECs.

There has been active engagement with some of the RECs and MOUs have also been signed but on this occasion, an initiative was taken to engage all of them together so that the implementation of the India Africa Action Plan for the Framework of Cooperation could be discussed in detail and implementation procedures worked out.

The RECs were welcomed by Smt. Preeti Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, who said that they were an important element of the India Africa partnership structure and India looked forward to work 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. A detailed wrap-up session was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West), where results of the process of consultation and how to take it further were discussed.

The representatives of the RECs met with several Ministries and agencies of the Government of India who are engaged in implementing

jointly agreed programme and projects. These include: the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges and Ministry of Finance with whom developing capacities of regional stock exchanges in Africa was discussed; with the Ministry of Food Processing where the handling of post harvest issues and food processing in Africa was discussed and with the National Small Industries Corporation, who arranged a visit to Techmart at the India International Trade Fair where economic development through engagement with small industries was the focus of discussion. India is to establish 10 small industry incubators in Africa, two in every region under commitments of the Action Plan of the IAFS. A presentation by TCIL on the Pan-African e-Network project led to significant discussions on implementing the regional dimensions to this project and to enhance its usage in many of the countries covered by the RECs.

The delegation also received presentations from the Education Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) on setting up of the India Africa Institute of Information Technology in Ghana; National University of Educational Planning & Administration (NUEPA) on setting up of the India Africa Institute for Education Planning & Administration in Burundi; the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers on computer aided design for roads and bridges; Building Materials Technology Promotion Council on establishment of Human Settlement Centres and related issues under the IAFS and by the Indian Diamond Institute on the India Africa Diamond Institute to be established in Southern Africa. They also met with representatives of the Ministry of Railways and RITES to discuss ideas for regional railways networks.

The delegation had an occasion to interact with the Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and appreciate India's cultural diplomacy in Africa.

Two special sessions were organised, one by CII and other by FICCI, 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 opportunities in their region, to learn about the growing market size, i.e., from about 130 million people in the EAC to nearly 400 million in COMESA.

Africa's Regional Economic Communities' movement towards harmonisation of standards and laws and to create common markets, have an important bearing on the development of India's trade and investment. They are also seeking to harmonise better movement of goods and services through enhanced infrastructure development and integration as well as 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 and sensitise the Indian agencies on their capacity building, human resource development, food and agriculture processing requirements as well as their desire to have greater investment for the development of their own resources.

The representatives of the Regional Economic Communities expressed their gratitude to India for taking such an initiative to engage with them and recognise the regional dimension of Africa's development. They considered India an important partner and were happy to have a structured dialogue in this format. Some of the RECs who already have MOUs with India (EAC, COMESA, SADC) were keen to intensify the dialogue on a regular basis and to review implementation of decisions taken. Other RECs were keen to move towards bilateral MOUs so that an enhancement of their engagement with India could occur. All of them expressed appreciation for the detailed programme and interaction arranged for them through which they got briefings from a variety of implementing agencies and Ministries.

It was agreed that the dialogue with the RECs would continue with them periodically and appropriate action plans including all decisions taken through the Joint Action Plan with the AU would be pursued together.



BOTSWANA**433. Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana.****New Delhi, January 4, 2010.**

Director (XP) (Shri Sailas Thangal): A very good afternoon to you, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this special briefing on the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Vice-President of India to three African countries - Zambia, Malawi and Botswana - by Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju. Also present on the dais are: Shri Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary, and Shri P. Harish, JS and OSD to Hon'ble Vice-President.

After making his opening remarks, Secretary (West) will be happy to take a few questions on the visit only. Let me also take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Sailas Thangal, Director (XP), standing in for Joint Secretary (XP) who is out of station. May I now hand over the floor to Secretary (West)?

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Thank you Sailas. Good afternoon and a very happy New Year to all of you.

The Hon'ble Vice-President will be visiting Zambia, Malawi and Botswana from tomorrow, the 5th to the 11th of January. The visit is the highest level visit from India to these countries in recent years and it only serves to emphasise the commitment that India has to continue to foster, a multi-faceted and a mutually beneficial relationship with Africa.

The Hon'ble Vice-President will first visit Zambia from the 5th to the 7th of January where he would meet with the Zambian leadership. Vice-President His Excellency Mr. George Kunda will be the Vice-President's host. The Vice-President will be received by the President of Zambia His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Banda. He will also meet with senior Ministers, and call on Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, who, you will recall, was the first President of independent Zambia and with whom India had a very special relationship. The President of Zambia, His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Banda had visited India in April 2008 for the India-Africa Forum Summit in his then capacity of Vice-President of his country.

From Zambia, the Vice-President will make the first-ever visit by an Indian dignitary to Malawi from the 7th to the 9th of January. He will be received by His Excellency Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika, the President of Malawi. We have had interaction with Malawi at the Ministerial level. A group of Ministers from Malawi had visited India in May 2006, and that group had included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Transport and Public Works, and Local Government and Rural Development. The main objective of the visit of this group of Ministers was to develop linkages with India in all spheres of economic and development cooperation.

On the final part of his tour, the Vice-President will visit Botswana from the 9th to the 11th of January, where he will be hosted by His Excellency Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe, the Vice-President of Botswana. To give you the background, the previous President of Botswana, His Excellency Mr. Festus Mogae had visited India in 2006.

Our relations with Africa are increasing. Our trade with these three countries, for instance, has high growth potential. Indian investors have shown an interest in several areas of activity in these countries. There is now a Duty Free Tariff Scheme which gives opportunities for a larger number of African products to access the Indian market. This Scheme was announced at the India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008 and we remain firmly committed to enhance our functional cooperation with Africa in the spirit of the Delhi Declaration and of the framework of cooperation which was agreed upon at that Summit. The proposals for expanding our relationship with Africa was focused in a major way on building African capacities through the establishment of institutions of excellence, enhancing training programmes, and contributing to capacity-building in Africa in sectors in which India has core competencies. This approach will continue in our interaction with African countries and will form the bedrock of the Vice-President's discussions with his African counterparts and the leadership of these three countries that he will be visiting.

You know, ladies and gentlemen, that our engagement with Africa is of a historical nature and is founded on a firm partnership of shared values and shared struggles for human dignity and worth, and we will always be guided by the choices made by our African partners for their own

development. I would like to underline this point because this is the spirit in which we approach our development programmes in Africa. We are not prescriptive. We seek to ascertain from our African partners what is their need and then we seek to respond to those needs.

To give you further background, private sector investment and Government of India backed financing are important elements of our engagement with Africa. We have extended Lines of Credit to many African countries. For instance, so far we have extended Lines of Credit of 30 million US dollars to Malawi, 20 million US dollars to Botswana. We have provided Zambia with a Line of Credit of 10 million US dollars. And there is an agreement, which we hope will be signed during the Vice-President's visit, for a Line of Credit of 50 million US dollars for the Itezhi Tezhi Hydropower Project in Zambia. Additional funds, both as credits as well as grants, will be available to support the development aspirations of Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. The grants in particular will focus on the sectors of agriculture, health and education.

I may also mention that the decisions that were taken during the India-Africa Forum Summit are now in the process of implementation. And we will undertake, in the three countries that the Hon'ble Vice-President will be visiting, to announce the bilateral component of our cooperation which will be in line with the decisions that were taken at the Summit in 2008. We are also discussing with our African partners the regional components of that strategy which was decided at the Summit. These discussions are ongoing with Regional Economic Communities in Africa. Finally, we are in the process of working out a Joint Action Plan with the African Union Commission that we hope we will be able to announce soon.

During the Vice-President's visit we hope that we will be able to sign agreements for mutually beneficial cooperation in sectors like agriculture, small and medium enterprises, foreign office interaction in the areas of health and power. Naturally other agreements will emanate from the discussions that the Vice-President will have with his counterparts.

In brief, our engagement with Africa is traditional. We are committed to imparting a continuous momentum to this relationship for mutually beneficial cooperation whether it be in the area of development assistance or in trade, in investments, in capacity-building, etc.

I will be happy to take a few questions on the visit.

Question: What is India's total trade with Africa?

Secretary (West): If you take the entire continent, it is about 39 billion US dollars.

Question: What about the total investment in these three African countries? Do you have the figures?

Secretary (West): I have some figures. In Zambia the total investments is of the order of 1.6 billion US dollars. There is a very large investment in copper mining and copper industry. But some of this investment may have been routed not directly from India but by Indian groups from outside India. But there is a substantial presence in Zambia in the mining sector. It is also there in other areas. For example, in banking, it is there in hotels, in the hospitality industry. In Malawi, we do not have any investments at the moment. But this visit, we hope and indeed we are confident, will lead to a greater interest. I should have mentioned that a business delegation will be accompanying the Vice-President. That delegation will naturally explore further business opportunities in all these three countries. In addition, there will be of course a Minister accompanying the Vice-President as is usual in such tours. And three Hon'ble Members of Parliament will be there with the Vice-President on this tour.

With Botswana, there is a small investment of three and a half million US dollars. I think in Botswana it is in automotive parts. Here we are looking forward to a substantial degree of interaction with Botswana in different areas of commerce especially in diamonds. Botswana is a major diamond-producing country. We have some Indian groups in the diamond industry which are already in Botswana. But we will be discussing various opportunities that we think will be possible through a greater degree of interaction between our companies and Botswana entities, during the course of the visit.

Question: Who is the accompanying Minister?

Secretary (West): Mr. Harish Rawat, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour and Employment will be accompanying the Vice-President.

Question: Chinese are acquiring large tracts of agricultural land in these countries. Is India also encouraging Indian agriculturists to go there?

Secretary (West): We are aware that there are Indian groups that have made investments in the area of agriculture, in floriculture in some African countries. That is a process which we feel is mutually beneficial. At the same time in investments dealing with land, we have to be cautious that such investments must be completely transparent and acceptable in the host country. But yes, I think cooperation in the area of agriculture is an important part of our interaction with Africa. Such cooperation has to be mutually beneficial. The strengths that exist in India in the area of agriculture have always been available to African partners.

Question: Apart from trade, will there be any political issues which will be discussed, for example, the expanding footprint of China in Africa, or the position on Zimbabwe at the moment?

Secretary (West): As far as the first issue is concerned, let me say straight away that we are not in competition with any country in Africa, or I believe elsewhere. We have, as I mentioned in my opening statement, a firm historical relationship with Africa. Again as I mentioned, we have been partners with Africa in shared struggles for human dignity, for freedom. We have shared values. I do not need to mention to this group the connections we have had with Africa in the past. So, we have our own relationship with Africa. That relationship was greatly strengthened through the India-Africa Forum Summit that was held in 2008. As far as political issues generally are concerned including issues in Africa, naturally when the political leaders meet they discuss among other things political issues. I do expect that the Vice-President in his interaction with the African leadership will touch upon these issues.

Thank you.

Director (XP): Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.



434. Media briefing by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Vivek Katju during Vice President's visit to Botswana.

Gaborone, January 9, 2010.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): As you know, the Vice-President arrived this afternoon. He held official talks with his counterpart, the Vice-President of Botswana His Excellency Lt. Gen. Mompoti Merafhe. The talks were held in a very warm and cordial atmosphere and also in an atmosphere of great friendship. The Vice-President of Botswana was appreciative of the fact that Botswana had been included in the Vice-President's tour of southern Africa.

The discussions covered bilateral issues. There was focus also on some regional situations and on some areas of international concern. In so far as bilateral issues are concerned, the Botswana side expressed great gratitude for the assistance that Botswana has received through the decades in its efforts at capacity-building in different areas including the training of its defence forces. We have had a team of defence officers in Botswana for many years now, which is involved in imparting training. The quality of training that has been given to the armed forces of Botswana was recognised by the Vice-President of Botswana. The Vice-President also noted the participation of Indian professionals in the fields of education and health. He was also appreciative of the role that has been played by the Indian community in this country.

Our Vice-President on his part assured the Botswana side that our capacity-building programmes would continue and would be available to our friends in Botswana in areas which they consider to be priority areas. As you know, our entire approach to matters relating to capacity-building or in terms of assistance is based on sharing of experience, and it is never prescriptive. This is an important fact. We never seek to influence the planning processes or the socioeconomic priorities that our friends and partners determine. These are areas where they have to make choices and we respect those choices. Such experience that we have gathered, we are always willing to share with them. This is a point which our Vice-President underlined to the Botswana side. One specific area that was

mentioned was that of vocational training, and we have agreed that we will send our experts on deputation to assist in this area.

As part of the implementation of the India-Africa Forum Summit's decisions, as I have told you earlier in our interaction, we are in the process of undertaking an exercise with the AU for the location of the four Pan-African Institutes that India has offered to establish. There was focus on this subject and we mentioned to the Botswana side what these institutes were. I mentioned this to you in the past. We also underlined that it was for the African Union to take a decision in this respect.

Our Vice-President also mentioned the strength that we have acquired in the area of agriculture, and conveyed to his Botswana counterpart that we will be very happy to share this expertise that we have gathered. Among international issues, two subjects came up. One was the need for a reform within the UN system including the reform of the United Nations Security Council. The Botswana side once again reiterated its support for India's bid for permanent membership of the Council or of an expanded Council.

The other issue that was briefly touched upon was that of climate change. It was recognised by both sides that climate change is the pressing global issue; that developing countries will bear the brunt of climate change, and that in all international efforts to meet the challenge of climate change the principle that has to be kept uppermost is that of differentiated responsibilities according to the capacities of different countries. Two agreements were signed. I would request my colleague Gurjit to give you details.

Joint Secretary (E&SA)* (Shri Gurjit Singh): One was a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. It was signed by the High Commissioner from our side and the Minister for Agriculture on the side of Botswana. The thrust of this agreement is to identify areas of cooperation as agricultural research, agricultural machinery, livestock, crops and horticulture. A Joint Working Group will be established to review these and how they are implemented. The second one is an Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the Field of Education. In 1997 we had this agreement on cooperation in the field of culture under which various exchange programmes can be undertaken. And as you

* Joint Secretary in charge of East and Southern Africa in the Ministry of External Affairs.

notice, education is one of the foremost sectors and so this was selected. In this are exchange of research materials and information, organisation of joint seminars, joint research programmes, training programmes for educational administrators and teachers, exchange of academic staff, scholars, teachers, students, twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning; bilateral programmes in technical, vocational and higher education, possibility of mutual recognition of educational qualifications, setting up of Chairs on contemporary studies, providing scholarships and mutual assistance in the field of IT, computer science, mathematics and science, and any other activities. It was an umbrella agreement.

Secretary (West): We will give you a write up on this.

Joint Secretary (E&SA): They also specifically noted that NIIT was doing a very good job in the field of IT education.

Question: Were any regional issues discussed?

Secretary (West): There was a very brief discussion on the situation in Zimbabwe* and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Question: A follow-up on Zimbabwe. The position of the Government of Botswana is slightly at odds with that of the African Union in that the Government of Botswana is far more critical of Mugabe. Does the Indian Government share that or does it disagree with the Government of Botswana in favour of the African Union?

Secretary (West): It is not for the Government of India to comment on the positions of other States. We were told that Botswana seeks that there should

* Zimbabwe, has been under severe criticism from the international community for the political crisis following the disputable elections of 2008. The issue came up for discussion when Vice-President Hamid Ansari called on Botswana President Seretse Khama Ian Khama. India was however of the opinion that it was a domestic issue of Zimbabwe. But for Botswana it was a major issue being a neighbour since it bore the brunt of the problem. A large number of illegal migrants were trickling into Botswana on a regular basis, creating an economic problem. During the on-board briefing at the start of the African tour soon on January 5 Mr. Ansari had said India subscribed to the African Union position on the issue. The African Union, after much debate, confined itself to urging the warring political parties of Zimbabwe to negotiate a solution to solve their differences. During his meeting with the President of Botswana, Mr. Ansari noted that both countries were well-established democracies and the two leaders called for greater participation of women in all areas of national and public life. Later, at a reception hosted by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Ansari said both countries shared a common and abiding commitment for democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

be a democratic Zimbabwe, that there should be free and fair elections. It is my impression that this is the position that is shared by the African Union. It is also obviously a position that is shared by the Government of India.

Question: What about diamonds? Did you talk about direct access to Botswana's uncut diamonds?

Secretary (West): No, we had no discussions on diamonds. Our Vice-President did indicate the interest that we have in the area of mining in Botswana and that many Indian companies are showing an interest in this area, and that is a process that we are entirely comfortable with.

Question: Was there any specific discussion on diamonds?

Secretary (West): No.

Question: Vice-President has spoken of the need of sourcing diamonds directly while avoiding the diamond cartel when it comes to prices. But De Beers is the monopoly when it comes to production.

Secretary (West): As part of his programme he is visiting a diamond trading company. The role the diamonds play in the economic life of Botswana is evident and the Vice-President is visiting a facility which is an important facility in this area. I do not see any contradiction between what the Vice-President had mentioned to you earlier and the Vice-President's proposed visit to this facility.

Question: Is Botswana still critical of Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal?

Secretary (West): We did not discuss nuclear issues. My friend correctly reminds me that there was great appreciation expressed by the Botswana side about the role that India is playing in international fora and he praised India as a dependable and trusted economic partner.

Question: Have you a list of the possible institutes where these Chairs in Contemporary Studies will be opened?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): Both the Education Ministries are here. There would be a Joint Working Group which will meet and then go over the various issues.

Secretary (West): This is an umbrella agreement. Under this, work will now take place on specifics.

Thank you.



435. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by Vice President of Botswana Lt. General Mompoti S. Merafhe.

Gaborone, January 9, 2010.

Your Excellency, Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe, Vice President of Botswana,
Hon'ble Ministers,

Hon'ble Members of Parliament,

Distinguished guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My wife and I are delighted to be in your beautiful country. I bring the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India to the government and people of Botswana. The warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us is reflective of the close bonds between our two countries.

India's partnership with Botswana is an important component of our larger vision of close, cooperative and multi-sectoral partnership with African countries encompassing political, security, economic, science and technology, human resource development and cultural sectors. At the first ever India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008, African leaders and our Prime Minister jointly adopted a Framework for Cooperation to strengthen our engagement.

Our partnership with Africa is based on equality and mutual benefit for our peoples. India respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African states and commitment to deepen the process of African integration. We, along with our African partners, wish to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, linguistic and racial diversities as well as for gender equality.

India feels an affinity with Botswana. We are both committed to the ideals of democratic governance, of accountability and transparency, of respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights, and of upholding the rule of law. We are both engaged in the task of economic development with inclusive growth so that we can provide a better life and opportunities for fully

developing the potential of our peoples. It is through our mutual cooperation and cooperation among the countries of the south that we will successfully address our concerns.

Excellency,

We have watched with great interest the initiative for economic diversification and economic growth launched by the Government of Botswana, with a specific focus on addressing poverty and unemployment. It is significant that your National Development Plan scheduled to begin in April this year is basing such diversification efforts on promoting the six hubs of agriculture, transport, the diamond industry, health, education and innovation. I would like to assure you that the government and people of India have the capacity and desire to partner with Botswana in each of these sectors.

The cutting edge expertise achieved and technologies developed by India in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, small and medium enterprises, information technology, engineering and the various aspects of the diamond industry would be made available to our friends in Botswana as you continue on your journey of growth and development.

We would like Botswana to take advantage of the new initiatives announced at the India-Africa Forum Summit particularly in regard to capacity building and development. We propose to establish several Pan African institutions including African Institutes of Information Technology, Diamonds, Foreign Trade and Educational Administration. I am sure Botswana will benefit from some of them.

The grant of US \$ 8 million made available by India to the Government of Botswana for the social sector projects in agriculture, health and education would deepen our mutual cooperation based on our complementarities and will greatly benefit the friendly people of Botswana. We believe that our Line of Credit of US \$ 20 million can be utilized for development of infrastructure or industrial projects in Botswana.

Excellency,

Our recently commissioned pan-African E-Network Project is yet another milestone of South-South Cooperation. This project will facilitate tele-education and tele-medicine services and video-conferencing with all the Heads of State in Africa. This is an example of our efforts to bring the benefits of our technological development to our partners in Africa.

Botswana has emerged as an influential player on the regional as well as the global stage. Our two nations share common approaches on many issues on the international agenda. We are committed to working towards a safer and more equitable world order that is responsive to change and the realities of today.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, May I request all of you to join me in a toast.

- To the health and personal well-being of His Excellency, the President of Botswana, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama;
- To the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Botswana;
- And to lasting friendship, affection and cooperation between India and Botswana.

Thank you.



436. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari, at Indian Community Reception.

Gaborone, January 11, 2010.

"I am delighted to be here with you this evening and to meet you all. Since our arrival in this friendly country, my wife and I have enjoyed the warm welcome and kind hospitality of the Government and people of Botswana.

India and Botswana have long standing and close bilateral ties dating back to several decades. Both countries share a common and abiding commitment for democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. We also share similar challenges to address the developmental needs of all of our citizens and provide opportunities to develop their potential.

India is committed to partner with Botswana in its initiative for economic diversification and economic growth in consonance with the Framework for Cooperation adopted by our leaders at the first ever India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April last year. Such partnership would cover various areas including capacity building, agriculture, diamond industry, infrastructure development, health, food security and technology cooperation.

The efforts made by various Indian Trade Promotion Councils and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in tandem with the Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA) and Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower (BOCCIM) have broadened the possibilities of establishing joint ventures and of investment opportunities and bilateral trade.

The growing economy of India has given greater opportunity for Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Botswana which has huge reserves of minerals. Let us take this opportunity to further strengthen bilateral trade and commerce.

I am glad to know that many Overseas Indians have extensively contributed to the development of Botswana. Your hard work, diligence

and talent have earned a reputation. Your achievements and good work are a source of immense pride and happiness for us.

We are keen to deepen our engagement with Overseas Indian communities, including with you in Botswana. The government of India has created the Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs the nodal ministry to implement its initiatives for the welfare of the Overseas Indians.

During my visit I have been received with great warmth and affection. I am overwhelmed by the generous hospitality that was shown to me, my wife and the delegation accompanying me.

I am extremely thankful to all of you for having come here this evening. I wish you all every success in your professional and personal lives."



437. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Vice President of Botswana Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe.

New Delhi, June 19, 2010.

At the invitation of the Vice President of India, the Vice President of Botswana, His Honour Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe visited India from June 16-19, 2010. Vice President Merafhe's delegation included the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and senior officials. It was Vice President Merafhe's first visit to India as the Vice President of Botswana. The Vice President of India had visited Botswana in January this year.

The Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari had discussions with and hosted a banquet for the visiting dignitary on June 17, 2010 in Hyderabad House. The Vice President of India hosted a personal dinner as a special gesture towards Vice President Merafhe. Vice President Merafhe called on the President and had a meeting with the Prime Minister. He had business interaction with CII.

Vice President Merafhe visited Mumbai on June 18-19, 2010. He had meeting with the Governor of Maharashtra on June 18, 2010. He addressed a Press Conference and inaugurated the Liaison office of Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA). The delegation led by Vice President Merafhe also visited Shrenuj Diamond Jewellery Manufacturing Unit on June 19, 2010, one of the Indian companies working on site in Botswana.

India's relations with Botswana have been close and friendly. India being one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, it has created renewed interest in Botswana, both at Government and business levels. The two nations share similar perceptions on various issues including democratic values, reforms and expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Both sides also cooperate at WTO and in the framework of India's relations with Southern African Development Community & Southern African Customs Union (SACU) (of which Botswana is a founding member).

During the visit, an MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Small Medium and Micro Enterprises, and an Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology were signed.

India is supporting Botswana both financially and through training. A grant of US\$ 10 million for the education and health sectors for a period of five years has supported school education programmes in Botswana. The Pan-African e-Network Project of the Government of India is implemented in Botswana is an important aspect of capacity building and support to the education and health sectors. Following the India-Africa Forum Summit in April 2008, CV Raman Fellowships have been instituted in the area of scientific research and development and Botswana is a beneficiary of such fellowships.

Both sides are now renewing the relationship in a contemporary context and trying to find mutuality for cooperation in the fields of MSME sector, defence, agriculture, trade and investment. Both sides reiterated their resolve to continue bilateral dialogue and cooperation at various international fora. The visit was an opportunity to underline our commitment to South-South cooperation with a friendly country in Africa.



CHAD**438. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Chadian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mahamat Bechir Okormi.****New Delhi, September 6, 2010.**

Mr. Mahamat Bechir Okormi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of the Republic of Chad, is currently on an official visit to India from 4-8 September 2010. A 7-member delegation including Mr. Youssef Abassalah, Minister of Commerce and Industry is accompanying him.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs received Ministers Mahamat Bechir Okormi and Youssef Abassalah and also held delegation level talks with the Chadian delegation on 6 September. Both sides expressed the desire to further enhance bilateral cooperation. The Chadian side thanked the Government of India for the US\$50 million Line of Credit extended through the TEAM-9 initiative, for five projects. It also sought more assistance for several projects which will be considered by India.

The Chadian delegation particularly emphasized possibilities of cooperation in the areas of hydrocarbons, minerals and agriculture.

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed by Smt. Preneet Kaur from the Indian side and Mr. Mahamat Bechir Okormi from the Chadian side.

The delegation is also having interaction with FICCI, RITES and Exim Bank during its stay here.



CONGO**439. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Congo Basile Ikouebe.****New Delhi, March 18, 2010.**

His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouebe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Congo, accompanied by Mrs. Ikouebe and Senior Officials, paid an official visit to India from 13th to 18th March 2010.

On 17th March, the Congolese Foreign Minister held extensive discussions with Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs, which covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Both sides identified specific areas for expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Republic of Congo assured India of its support for a Non-Permanent seat for the term 2011-2012.

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs on the Indian side and Mr. Basile Ikouebe, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation on the Congolese side. Both sides agreed to speed up formalities for concluding several other institutional mechanisms for bilateral cooperation.



ETHIOPIA**440. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the First India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations.****New Delhi, March 30, 2010.**

The first India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations were held on 30 March 2010 in New Delhi. The Ethiopian delegation was led by Ambassador Mahadi Ahmed, Director General of the Middle East, Asia and Oceania Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary (E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs.

2. Both sides held extensive discussions bilateral issues as well as shared information on the regional and international issues of interest to both the sides.
3. It was decided to hold the first India-Ethiopia Joint Ministerial Commission after the elections and formation of a new Government in Ethiopia later this year. Ethiopian side requested for engagement with India for the training of a large batch of recently-recruited young diplomats. Indian side responded positively and on their advice, the Ethiopian delegation discussed the matter with Dean, Foreign Service Institute. During the meeting in FSI, it was decided to cooperate in the establishment of the new Foreign Affairs Training Institute in Ethiopia.
4. It was also agreed that the Foreign Office Consultations be held at least annually, alternatively in New Delhi and Addis Ababa.
5. Both sides shared information on situation in Somalia, Sudan, Darfur and Eritrea as well as India's relations with its neighbours. UN reforms and Climate Change, being issues of common interest to India and Ethiopia, were also discussed.
6. Ambassador Mahadi paid a courtesy call on Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West). Bilateral relation issues were reviewed and discussed during the meeting. Stressing on the importance of training of young

diplomats, as proposed by the Ethiopian side, Secretary (West) promised all possible assistance from Government of India.

7. India and Ethiopia enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations which are diversified and have depth. There is greater understanding in bilateral matters and excellent cooperation in regional and international fora. India-Ethiopia engagement has developed through capacity building programmes, training and sharing of experience and has reached the threshold of high volume of bilateral trade and increased investment by Indian entrepreneurs in Ethiopia. India has also assisted Ethiopia with soft credit lines for helping its sugar industry.



441. Extract relevant to Ethiopia from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

Seoul, November 11, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening. As you are aware, the Prime Minister of India, who arrived at Seoul yesterday to participate in the G20 Summit, had a number of important engagements and bilateral meetings today. His bilateral meetings include those with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the President of Mexico, and the Prime Minister of UK. I would endeavour to share with you some details of these three important bilateral meetings.

In the morning, he had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi. They had a very warm meeting, a very friendly meeting which is reflective of our excellent ties with Ethiopia. Prime Minister Zenawi was very appreciative of India's support to Ethiopia in its economic development, capacity-building. They are, as you know, beneficiaries of the ITEC programme. We are setting up a large vocational training centre in Ethiopia, and also offering a number of scholarships amongst other things.

year period to strengthen and expand the sugar industry in Ethiopia. A sizeable chunk of the line of credit has already been released. The funds have been transferred and they are being utilized very effectively.

The Pan-African e-Network Project was launched from Addis Ababa a year and a half ago. Seeing the efficacy, the efficiency of the e-network project, Ethiopia recently signed MOUs of Cooperation on commercial terms with IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur to provide tele-education to twenty regional universities in Ethiopia.

I mentioned that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia had come to India in April 2008 for the first India-Africa Forum Summit. The Second India-Africa Forum Summit is likely to be held in Africa next year. The two leaders also exchanged views on holding the Summit. I mentioned that the Ethiopian Prime Minister warmly welcomed India's partnership with Africa and has also hailed it as a model of cooperation. So, the two sides discussed ways and means to take the India-AU partnership further.

He mentioned that the African Union was currently considering the proposal, and preparations will be initiated once a decision is taken about the date and venue of the Summit in Africa. They also briefly discussed Africa's priorities in G20.

*

*

*

*

Question: Today our Prime Minister has told the PM of Ethiopia that we Indians would be contributing a Vocational Training Centre which is going to open in Ethiopia and offer scholarships. Can you highlight on the areas in which scholarships will be given like in education or medical or engineering, and the vocational training centre which we have offered?

Official Spokesperson: Happily. Capacity-building and human resource development is one of the very important areas of cooperation between India and Africa. We have what we call the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme which is as old as about 50 years now. If I remember offhand, it was initiated in 1962. Under that ITEC programme we have been offering about six thousand training slots every year, and the entire cost is borne by the Government of India, to

about 155 of our partner countries worldwide. Out of six thousand, one/ third have traditionally been going to Africa. But during the India-Africa Forum Summit it was decided to enhance the efforts of capacity-building significantly. We had offered 20,000 scholarships over a five-year period for Africa. These are in different areas including medical, high-technology, engineering, and there is Raman Fellowship which is at postgraduate level, and so on. We have also launched the Pan-African e-Network Project of which already the second phase has been initiated and over 35 countries have already become part of. Under that we are offering tele-medicine and tele-education programmes which also has been found very useful by our African partners.

* * * * *



442. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting between Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister to discuss bilateral trade.

New Delhi, December 2, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry during the bilateral meeting with Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia here today, expressed satisfaction at the impressive growth in bilateral trade, which has grown from US \$ 83 million in the year 2005-06 to US \$ 272 million in 2009-10, registering a growth of 227% in the last 4 years. He informed that India's exports to Ethiopia have increased from US \$ 74 million in 2005 - 2006 to US \$ 253 million in 2009-2010, and India's imports from Ethiopia have grown from US \$ 8 million in 2005 -06 to US \$ 18 million in 2009- 2010.

Shri Sharma also conveyed that there was potential to further increase the bilateral trade between both countries, especially the Ethiopian exports to India, in view of the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme announced by India. The Scheme provides for duty free market access on 85% of

India's total tariff lines and Margins of Preference (MOP) on 9% tariff lines. "There is scope for increased trade and joint ventures in areas such as agriculture & agro-processing industries, floriculture, textile and garments, leather and leather products, IT sector, drugs and pharmaceuticals etc.

Interacting with the visiting Minister, Shri Sharma said that India is the largest foreign investor in Ethiopia with approved investment of US \$ 4.4 billion. Of this, approximately US \$ 1 billion is already on ground or in the pipeline. About 40% of Indian investment is in the field of commercial agriculture.

Major items of export to Ethiopia were machinery & instruments; electronic goods, transport equipments, manufacture of metals, paper wood products etc. while major item of imports from Ethiopia were pulses, oil seeds, leather, spices, non-ferrous metals, raw hides & skins etc.



The following agreements were signed during the visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia..

1. Agreed Minutes of the First Joint Commission Meeting = Signed by. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister.
2. Dollar Credit Line Agreement between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Export-Import Bank of India =signed by Mr. Ahmad Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia and Shri David Rasquinha, Chief General Manager, Export-Import Bank of India
3. Programme for Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology for the period 2011-2013 = signed by Ms. Gennet Zewide, Ambassador of Ethiopia to India and Dr. Rajiv Sharma, Advisor (International Cooperation) Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

443. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the first meeting of the India- Ethiopia Joint Commission.

New Delhi, December 3, 2010.

The first Joint Commission Meeting between the Republic of India and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was held on 30 November and 1 December, 2010 at New Delhi. The Ethiopian delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn. The Indian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India.

2. The two heads of delegations hailed the existing warm and cordial relations between the two countries. They emphasized the significance of this first Joint Commission meeting as another milestone of meaningful and growing cooperation between the two countries. Both the leaders also agreed to infuse the close political relationship with greater economic content. Both sides agreed that the relationship will expand in many more ways in diverse sectors.

3. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, in his opening remarks, mentioned that the relations between Ethiopia and India are based on mutual respect and benefit which is a classical example of South-South Cooperation. Ethiopia draws meaningful lessons from India's experiences and expertise in the areas of democratization, federalism, election, and others.

4. Both sides reviewed the bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction over the progress made in the last five years and exchanged views on regional and international issues of interest to both sides.

5. The Ethiopian side expressed thanks to the Government of India for extending Lines of Credit for US\$ 705 million (US\$ 640 million for sugar development and US\$ 65 million for power transmission). An agreement for release of third tranche of US\$ 213.31 million to support the sugar development was signed between EXIM Bank and Government of Ethiopia during the meeting on 1st December, 2010.

6. The Ethiopian side expressed gratitude for providing training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, long-term scholarships under ICCR, scientific and special agricultural scholarships and other training programmes emanating from the decisions of the India Africa Forum Summit, and mentioned that these trainings are very useful for capacity building and human resource development of Ethiopia. Further he referred to the Pan African e-network for tele-education & tele-medicine and mentioned that after the successful implementation of the pilot project in Ethiopia in 2007, they have expanded this to various universities in Ethiopia in collaboration with IIT Delhi. To enhance cooperation in Science & Technology sector, a programme of cooperation on Science & Technology was signed after the meeting on 1st December, 2010.
7. Ethiopia reiterated its support for Permanent Membership for India on a reformed UN Security Council.
8. The Ethiopian side mentioned that the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) was a unique initiative and had contributed to African development. They welcomed the decisions and implementation of the first India- Africa Forum Summit and looked forward to work closely with India for the successful conduct of the second IAFS to be held in Africa in 2011.
9. During the visit, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister also met with H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and H.E. Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India to discuss bilateral issues. He delivered a lecture on Ethiopia-India Relations at the Indian Council of World Affairs and visited Foreign Service Institute to explore the possibility of cooperation. He also had interaction with business community at business meet hosted by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in which he invited Indian business community to invest in Ethiopia in the area of agriculture, infrastructure, information technology and the like.
10. India and Ethiopia enjoy warm and cordial relations in political, commercial, cultural and other areas. The overall matrix of bilateral commercial relations is led by private sector investment, Lines of Credit and by Indian companies engaged in various infrastructure projects, while trade constitutes a smaller but growing segment.



GAMBIA**444. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara.****New Delhi, August 20, 2010.**

Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, Republic of the Gambia is currently on an official visit to India from August 17 to 21, 2010, along with a delegation. The official level talks were held with the Gambian side on 19 August 2010. The Indian side was led by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. During the talks, Dr. Tangara profusely thanked Government of India for the assistance provided to the Gambia for its development, particularly in the field of human resource development and for the concessional Lines of Credits. He conveyed his Government's desire to further enhance cooperation with India and sought increased cooperation in the field of human resource development.

2. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, assured the visiting Minister that India would consider any proposal from the Gambian side for increased bilateral cooperation especially for capacity building/training by way of human resource development in the Gambia in a positive manner. She announced a grant of US\$ 500,000 (US\$. 0.5 million) to Gambia to be utilized in the education and health sectors. She conveyed India's offer to set up one 'Hole-in-the-Wall (HiWel) work station in Gambia.

3. A Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, of the Republic of Gambia, was signed between the two countries. The Protocol was signed by Dr. Mamadou Tangara from the Gambian side and Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs from the Indian side.

4. During his visit, Dr. Tangara had a meeting with Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal. He also had meeting at National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), EXIM Bank and several other organizations of interest to the Gambia.



KENYA**445. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the visit of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to Kenya.****New Delhi, October 14, 2010.**

India and Kenya have decided to enhance the level of cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation. This was decided in a meeting between Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Mr. Raila Amolo Odinga, Prime Minister of the Government of Kenya, held at Nairobi, Kenya on 14th October, 2010. Mr. Sharma recalled the historical relationship between the two countries and the support provided by India to Kenya in its freedom struggle.

It was pointed out by Mr. Sharma that following the Delhi Declaration of 2008, which had set the roadmap of cooperation, there had been a deepening and strengthening of ties between India and the African continent. In recent years, Indian companies from the private and public sector had shown a growing interest in Kenya. The level of Indian investment in Kenya had reached a figure of US \$ 1.5 billion. Mr. Sharma reiterated that India was focusing on human capital development, and Kenya was a partner in this as a large number of students from the country were studying in India.

The implementation of the Pan Africa e-network project was also discussed. Mr. Sharma pointed out that the project was already making a significant contribution in fields of tele-education and tele-medicine in many African countries. 47 African countries have signed the Agreement for implementing this project. It was acknowledged that this project had bridged the digital divide. Kenya had signed the Agreement with TCIL, India in July, 2010 and very soon the system will be operationalized. Mr. Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister of India informed the Kenyan Prime Minister that as part of its commitment to contribute to the economic growth of Kenya, India had recently extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 61.6 million for executing a Power Transmission project.

Mr. Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya recalled the historical contribution of Mr. Appa Pant, India's first High Commissioner to Kenya, in laying a strong

foundation of India-Kenya relations. Mr. Odinga further pointed out that his father had visited India in the early 1950s to observe the functioning of democracy in the newly independent nation. The Kenyan Prime Minister acknowledged the significant role that India had played in enriching the Human Resource Development of Kenya. Mr. Odinga informed Mr. Sharma that he planned to visit India in mid-November, 2010 to participate in the World Economic Forum's 'India Economic Summit'.

Mr. Sharma highlighted the contribution of the Indian pharmaceutical industry in making available life saving medicines at affordable prices, especially through generic medicines. He conveyed India's concerns on the attempts being made outside the WTO and WIPO Forums to confuse Indian generic medicines with counterfeits. With respect to the global standards and benchmarks, Indian pharmaceutical companies are the best. The largest USA FDA approvals for non-US companies are of Indian companies. He requested that Kenya may keep this in view while implementing the Kenya Anti-Counterfeit Act and the proposal to have a similar legislation at the East African Community (EAC) level.

Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Mr. Raila Amolo Odinga, Prime Minister of the Government of Kenya agreed that there was a great potential for increasing the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Information Technology; agriculture including agro-processing ; infrastructure development sectors like road, rail, and energy including generation, transmission and distribution of power; oil & gas; manufacturing; and healthcare. Following the 6th India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee Meeting (JTC) held on 13th October, 2010, these sectors would get focused attention.

Mr. Anand Sharma inaugurated on 14th October, 2010, the 'Namaskar Africa' event being organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India during 14 to 15th October, 2010 at Nairobi. The event comprises of an 'India Exhibition' and the 'India-East Africa Business Forum' with participation of business delegations from 12 East African countries. The Forum had the largest ever business delegation from India. The Forum will consider in its deliberations issues pertaining to increasing agricultural productivity and local value additions

through advance technologies; multilateral funding mechanisms; India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed countries (LDCs) and specific sectors of power, health and ICT. 'Namaskar Africa' is an exclusive networking forum of African and Indian enterprises offering trade, investments and joint venture opportunities across the sectors of mutual interest to both the sides. 'India- East Africa Business Forum' has brought together the policy makers, businessmen, financial institutions, multilateral funding agencies, procurement agencies, investment bodies, regional bodies and sectoral nodal institutions from India and the 12 countries of East Africa for a business dialogue, to share their experience and learnings for mutual growth and discuss the project specific opportunities in identified sectors for mutual collaboration.

While inaugurating the 'Namaskar Africa' event, Mr. Sharma stressed the fact that India's relationship with the African continent was a unique and distinct partnership based on trust, friendship and respect for each other's cultures. He emphasized that we need to find ways to further deepen and strengthen our engagement with the African continent.

Earlier on 13th October, 2010, Mr. Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India co-chaired the 6th India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee Meeting (JTC) with Mr. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Hon'ble Minister of Trade of the Government of Kenya, at Nairobi, Kenya. The Indian and Kenyan delegations discussed a host of bilateral economic and trade issues and many important decisions were arrived at.

Mr. Sharma informed that during the 6th India-Kenya JTC Meeting, the two sides had set a target of bilateral trade of US \$ 2.5 bn in the next three years, i.e. by Financial Year 2012-13, and also identified the steps to be taken towards this objective. Current level of bilateral trade is US \$ 1.5 bn (in F.Y. 2009-10).

The JTC reviewed the implementation of the Pan Africa e-network in Kenya and Kenya has agreed to identify the site locations by the end of October, 2010. The network enables sharing of India's expertise in the field of healthcare and education with all the members of the African Union. 47 countries in Africa have already signed the Agreement with TCIL and 119 sites/centers have been commissioned / integrated with the e-network.

Mr. Sharma highlighted that India offered to collaborate in the Kenyan efforts for revival of its textiles sector, which accounts for 30 % of Kenya's industrial workforce, by providing technical assistance in skill building for the entire value chain, transfer of technology in ginning and processing, collaboration with Indian Textiles Research Association and exploratory visits for businessmen and Buyer-Seller Meets.

JTC took note of the offer of a Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 61.6 million made by India to Kenya for 'Power Transmission Lines', which would help in augmenting Kenya's infrastructure.

During the JTC meeting, the Kenyan side appreciated India's concerns on the Kenyan Anti-Counterfeit Act and stated that the legitimate Indian trade concerns in this regard would be addressed.

Mr. Sharma said that India and Kenya had agreed towards greater engagement between the 'Kenya Investment Authority' and 'InvestIndia', which would help in trade and investment flows between the two countries. Decision was taken to fast-track the finalization of a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries. Functioning of MoU in the Medium and Small Scale Industries sector was reviewed. The two sides also agreed to take steps towards early signing of Agreements/MoUs in the field of Tourism and Civil Aviation and finalization of MoUs in the areas of Human Resource Development, Standards and Scientific/Industrial Research.

According to Mr. Sharma, the key sectors identified for bilateral cooperation were agriculture including agro-processing; drugs and pharmaceuticals; infrastructure development sectors like road, rail, and energy including generation, transmission and distribution of power, airport; Information and Communication Technology (ICT); oil & gas; manufacturing; and healthcare.

Mr. Sharma hoped that the JTC and the 'Namskar Africa' event at Nairobi, Kenya would provide further stimulus to the growing relationship between India and Kenya.



LESOTHO**446. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations of the Kingdom of Lesotho Mohlabi Kenneth Tsekoa.****New Delhi, March 9, 2010.**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Hon. Mohlabi Kenneth Tsekoa is visiting India during March 8-11, 2010. This is the first visit by the Foreign Minister of Lesotho to India in over five years. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor hosted a working lunch for the visiting dignitary on March 9, 2010 in Hyderabad House. Minister Tsekoa also called on our Minister of Rural Development.

Lesotho is a friendly southern African nation with which India shares excellent relations. Lesotho's leadership is well disposed towards India and holds a favourable view of India's role in Africa. Lesotho has consistently supported our candidatures to various international bodies as well for our permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. Lesotho has been fully supportive of our aspirations to play a role internationally. The visit is a useful occasion to express our appreciation in this regard and to seek a continuation of Lesotho's support in future. The visit also offers an opportunity to underline our commitment to South-South cooperation.

The inaugural meeting of the India-Lesotho Joint Commission was held in New Delhi in March 2009. This meeting laid the ground work for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in a host of areas.

An agreement between the EXIM Bank of India and the Lesotho government for the Line of Credit of US\$ 4.7 million offered by India for setting up vocational training centres in Lesotho was signed during the visit.

During the visit of Prime Minister Mosisili of Lesotho to India in August, we had offered a credit line of US\$ 5 million for promoting trade among

other objectives. Most of the LOC has been utilized for purchase of tractors and irrigation equipment.

India is also supporting both financially and through training, the setting up of a full-fledged IT Centre at the Lerotholi Polytechnic in Maseru, Lesotho.

Following the India-Africa Forum Summit in April 2008, we have evolved a comprehensive blueprint for our future cooperation with Africa in several sectors. Lesotho has decided to join the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme, announced at the IAFS.

Lesotho is also a signatory to the Pan-African e-Network Project initiated by India in African countries in the areas of tele-education and tele-medicine. The project is already underway in Lesotho.

India is keen to share the benefits of its growth and technological development with its partners and friends in the developing world especially in Africa and sees itself as a long term development partner of these countries. We propose to implement our own partnership programme which includes seeking African choices for their development and contributing to the fulfillment of Africa's own development options. This consultative approach is valued by our African partners.



MALAWI

447. Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana,

New Delhi, January 4, 2010.

Please see Document No.433.



448. Speech of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the President of Malawi Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika.

Lilongwe, January 7, 2010.

"Your Excellency Ngwazi Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My wife and I, and indeed my entire delegation, deem it a privilege to visit Malawi and thus renew our historically friendly and close relations. I am also deeply touched by the sentiments of goodwill that have been expressed towards me and my country. Allow me, Excellency, to thank you for the warmth of your hospitality that we have enjoyed since our arrival in your beautiful country.

The ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Malawi are built upon shared values and traditions. We share a common commitment to democratic governance, rule of law, respect for human rights and inclusive development. Our bilateral cooperation in agriculture, trade, investment, small and medium industries, culture and education needs to be stepped up significantly and new areas of cooperation explored.

We are committed to provide all possible assistance to Your Excellency in your efforts to improve the economic situation of the people and bring about overall development of the country. The Government of India has today announced the grant of US \$ 1 million as emergency relief for rehabilitation following the series of earthquakes that caused loss of life and property in Malawi. In addition, we have also announced US \$ 4 million in grants to support Malawi's development in agriculture, health and education sectors.

I am happy to note that Malawi has utilized the Indian Line of Credit of US \$ 30 million extended to it in 2008 for irrigation, grain storage and tobacco threshing projects. We believe that our contribution building of Malawi's own capacities, infrastructure and food security is a valuable component of our partnership. As part of the commitments made by India during the

India-Africa Forum Summit, we would also like to extend a Line of Credit of US \$ 50 million to support the development goals of Malawi.

We encourage the private sectors of both the countries to explore possibilities of forming partnerships to realise the potential for cooperation. The opportunities under the unilateral tariff concessions to the Indian market should be utilized to enhance access of Malawi's produce to the growing Indian market.

Our cooperation with Malawi under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme in the field of human resource development is a matter of satisfaction. India has been providing training positions to Malawians under the ITEC programme and these have increased substantially over the years.

The presence of the 7000 strong vibrant Indian community in Malawi serves as a vital link which has strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two countries. We see an important role for the Overseas Indian community in building our relationship further.

India and Malawi share common perceptions on major international and multilateral issues of mutual interest. We are determined to work with your great country on the issues of UN reforms, the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations, fight against terrorism and the issue of climate change. We would work together to ensure that the vital interests of developing countries are protected and no barriers are placed that could constrain their developmental aspirations.

It is heartening to note that during your term in office the Malawian economy has performed creditably with an average growth of 7 per cent in the last five years. This is eloquent testimony of your record of good governance. We see responsible and responsive economic governance as a requirement not only within national boundaries but also in the global context. Financial profligacy in other parts of the world have an immense impact on our development plans and reminds us that while globalisation is an opportunity, it also calls for responsible economic behaviour by all partners.

Free and fair elections are the backbone of democracy. Both India and Malawi successfully held general elections in May 2009. It is a credit to the strength of democratic institutions and maturity of our peoples. It is necessary for functioning democracies and countries with similar

worldviews to interact frequently. My visit to your friendly country is intended to initiate this process. Our effort must be to make such exchanges more frequent. May I take this opportunity to invite Your Excellency President Bingu wa Mutharika to visit India. A warm welcome awaits you there. It will give you an opportunity to see how much India has changed since your college days in New Delhi four decades ago.

Our partnership with Malawi is an integral element of our larger vision of close and multi-dimensional engagement with African countries. At the first ever India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008, African leaders and our Prime Minister jointly adopted a Framework for Cooperation to strengthen our engagement.

We are confident that along with our partners in Africa, we would announce this year a joint plan of action at the continental level and a follow up mechanism to implement our Framework for Cooperation. We would like Malawi to take advantage of the new initiatives announced by India at the Summit, particularly the capacity building opportunities and the concessional lines of credit.

I am happy to learn that India's Pan African E- Network project has been commissioned in Malawi. This project, which is fully funded by Government of India, aims to connect the 53 African countries for the purpose of tele-education and tele-medicine and video-conferencing among all the Heads of State in Africa. This visionary project will endeavour to bridge the digital divide, and contribute to building technical, education and health sector capacities in Malawi. This is a shining symbol of South-South cooperation.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, May I now request you to join me in a toast to:-

- the personal good health and happiness of His Excellency , President Bingu wa Mutharika
- to the continued well-being and prosperity of our two friendly peoples; and
- to the continuing friendship, prosperity and cooperation between our two countries."



449. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Indian Community Reception.

Lilongwe, January 8, 2010.

I am delighted to be in Malawi on the first ever high level visit from India since Malawi's independence. My wife and I have thoroughly enjoyed the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended by the President of Malawi, Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika and people of Malawi since our arrival in this beautiful city of Lilongwe. My entire delegation is touched by the expression of warm sentiments towards me and our country. We also enjoyed our trip to Lake Malawi and were impressed by its sheer size and magnificence. My visit is an expression of the commitment and determination of India to enhance high level engagement with the entire African continent, especially Malawi.

Ladies and gentlemen

We have historical relations with Malawi based on shared values and common experience of our struggle against colonial rule. Both the countries are multi party democracies, multicultural and multi religious societies with strong commitment to rule of law and respect for human rights.

India is committed to provide all possible assistance to the Government of Malawi and to President H.E. Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika in his efforts to improve the economic situation of the people and bring about overall development of the country. The Government of India has today announced the grant of US \$ 1 million as emergency relief for rehabilitation following the series of earthquakes that caused loss of life and property in Malawi. In addition, we have also announced US \$ 4 million in grants to support Malawi's development in agriculture, health and education sectors.

The Indian community has been living in this friendly country for about a century and has contributed in significant measure to its development and to the evolution of the multicultural fabric of Malawian society. The cultural affinity and affection for India among you and other Overseas

Indian communities has prompted the Government of India to establish the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with a mission to intensify engagement with Overseas Indians and work for their welfare. The Ministry provides information, partnerships and facilitation for all matters related to Overseas Indians.

The Government has also introduced the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) scheme to facilitate your travel to and interaction with India. We would encourage you to take advantage of these initiatives and work for deepening economic partnership between India and Malawi. We must utilise every opportunity and undertake every initiative to harness the potential for cooperation that exists in the areas of agriculture, mining, power, science and technology, education, information technology and Small and Medium Enterprises.

After the global economic turbulence of the last two years, I am happy to inform you that the Indian economy is on track towards recovery. We are committed to undertaking our economic reforms and are confident of reclaiming economic growth rates that existed prior to the crisis.

I thank you very much for this opportunity of meeting you all. I wish you all the very best in your work and stay in Malawi and for your endeavours to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.



450. Joint Communiqué issued on the conclusion of the visit of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari to Malawi.

Lilongwe, January 8, 2010.

1. At the kind invitation of the President of the Republic of Malawi His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, the Vice President of India, Right Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari undertook an official visit to Malawi, from 7th to 9th January, 2010. The Right Honourable was accompanied by his spouse, Smt. Salma Ansari and a delegation including the Minister of State for Employment and Labour, Shri Harish Rawat, Members of Parliament and senior government officials.
2. His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika warmly welcomed the Right Honourable Vice President at the New State House in Lilongwe, and a State Dinner was organized in his honour on 7th January, 2010.
3. The purpose of the Official Visit was to strengthen and enhance the bilateral relations that currently exist between Malawi and India, and discuss other possible areas for more cooperation.
4. Right Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited the Civic Offices in Lilongwe where he signed the Visitors Book.
5. Malawi and India held bilateral talks on 8th January, 2010, at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The Malawi delegation was led by Right Honourable Joyce Banda, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, while the Indian Delegation was led by Right Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.
6. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, and identified more areas of possible cooperation.
7. The Right Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari announced the grant of US \$ 1 million as emergency relief for rehabilitation following the series of earthquakes that caused loss of life and property in Karonga District of Malawi. He also announced US \$ 4 million in grants to support Malawi's development in agriculture, health and education sectors.
8. The Vice President of India expressed his happiness that the Indian Line of Credit of US \$ 30 million extended to Malawi in 2008 for irrigation, grain storage and tobacco thrashing projects has been utilized. As part

of the commitments made by the Government of India during the India-Africa Forum Summit, the Vice-President of India also announced a new Line of Credit of US \$ 50 million to Malawi in support of its development goals.

9. The Government of Malawi thanked the Government of India for its development assistance made available, mainly through the EXIM BANK, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, and the Commonwealth African Assistance Plan.

10. The Government of Malawi also expressed satisfaction with the granting of duty free access to India, on various products within the framework of the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries, announced at the India-Africa Forum Summit, held in New Delhi, in 2008.

11. The two parties signed a Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India in order to further strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries.

12. The two Parties also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The MoU focuses on various areas including Agriculture research; Agricultural extension management; Agricultural marketing, horticulture; animal husbandry and dairy; Watershed development; Agricultural implements and machinery; and Agro-processing.

13. The two parties also signed an Agreement between National Small Industries Corporation of India and One Village One Product of Malawi for mutual cooperation for the development of small enterprises in Malawi.

14. The two parties agreed to expedite negotiations to finalize proposed Memoranda of Understanding on Mineral Resources*; Exemption of Visas

* During the visit the two countries explored the possibility of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the development of the southern African nation's mineral resources, particularly uranium and coal. According to media reports Malawian Vice-President Joyce Banda specifically sought India's assistance in the development of its recently discovered uranium resources. When journalists asked about the kind of help Malawi wanted from India *vis-à-vis* development of uranium, Ms. Banda said energy security was of paramount importance to her country. "Mining of uranium is just a component in energy generation and we are trying to use all sources, including uranium, water, wind and coal for this." Malawi had only a few years ago discovered uranium.

for holders of Official and Diplomatic passports; Rural Development; and Health and medicine.

15. The two Parties agreed to sign the remaining MoUs during the next high level visit.

16. The two Parties agreed to establish a joint implementation and monitoring mechanism to ensure expeditious implementation of decisions of the Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and decisions of the bilateral talks.

17. The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere which reflects the excellent relations that exist between Malawi and India.

18. Right Honourable Shri M. Hamid Ansari expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and his entire delegation during the official visit to Malawi, and he, on behalf of Her Excellency the President of India, conveyed an invitation to His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, to visit India, on dates to be mutually agreed upon between the two governments.



451. Joint statement issued during the visit of Malawian President Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika.

New Delhi, November 3, 2010.

1. At the invitation of the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of Malawi His Excellency Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika undertook a State Visit to India from November 2 - 7, 2010. H.E. Prof. Mutharika was accompanied by Madame Callista Mutharika & 6 ministers and a 45-member business delegation. During the visit H.E. Prof. Mutharika held fruitful discussions with the President of the Republic of India, the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, and the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. During talks, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest- bilateral as well as regional and international.

2. During the visit, both sides agreed to strengthen the historical and friendly relations between India and Malawi. The Indian Prime Minister

announced the reopening of the Indian mission in Lilongwe. The Malawian side welcomed this initiative of India and saw in it the manifestation of a clear desire to enhance engagement between India and Malawi. Malawi had opened its Mission in Delhi in February, 2007.

3. The Malawian side recalled the recent visit of the Vice-President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari, to Malawi in January 2010. That visit served to revitalise India's relationship with Malawi by establishing high level political contact, increasing development cooperation and creating a larger matrix of economic engagement. Grants of US \$ 5 million offered at that time to support Malawi's development of the social sectors are under utilisation. Projects under the line of credit of US \$ 50 million have been identified and a loan agreement could be signed soon. A protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India was signed to strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries. Consultations under this were held between the two Foreign Ministries in October 2010.

4. The Indian leaders felicitated the President of Malawi for his successful leadership of the African Union. India committed itself to continue to enhance cooperation and support the development of Africa. The Malawian side noted with satisfaction the strengthening of ties between India and the African Union, especially after the India Africa Forum Summit -2008. The Indian Prime Minister emphasised that India looks forward to the next India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) to be held next year in Africa. The Malawian President welcomed the initiative and its next summit in Africa. He noted that India's capacity building support to Africa was contributing to the development of Africa's future and the growing economic engagement for mutual benefit was widely welcomed in Africa. It was also noted that India has offered to establish 20 capacity building institutions in Africa including 4 Pan African institutions.

5. India and Malawi attach great importance to the expansion of opportunities for human resource development in Africa. Malawi welcomed the doubling of scholarships, the increase in India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training positions, the introduction of C.V. Raman Science Scholarship Scheme emanating from the decisions of India-Africa Forum Summit. India committed itself to further expansion of such facilities in the future.

6. India supports human resource development and capacity building in Malawi through the ITEC/SCAAP Programme. After the India-Africa Forum Summit 2008, India enhanced the training slots for Malawi from 15 to 30 in 2008-09 and subsequently to 36 in 2010-11. Since 2002-03, over 100 Malawian nationals have availed of the civilian training facilities in India, including through the Special Courses organised during IAFS-2008. India has also offered several new scholarships to Malawi under the decisions of the India Africa Forum Summit for use by Malawian students.

7. Malawi thanked India for extending two lines of credit totalling US \$ 80 million so far to support its developmental goals. It was using the credit for developing agriculture, the greenbelt initiative and the one-village-one-product schemes which have contributed to the fulfilment of Malawi's development goals. India has offered a special credit line of US \$ 100 million to further support Malawi's developmental priorities. India has also offered a special grant of US \$ 5 million for capacity building in Malawi including the establishment of a small industry incubator.

8. The Indian Prime Minister stated that he was happy to note that Malawi had acceded to the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme offered by India for 33 Least Developed Countries in Africa to provide greater market access. Malawi welcomed this opportunity to enhance her exports. It was particularly noted that Malawi had increased its capacity to produce pulses which were finding greater market access in India. It was agreed to pursue sustainable trading relationships by finding complementarities among our economies.

9. The bilateral trade between India and Malawi in 2009-10 has increased by almost 100 per cent since 2008-09. Imports from Malawi to India have shown a remarkable growth during this period, increasing from US \$ 7 million in 2008-09 to US \$ 103 million in the year 2009-10. Both sides reiterated the need to further increase trade between the two countries as well as expand the trade basket of products and to increase bilateral trade to \$ 300 million by 2013.

10. The Malawian side commended the Pan Africa e-Network Project of Government of India to facilitate tele-education, tele-medicine and video-conferencing facilities between India and Africa. This project has been completed in Malawi at three sites - VVIP Video Conferencing facility in

Lilongwe, Tele-medicine facility at the Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe and Tele-education facility at the Chancellor College, Zomba. The project was officially launched on 16 August, 2010.

11. Leaders on both sides noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the growing partnership between the two countries with the signing of the following Bilateral Agreements / MoUs during the visit:

- a) General Cooperation Agreement;
- b) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development;
- c) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development;
- d) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.

12. Both sides noted that in a rapidly changing world, an important dimension of India-Africa Partnership is our meeting of minds on pressing global issues. These issues include the reform of the United Nations, combating international terrorism, Climate Change, WTO, reform of international financial institutions, combating diseases, eradication of hunger and poverty and promotion of inclusive democratic societies and polities.

13. The Indian Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to Malawi for its support to India for the non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2011-2012 term and for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the expanded UNSC.

14. Both India and Malawi underlined that terrorism cannot be justified in any form, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. The two sides agreed on the need for greater cooperation among states in the fight against terrorism. In this context, the two sides urged for early finalization of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which is under discussion at the UN since 1996.

15. His Excellency Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika expressed sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of India for warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation and the excellent arrangements made for their visit to India. The President extended an invitation to the President of India to visit Malawi on mutually agreed dates.



452. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in honour of President of Malawi Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika.

New Delhi, November 3, 2010.

Your Excellency Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika
President of the Republic of Malawi,
Madame Callista Mutharika,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on your first State Visit to India. The links between India and Malawi are historical and marked with cordiality and long-standing friendship. My pleasure is all the greater because of your long standing association with India; an association which goes back to the early 1960s when you were a student of the University of Delhi.

Excellency, you have led Malawi to remarkable achievements in the last few years including the implementation of policies leading to the attainment of food security. I take this opportunity to also congratulate you on your appointment as the Chairman of the African Union, which has not only given Malawi an opportunity to play an influential role in Africa, but also globally. We applaud Malawi's leadership role. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "the history of the world is full of men who rose to leadership, by sheer force of self confidence, bravery and tenacity."

I am convinced that there is a genuine mutual desire to revitalize and recharge the bilateral relationship. Your State Visit will impart a new momentum to our ties and further broad base our relationship. The decision to re-open the Indian Mission in Lilongwe is an indication of our desire to give a fresh impetus to our bilateral co-operation.

We would encourage the private sector in both the countries to explore possibilities of forming public private partnerships, to realize the potential for co-operation that abundantly exists in several areas. I am confident that the utilization of the concessional Line of Credits offered by the Government of India to Malawi, would further boost economic and commercial co-operation between the two countries.

I am happy to note that Malawi has completed all formalities for accessing the Indian market under the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries announced at the India - Africa Forum Summit in 2008. The Government of Malawi may like to encourage Malawian exporters to take further advantage of this scheme. We should also look at greater complementarities to enhance our bilateral trade.

The India Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008 designed a new architecture for a structured engagement, interaction and co-operation between India and Africa. We are committed to assist African countries in capacity building, human resource development and other pillars of our co-operation. The Pan African e-network project offers a platform for India to share its expertise with countries in Africa. Your role, Excellency, as the Chairman of the African Union, is very important as we plan for the next India-Africa Summit to be held in Africa next year.

India and Malawi share common perceptions on major international and multilateral issues of mutual interest, and work together in several international fora such as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, the WTO and at the African Union. We look forward to working with Malawi on the reform of global institutions of governance, the fight against terrorism and climate change, and our common endeavour for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

India attaches a great importance to its relations with Malawi. Excellency, the agreements reached during your visit will further strengthen the institutional framework and increase the depth of the bilateral co-operation between the two countries. We share with you a vision of partnership based on friendship and mutual understanding and co-operation.

Distinguished Guests, may I now request you to join me in a toast to:-

- the good health and happiness of His Excellency, President Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika and Madame Callista Mutharika;
- the continued well-being and prosperity of our two friendly peoples; and
- close friendship and co-operation between our two countries.



MAURITIUS**453. Letter from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam on the Labour Party led alliance's success in the elections.****New Delhi, May 7, 2010.**

"I take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations on the electoral victory of the L'Alliance de L' Avenir led by the Labour Party under your wise and able leadership.

Relations between India and Mauritius are unique. historical and have stood the test of time Our cooperation is multifaceted and comprehensive. I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen diversify and enrich our mutually beneficial relationship in the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a cordial invitation to Your Excellency to visit India on mutually convenient dates, which could be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Please accept Excellency, my best wishes for your continued good health and well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Mauritius.

With renewed assurances of my highest consideration."



454. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles.

New Delhi, July 7, 2010.

Mauritius

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna paid an official visit to the Republic of Mauritius from July 2-4, 2010. He was accompanied by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) and other senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs. The visit was a part of the regular ongoing high-level bilateral exchanges between India and Mauritius. This was also EAM's first visit to Africa.

2. During his visit, EAM called on President Sir Anerood Jugnauth and Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. He met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. EAM also met his counterpart Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and discussed issues of mutual interest. EAM laid a wreath at the Samadhi of the Father of the Mauritian Nation Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

3. EAM's discussions with his interlocutors covered the entire canvass of bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius and touched upon regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The views of the two sides on all these subjects were identical.

4. EAM and Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam recalled the nature of the "special relationship" which bound the two countries together. EAM remarked that "the cooperation between India and Mauritius is comprehensive and multidimensional". He thanked Mauritius for its consistent support to India's candidature to the UN Security Council as well as its support to India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UNSC for 2011-12. EAM also noted that Mauritius had stood with India all along on issues relating to terrorism and had been unwavering and unequivocal in condemning the 26/11 Mumbai attack. Mauritian leaders

expressed their gratitude for India's consistent support at all times of need and otherwise and noted India's continued assistance to Mauritius in various sectors. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and Foreign Minister Arvin Boolell expressed their satisfaction over the technical assistance received from India in anti-piracy patrolling and EEZ Surveillance of Mauritian waters to improve security in this region of the Indian Ocean.

5. The following documents were signed during the visit:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on the supply of an Offshore Patrol Vessel;
- (ii) Agreement on Early Warning of Coastal Hazards between Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and The Meteorological Services, Mauritius;
- (iii) Programme of Cultural Cooperation between India and Mauritius for 2010-2013;
- (iv) Agreement between Standardisation, Testing and Quality Control Directorate (STQC), Department of Information Technology, Government of India and the National Computer Board, Government of Mauritius;
- (v) Agreement between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Mauritius on the establishment of a Visiting Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at MGI.

6. EAM invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius Dr. Arvin Boolell to pay a visit to India. EAM also invited Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth to visit India for the 11th Session of the India-Mauritius Joint Commission on Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation; EAM and Vice Prime Minister Jugnauth co-Chair the Joint Commission.

7. Relations between India and Mauritius in the political, economic and cultural fields are comprehensive and extensive. EAM's visit

provided yet another opportunity for further consolidation and development of the traditional, time-tested and historical relations between India and Mauritius.

Mozambique

External Affairs Minister, Shri SM Krishna, paid an official visit to Mozambique on July 4-5, 2010. The Minister was accompanied by Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, and other senior officials of the Ministry. He was also accompanied by a 22-member Indian Business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

2. During his visit, EAM called on the President of Mozambique, H.E. Armando Guebuza and discussed issues of bilateral, regional and international interest. President Guebuza appreciated various assistances provided by GOI to Mozambique and underlined the need for closer cooperation between the two countries. EAM also called on the Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Aires Ali. He also had a Tête-à-Tête with his Mozambican counterpart Mr. Eldemiro Baloi before holding extended delegation level talks with him, where a broad range of bilateral, regional and international issues was discussed. EAM conveyed Government of India's decision to provide US\$40 million credit for setting up of a training institute for coal in Mozambique. A grant of US\$5 million was also announced by EAM for project based proposals in health and education sectors. An agreement was also signed between EXIM Bank of India and the Mozambican Finance Ministry providing for a US\$25 million Line of Credit (LOC) given by the Government of India for rural electrification projects in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Manica provinces of Mozambique. Earlier, Mozambican Foreign Minister Mr. Eldemiro Boloï hosted dinner in honour of EAM on the day of his arrival. EAM also met prominent members of Indian community in Mozambique at a function held at the residence of the High Commissioner on 4 July, 2010. EAM also addressed a Business Seminar "Mozambique and India - Creating a New Paradigm" organized by Investment Promotion Centre (CPI) on 5 July, 2010 which was attended by Indian business delegation as well as Mozambican businessmen. It was inaugurated by the Minister for Planning and Development HE Mr. Aiuba Cuereneia. The Indian

business delegation also had meetings with Mozambique's Minister for Mineral Resources HE Ms Esperena Bias, Minister for Energy HE Dr Salvador Namburette, Minister for Agriculture HE Mr Soares Bonhaza Nhaca, and Vice Minister for Trade and Industry HE Mr Kenneth Viagem Marizane.

3. India's relations with Mozambique have been characterized by close and friendly relations since Mozambique's independence from colonial rule in 1975. Close personal relations between the leadership of the two countries added to the warmth of bilateral ties. India's political and moral support for Mozambique during its struggle for independence and its economic assistance over the years has been appreciated by the Government and people of Mozambique. India is one of Mozambique's larger trading and investment partners. In fact, India was the fourth largest investor in Mozambique in 2009. Indian companies are active in the transport, minerals, energy and infrastructure development sectors in Mozambique. The visit of accompanying Indian business delegation is expected to further contribute to economic cooperation between the two countries.

4. This was the first bilateral visit of EAM which took place more than a decade after the last multilateral visit. EAM's visit is expected to further strengthen the close bilateral relations between the two countries and accelerate the ongoing programme of cooperation.

Seychelles

While transiting through Seychelles on 6th July 2010, on his return from the visit to Mauritius and Mozambique, EAM took the opportunity to call on President of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel. President of Seychelles recently paid a state visit to India on 1-3 June 2010. EAM and President Michel discussed issues of bilateral cooperation and reviewed follow up of the decisions announced during the Seychelles President's state visit.

List of Agreements/MoUs signed during the visit of Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna to the Republic of Mauritius

S. No.	Name of the MOU/ Agreement	Synopsis of the MoU/Agreement	Signed by
1.	MOU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for providing of one Offshore Patrol Vessel	The Government of India has decided to provide one time Grant of US\$ 10 million and Line of Credit of US\$ 48.5 million extended through the EXIM Bank of India to the Government of Mauritius for the supply of one Offshore Patrol Vessel, manufactured by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, India to assist the Government of Mauritius in strengthening its maritime capabilities.	India: H.E. Shri M. Ganapathi, High Commissioner of India Mauritius: Mrs. K.O. Fong Weng-Poorun, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office
2.	MOU on Cooperation for Early Warning Arrangement for Coastal Hazards Between The Indian National Centre for Ocean Services (INCOIS), Government of the Republic of India and The Meteorological Services, Government of the Republic of Mauritius	To establish cooperative linkages for Tsunami Early Warning arrangements, preparedness, and mitigation of tsunami hazards and facilitate real-time monitoring data from all sea-level and earthquake monitoring stations and other observation systems of the Meteorological Services	India: H.E. Shri M. Ganapathi, High Commissioner of India Mauritius: Mr. Dunputh Balraj Harikrishna, Acting Director of the Meteorological Services
3.	Programme for Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the years 2010 - 2013	To strengthen and reinforce cultural linkages and enhance people to people interactions by organizing exhibitions, holding film festivals and book fairs, exchanging cultural troupes, encouraging youth exchange programmes, providing scholarships, etc.	India: H.E. Shri M. Ganapathi, High Commissioner of India Mauritius: H.E. Mr. J.D. Phokeer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Arts and Culture
4.	MOU between Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), Department of	To promote closer co-operation and exchange of information pertaining to the Information Security and	India: H.E. Shri M. Ganapathi, High Commissioner of India

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Information Technology, Republic of India and National Computer Board (NCB) of the Republic of Mauritius | IT standards and collaborate on best practices in the field of Information Security Management Systems; disaster recovery planning and IT Service management. | Mauritius: Mr. S. Ramgolam, Chairman, National Computer Board of the Republic of Mauritius |
| 5. MOU between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in consideration of Visiting Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at MGI, Moka | To establish a Visiting Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at the School of Indological Studies, MGI. The Chair will be responsible to teach Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at B.A./M.A./M.Phil. levels at MGI. | India: H.E. Shri M. Ganapathi, High Commissioner of India
Mauritius: Mrs. V.D. Koonjal, Director (MGI) & Officer-in- Charge (MGI & RTI) |

Port Louis
July 3, 2010



455. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka in Mauritius for the establishment of a Mahatma Gandhi Chair.

New Delhi, July 9, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, Mauritius have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Council's Long-Term Chair of Sanskrit & Indian Philosophy at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. High Commissioner of India in Mauritius, Shri M. Ganapathi and Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Prof. V.D. Koonjal signed the MoU on July 3rd, 2010 in the presence of the our External Affairs Minister and Mauritian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the Institute, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of one year. During this period, the Visiting Professor would contribute to

the academic life of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from September 1st, 2010. The MoU would remain valid for two years from 2010.

The establishment of this Chair is expected to be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening educational and cultural bonds and towards enhancing academic knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



MOZAMBIQUE

456. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Maputo on the visit of Minister of State Dr. Shashi Tharoor to Mozambique.

Maputo, January 14, 2010.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Mozambique on January 13 & 14, 2010 to attend the inauguration ceremony of His Excellency Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of Mozambique at the commencement of the President's second term of office.

On his arrival in Mozambique, Dr. Tharoor called on the President of Mozambique. The meeting enabled a discussion of issues of bilateral, regional and international interest. The President expressed interest in imparting greater vigour and momentum to the close and cooperative relations between India and Mozambique in his second term of office. Dr. Tharoor's separate meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Science & Technology of Mozambique allowed for discussions on specific areas of bilateral interest and India's economic and scientific projects in Mozambique. The Foreign Minister Mr. Eldemiro Boloi hosted a dinner in honour of Dr. Tharoor. Earlier that evening, Dr. Tharoor met leaders of Indian community associations at a function held at the residence of the High Commissioner. On January 14, Dr. Tharoor attended the elaborate inauguration ceremony of the Mozambique

Presidency along with a number of Heads of State and Government and leaders of delegations from invited countries.

India's relations with Mozambique have been characterized by close and friendly relations since Mozambique's independence from colonial rule in 1975. Close personal relations between the leadership of the two countries, including Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Samora Machel and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Joaquim Chissano, added to the warmth of bilateral ties. India's political and moral support for Mozambique during its struggle for independence and its economic assistance over the years has been appreciated by the Government and people of Mozambique. Since the establishment of a Joint Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and Mozambique in 2002, India has extended five Lines of Credit to Mozambique worth US\$ 115 million for projects in the areas of rural electrification, water management and Information Technology. Mozambique greatly values the S&T park and research incubator financed under a Line of Credit and to be completed in two years. Capacity building support in several sectors is underway and the Pan African e-network project has been commissioned.

India is one of Mozambique's larger trading and investment partners. Indian companies are active in the transport, minerals, energy and infrastructure development sectors. Dr. Tharoor's visit is expected to further strengthen the close bilateral relations between the two countries and accelerate the ongoing programme of cooperation.



457. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Sychelles.

New Delhi, July 7, 2010.

Please see Document No.454.



458. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (E&SA) on the visit of President of Mozambique.

New Delhi, September 29, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to all of you, and delighted to see you.

[I am particularly happy to welcome our friends from Myanmar. A 25-member media team representing a cross section of the Myanmar media, is here in India, for a familiarization tour and also for a sabbatical with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication. Please join me in welcoming them.]

My colleague Joint Secretary (East & South Africa), Mr. Gurjit Singh, and I would give you a perspective on the important state visit of President of Mozambique, HE Armando Guebuza, who will be arriving in New Delhi later today and would be in India till the 4th of October. This would be his first visit to India as the President of Mozambique, although he has been to India in 2003 when he was the Minister of Transport.

Let me briefly take you through the programme. He arrives later today. Tomorrow, the day starts with a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There will be a call on him by our Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur. He next meets with the Prime Minister of India, and holds delegation-level talks. That will be followed by signing of agreements.

Our apex business houses - CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM - would be organizing a luncheon meeting for him and his delegation. He is leading a high-level delegation which includes four Cabinet Ministers - Foreign Minister, Minister of Interior, Minister for Mineral Resources, Transport and Communications - and a large business delegation. The business luncheon will see the participation of the Indian business leaders and those from Mozambique.

There will calls on him by the Vice-President; Chairman UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. In the evening he would meet Rashtrapatiji, who also hosts a banquet in the honour of the visiting dignitary.

On Friday, he will visit the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa. Then he emplanes for Ahmedabad where he would be visiting the famous Sabarmati Ashram, and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry which would also host a business meeting. He will be meetings the Governor and Chief Minister of Gujarat.

His next stop would be Mumbai where he would be staying at the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel. He would be soaking in the sights of Mumbai including visiting the Gateway of India, the Elephanta caves. Again an important business meeting would be organized by the Indo-African Chamber of Commerce, plus meetings with the Governor, and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and a dinner that the Governor would be organizing. The dignitary leaves for home on Monday, the 4th of October.

As you are aware, Mozambique is a key Indian Ocean Rim country in the South Eastern Africa with a 2470 kilometres long coastline having excellent ports. It is also a natural gateway to some of the landlocked southern African states like Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, and hence a crucial window for us for trade with all these countries.

We have traditionally enjoyed an issue-free and a close, cordial and friendly relationship with Mozambique. These ties have predated their Independence in 1975. During their struggle against the colonial rule, India extended wholehearted support to Mozambique. That affinity and warmth in the relationship has endured.

After Independence of Mozambique in 1975, our the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the first President of Mozambique Mr. Samora Machel developed a very good equation, which cemented the ties further. Our cooperation, besides in the trade and economic spheres, has expanded in other areas including HRD, energy, minerals, defence, railways, IT, science and technology, agriculture and so on.

We also have a happy tradition of regular high-level exchanges at official and political levels. In July this year, just two months ago, EAM visited Mozambique, and had excellent meetings with President Guebuza, Prime Minister Ali, his counterpart and a number of other leaders. EAM also announced the decision of Government of India to establish a training institute in coal in Mozambique.

We are now the third largest trading partner of Mozambique with bilateral trade inching towards the half a billion dollar mark. It has doubled in under five years to over 427 million dollars in 2009-10. India has also become the fourth largest investor in Mozambique. We have been investing in sectors like energy, mineral resources, agro industries, transport and communications, food processing, coconut and cashew processing industries, and so on.

We have a framework of important agreements with Mozambique including the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA), which have been conducive to deepening our trade and economic relationship. President Guebuza and his delegation, as I have already mentioned, would be meeting our business leaders in New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Mozambique has also decided to be the partner country at the CII - Exim Bank - India Africa Conclave in 2011.

We have been a partner of Mozambique in its developmental efforts and have been assisting them in HRD and in capacity-building. They have been utilizing 30 ITEC training slots every year and also 15 scholarships made available by ICCR, besides scholarships in the area of agro sciences. Mozambique is also a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), which was formally launched by Mauritius in March 1997. The country has since decided to take advantage of the offer made by the Prime Minister of India in April 2008 to avail of duty-free tariff preference access to the Indian market. This will further spur trade relations between India and Mozambique.

On the 16th of August this year Mozambique formally joined the Pan-African E-Network Project. You are aware that this is one of our important initiatives in the African continent. EAM welcomed Mozambique to this project through videoconferencing on the 16th of August, 2010.

A MOU on defence cooperation was signed in 2006 between our countries. From time to time we have had Joint Working Groups on defence cooperation which extends to areas like training, port calls by our ships, and so on.

We believe that the visit will provide an opportunity at the highest level for two sides to have exchange of views on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, and would give an added impetus to our cooperation. We expect a Joint Statement to be issued after the conclusion of the talks tomorrow, and also expect a number of agreements to be signed during the visit.

My colleague Joint Secretary Gurjit Singh and I would be happy to take questions, if you have any, on the visit of President of Mozambique to India.

Question: Does Coal India have some blocks in Mozambique? What will the partnership be like? Will they need a local partner?

Joint Secretary (E&SA) (Shri Gurjit Singh): It is a pleasure seeing you all again. Coal India has two blocks among the eight companies from India which have 22 blocks in Mozambique so far. It is not necessary to have a local partner, you can have direct FDI. But we are expecting this to be one of the major points of discussion when Mozambique will explain its FDI policy to India Inc., when it meets them in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai over the next few days.

Question: Can you give us the details of the agreements to be signed? Also, this Association of Indian Ocean Rim Countries seems to be a government organization. What are the current activities of this Association?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): As you know, the relationship with Mozambique is pretty old and we have had frequent visits. So, a lot of agreements have been signed on the political side. Right now the main engagement that we are seeking to diversify is the economic and capacity-building areas. So, we both Governments are trying to create a matrix where greater facilitation

of Indian trade and investment trade and investment engagement to enhance economic cooperation takes place. So, we are looking at agreements in the sector of small and medium enterprises, in mines and minerals cooperation, as well as in providing the further framework to what Vishnu said over the BIPA, now the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. These will put in place a full matrix to promote more trade and investment in the near future.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association, you are right I guess, has been a bit dormant. But in the last few months, if not years, at least something is happening. I believe India is soon going to be taking over the Chair. So, there are several things which are happening on this count. And new project ideas will be taken up under that plan as well.

Question: Between India and Mozambique, there is an old railway project, that is, the Beira railway line in which our company RITES is involved. It seems to be facing a problem. By when is it likely to be commissioned? Secondly, I had traveled with the delegation when Mr. Krishna traveled to Mozambique. Indian business community is facing serious visa problems. Many of the Indian business executives have been returned from Maputo airport. Is this issue likely to be taken up during this visit?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): On the railway line, you are right it does go to Beira but it is called the Sena line. It comes from the Tete Province which is the Province in which the first coal concessions by Mozambique were given to a Brazilian and Australian company. In the Australian company, Tatas are a 30 per cent shareholder. That line, which runs for about 550 kilometres, links the coal producing area with the port of Beira. The line was rehabilitated by Indian companies IRCON and RITES, who came together and had a consortium with a local company promoted by the Government of Mozambique. These three are shareholders in CCFM which runs the concession. The concession is for 25 years. The rehabilitation of the line has been completed. I think trial trains have also run.

What is the next step is to decide on the commercialization of that venture by providing services to the coal producers and making sure that efficient services allow the evacuation of coal and take it to the port in time. The first production of coal is expected to go on stream by mid 2011. Just before this meeting I have just come from a meeting between the Transport

and Communication Minister of Mozambique and our Railway Minister. There, these issues were discussed because the focus of both sides now is to how to commercial this issue. You may see it as a problem; I see it as an issue. Because the rehabilitation is over and the line runs, now you have to work out the nitty-gritty of commercialization. That means, what is the kind of wagons you will use, what is the speed you will run at, how much you can evacuate, do you need to invest more to take it beyond the current capacity of the line, these kinds of issues. I think that is what is being tackled by both Governments, more than the Governments it is the companies. They are looking at making sure that when the coal in the mines is ready for evacuation, the railway system is in place. That is how we view it.

On the business visas issue, I believe there has been a considerable easing up since the last visit. We have not heard any complaints. But there are so many occasions for interaction between the Indian business community and the visiting dignitary in three cities that if there are issues, I am sure they will be taken up and the Mozambique side will respond to them.

Official Spokesperson: If I may add, the very fact that our trade and economic links are growing the way they are growing, and the trade has doubled in less than five years, is significant. You have been to Mozambique, and know that we have a sizeable presence of people of Indian origin and members of the Indian community. So, we are cruising along. It is a very important relationship. We are moving ahead. But as my colleague said, if there are any wrinkles that need to be ironed out, certainly between two friendly countries there are any number of mechanisms to do that.

Question: Several years ago, during an international conference that Mozambique was holding at Maputo they had requested the Indian Navy to patrol the waters outside that area as a security measure. Has any similar request come from the Mozambique Government's side recently, or is one likely to come for the future meeting?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): I think you are referring to the African Union Summit in 2003 which was held in Maputo and the Mozambiquan Government showed immense faith in the friendship and the capabilities

of us and we provided that cover. Recently, I think last month, four Indian Naval ships have visited Mozambique. They were on a goodwill visit. They have visited several countries in the region ending up with the IBSA exercises with South Africa and Brazil. We have the Joint Defence Mechanism with Mozambique which met I think in August, as JS(XP) has mentioned. They are looking to us for capacity-building to make their Navy more potent particularly in things like English-speaking courses and to allow them more training courses. We are responding positively. Thereafter these four Indian Naval ships had gone. Specifically answering your question, there has been no such event in Mozambique which required a security cover. Perhaps that is why nothing happened. But exchanges are continuing.

I would like to add here something new. A large number of African countries have approached us since the India-Africa Forum Summit for training their police forces. Mozambique is one of them. In August we had sent what is called a scoping delegation from the Ministry of Home Affairs to Mozambique and Lesotho to look at their training requirements. They have come back. Reports will be prepared. We will act on them. Meanwhile, under the India-Africa Forum Summit agreed programmes, we are going to launch four training programmes which deal with some aspects of modern police training and enforcement which will be open to all African countries. At the moment we are in the process of announcing it to all our Missions. These courses are approved and Mozambique will also be able to use them. This is just to say that it is not only the traditional defence system, but it is also the police which is now attracting the attention of the African countries including Mozambique to see and work with us and use our experience and our training capacities.

Thank you.



459. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the media briefing during the visit of President of Mozambique.

New Delhi, September 30, 2010.

Your Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

It is a great honour for me to welcome His Excellency President Armando Guebuza on his first visit to India as the President of Mozambique. The President has shown great leadership in taking his country on the path of economic development within the framework of a democratic polity.

India's relations with Mozambique go back in time to the pre-colonial period. India extended its full support to Mozambique in its struggle for independence and emergence as an independent sovereign nation.

We both belong to the same Indian Ocean community and we share common concerns. It is in our mutual interest to ensure the safety and security of sea lanes of communication in the Indian Ocean. Our relations are therefore warm, cooperative and marked by deep mutual understanding and friendship.

President Guebuza and I have decided to build upon the solid foundations of the past, and create a partnership based on the following four pillars:

- Greater political engagement;
- Deepening economic cooperation;
- Strengthening defence and security cooperation; and,
- Cooperation in capacity building and human resource development.

We have agreed to exploit our mutual complementarities in areas of trade and economic cooperation, transportation, railways, mining, coal, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and science and technology.

I conveyed India's readiness to be a partner in Mozambique's development efforts. India will provide a line of credit of 500 million US dollars for infrastructure projects, agriculture and energy. India will support the

establishment of training and planning institutions in Mozambique to support capacity building in the coal industry. India will also support capacity building for the defence and police forces of Mozambique.

The Agreements that have been signed today on avoidance of double taxation, cooperation in mineral resources and between middle and small enterprises will strengthen our partnership. We have decided to set a target of bilateral trade of one billion US dollars by the year 2013.

As one of Africa's foremost leaders, President Guebuza's leadership and guidance will play an important role in shaping India's partnership with Africa. We will work closely with Mozambique on regional and other issues, as well as in preparations for the next India-Africa Summit in Africa in 2011.

I deeply appreciate President Guebuza's commitment to India-Mozambique friendship and to take our bilateral relations to a higher trajectory. Based on our discussions, and the bilateral agreements that have been concluded today, I can say with confidence that President Guebuza's visit to India has opened a new chapter in our bilateral relations.



460. Joint Statement issued during the visit of President of Mozambique Armando Guebuza.

New Delhi, September 30, 2010.

1. At the invitation of the President of India, Her Excellency Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, His Excellency Mr. Armando Guebuza, the President of the Republic of Mozambique undertook a State Visit to India from Sep 29 to Oct. 4, 2010. During the visit H.E. Mr. Armando Guebuza held fruitful discussions with the President of the Republic of India, the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, and the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
2. During the visit, both sides
 - a) Commended the extent of bilateral relations and the exchange of high level governmental visits between the two countries. In this context, Mozambique appreciated the participation of India at the

inauguration of the President of Mozambique's second term of office, in January 2010.

- b) Reaffirmed the importance of strengthening relations between the two countries. India and Mozambique cooperate in various areas, including social and economic, defence and security, and human resources. Both sides agreed that this bilateral cooperation should be enhanced for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.
- c) Agreed that there is immense scope to further enhance this cooperation and particularly increase the level of economic content for the mutual benefit of both countries. The Mozambican side appreciated the assistance and sharing of experience provided by India in various forms.
- d) Noted with satisfaction the growth in mutual trade. India is among the top five major trading partners of Mozambique. India was Mozambique's fourth largest importer and third largest exporter in 2009. The trade between India and Mozambique has more than doubled since 2005-06 from US \$ 178.15 million to US \$427.13 million 2009-10. Both sides agreed that there is considerable scope for further increase in bilateral trade between the two countries as well to expand the trade basket. A target of US \$ 1 billion by 2013 has been accepted by both sides.
- e) Recognised that Mozambique is rich in mineral resources and has large reserves of untapped minerals, ores and coal and will become a major producer soon. Moreover, most of the cashew produced in the country is exported to India. Both sides agreed to develop such complementarities to expand trade. It was agreed that greater efforts to diversify and expand trade will be made. India welcomed Mozambique's accession to the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) offered by India to provide greater market access.
- f) Reiterated their desire to strengthen bilateral relations based on the traditionally close ties of friendship and cooperation between

the two countries, and work to raise the relationship to a strategic partnership based on common interests and mutual benefits.

- g) Have identified specific areas of common interest that will allow the establishment of an India-Mozambique partnership and agreed that high official delegations should meet to discuss ways to build a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership.

3. The Prime Minister of India reiterated the Indian Government's commitment to contribute to the economic development of Mozambique including human resources, agriculture, infrastructure and science & technology. He announced a line of credit of US \$ 500 million for Mozambique. In this context, it is noted that in May 2010, India announced a Line of Credit of US \$25 million for rural electrification, and in all, six LOCs amounting to US \$ 140 million are operational or have been completed. The Indian Prime Minister stated that India would be happy to continue to support Mozambique's developmental goals. A grant of US \$ 4.5 million to provide equipment to build capacities of Mozambique's police force was also announced. The President of Mozambique thanked the Prime Minister for India's invaluable support for their development.

4. Noting that India is ranked as the fourth largest investor in Mozambique in 2009 with investments of US\$64.17 million in the sectors of energy, mineral resources, agro-industries, transport and communication, food processing, and coconut and cashew processing, it was decided that greater investment promotion efforts will be made to encourage Indian FDI in Mozambique.

5. India welcomes the decision of Mozambique to be a partner country at the CII-EXIM Bank India-Africa Conclave in 2011 and considers that this would be a good event to highlight the opportunities of increasing Indian FDI in Mozambique.

6. The Government of India assured Mozambique of its continued support for both human resource development, and for imparting a new impetus to increasing economic engagement, given the closeness and economic complementarity of the two countries. This will also include

support by India for Mozambique's infrastructural and mineral development and the development of an India-Mozambique Coal Partnership keeping in view the potential for growth and optimal utilization of resources in Mozambique for its development.

7. India is committed to support capacity building in the coal sector and has announced, during the visit to Mozambique of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri S.M. Krishna, that India will establish an apex institute for training in the coal sector and an apex planning institute for the coal industry in Mozambique, which will be open to the countries of the SADC region. This was welcomed by the Mozambique side.

8. Recalling that an MoU on defence cooperation was signed between the two countries in March 2006 during the visit of the Mozambican Defence Minister to India and that the second Joint Working Group on Defence between them met in New Delhi on 16 June, 2010, the two sides have agreed to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries in the areas of training and capacity building.

9. To support human resource development, under various schemes, Mozambique is now offered long-term and short-term scholarships. This includes scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and research studies in India annually. 8 new Scholarships are offered under the C V Raman Fellowship, 30 training courses are offered to it under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, and it also has access to special scholarships in agricultural sciences offered as a part of the decisions of the India Africa Forum Summit. Mozambican students are also eligible for scholarships under the Pan-Africa e-network Project wherein a total of 10,000 scholarships are offered to Africa.

10. In addressing wider areas beyond the bilateral realm, and in recognition of the historical and civilisation links between the African continent and India, the leaders committed themselves to strengthening the India-Africa Forum and to the advancement of the seven pillars of the Action Plan of the Framework for Cooperation launched in Delhi in March 2010. The Action Plan will intensify India-Africa cooperation in various fields including Commerce, Politics, Social Development and Capacity Building; Science, Technology, Research and Development;

Tourism; Infrastructure, Energy and Environment and Media and Communication. With this in mind, the leaders undertook to work even more closely to reinvigorate their cooperation for Africa's development. The Indian Prime Minister emphasised that India looks forward to the next India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) to be held next year in Africa. The Mozambique President welcomed the IAFS initiative and its next summit in Africa.

11. Leaders on both sides noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the growing partnership between the two countries with the signing of the following Bilateral Agreements / MoUs during the visit:

- a) MoU between India and Mozambique on Cooperation in the fields of Mineral Resources;
- b) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) between India and Mozambique
- c) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Mozambique

12. It was agreed that the Ministerial Joint Commission will meet in the next six months to take the proposals forward.

13. Mozambique has been very politically active in all the regional forums. It is seen as an important member in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU). India is increasing its engagement and cooperation with SADC and the AU and appreciates Mozambique's role in these organizations.

14. India and Mozambique noted the progress and achievements made in the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR ARC). They welcomed the adoption of a revised charter of IOR ARC and agreed to continue working together along with other Member States of IOR ARC, to revitalise the organisation and pursue cooperation in various areas for the common benefit of their peoples. They noted that the greater involvement of the business, scientific, and academic communities was essential to revitalise the objectives. Both countries have denounced and condemned firmly the acts of piracy that are occurring in parts of the Indian

Ocean and reiterate the need for a regional common position against this phenomena.

15. Both India and Mozambique reaffirmed their desire to continue their mutual support and cooperation at international fora, including at the United Nations. Mozambique reiterated its support of India's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the 2011-12 term.

16. Both sides, stressed their call for an urgent reform of the UN and expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. As a prominent member of the African Union, Mozambique has been playing an important role in defending the African position for comprehensive reform of the UN as expressed by the Ezulwini Consensus. Mozambique reiterated its support for India for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. India reiterated its support to the African position.

17. Both India and Mozambique underlined that terrorism cannot be justified in any form, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. The two sides agreed on the need for greater cooperation among states in the fight against terrorism. In this context, the two sides urged for early finalization of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which is under discussion at the UN since 1996.

18. In view of the broad impact of climate change and the particular vulnerability of countries in the African continent due to underdevelopment and unique geographical disadvantages, the Indian side expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Mozambican side in providing assistance for urgent adaptive actions to protect against the impact climate change. Both sides also agreed to closely coordinate their positions in multilateral climate change negotiations to safeguard the legitimate interests of developing countries.

19. The Mozambican side commended the Government of India for the hosting and organisation of the Commonwealth Games and expressed its confidence on the success of this important festive event of the Commonwealth family.

20. The Mozambican side expressed its sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of India for all the hospitality extended to them and the excellent arrangements made for their visit to India.

21. The President of the Republic of Mozambique has extended an invitation to Her Excellency Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India and to H.E. the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to visit Mozambique. The invitation was kindly accepted and dates will be determined through diplomatic channels



461. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet in honour of President of Mozambique Armando Guebuza.

New Delhi, September 30, 2010.

Your Excellency President Armando Guebuza,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your delegation to India. Our countries have a warm and long-standing friendship based on a shared history.

When India became independent in 1947, many countries of Asia and Africa were still under colonial yoke. Given our own experience of the struggle for independence led by Mahatma Gandhi, it was natural for India and its people to share the aspirations of the people of those countries, which had still not been liberated. Thus, our support for the people in their struggle for freedom, including in Mozambique became a cornerstone of our engagement with Africa.

Since the independence of Mozambique in 1975, our bilateral relationship was nurtured by your predecessors and by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and later by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. It has been growing rapidly and

is now on the threshold of becoming a strategic partnership. Excellency, your predecessor President Chissano had visited India in May 2003 and I understand that this is your first visit to India as Head of State. I am confident that your visit would give further impetus to our age-old ties of friendship and brotherhood.

There have been wide-ranging changes in the political and economic landscape of our two countries. It is our common challenge to see inclusive growth in our countries. In this regard, your open and inclusive Presidency to reach out to the people at the grassroots throughout the country, and your Government's efforts to fight poverty are exemplary and commendable. I can assure you that India remains committed to support Mozambique, including through capacity building efforts like the S&T Park, the Pan African e-Network, bilateral training programmes, and the special scholarship schemes for Agriculture Sciences and scientific research, announced after the India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008.

Our economic relationship at present though substantial is still below potential. We feel that long term and durable economic relations between our two countries can be built by supporting complementarities in our economies. There is scope for cooperation in several fields, including infrastructure, minerals and hydrocarbons, agro and food processing, and in the development of small scale industries, which are ideally suited to generate employment.

Excellency,

We acknowledge the growing role and stature of your country in the regional affairs of Africa. You have been in the forefront in the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). We remain enthusiastic about our growing engagement with the SADC and the AU for mutual benefit. India, being aware of the need for a transformation from political emancipation to economic development, has revitalized its own policies towards Africa. At the India Africa Forum Summit in 2008, the Indian Government announced multi-faceted support to Africa's aspirations. As part of this commitment, India would establish several Institutions in Africa.

India and Mozambique have also been working together in various international fora including the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. We share a common commitment to pluralism, inclusiveness and creation of an equitable world order.

The scourge of terrorism has emerged as a global problem. Our country has been a victim and has lost innumerable lives as a result of cross-border terrorism. The terrorist attack on Mumbai in November 2008 was the worst kind of attack. Terrorism sponsored across borders by States is a threat to international peace and security. We must work together to see that these forces of terrorism are dealt with firmly and eradicated.

Excellency,

I have no doubt that the new areas of cooperation that have been identified during your present visit, will bind us even further in an enduring partnership that will prove to be a model for development cooperation.

With these words, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen may I request you to join me in raising a toast:-

- to the health, happiness and well-being of His Excellency President Armando Emilio Guebuza;
- to the well-being and prosperity of the people of Mozambique;
and
- to lasting friendship between India and Mozambique.



462. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs at the end of the visit of the President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique to India.

New Delhi, October 4, 2010.

At the invitation of the President of India, the President of Mozambique, H.E Mr. Armando Guebuza was on a State Visit to India from September 29- October 4, 2010. President Guebuza's delegation included 4 Ministers of his Cabinet including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Mineral Resources, and Transport & Communications. A large business delegation as well as senior officials were part of President Guebuza's delegation.

This was President Guebuza's first visit to India as the President of Mozambique. President Guebuza had earlier visited India in 2003 as Minister of Transport and Communications.

President Guebuza called on the President who also hosted a banquet in his honour. He also met the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. M. Hamid Ansari and held delegation level talks with Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur called on President Guebuza. The Chairperson of the UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, also called on him.

The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations, and agreed to work to raise the relationship to a strategic partnership. They discussed a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest covering economic cooperation, trade and investment, infrastructure, mining, coal, agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises, human resources development, science and technology, defence and security cooperation. It was agreed that the Ministerial Joint Commission meeting will take place in next six months to take the proposals forward. A Joint Statement containing the key understandings reached during the meetings was issued during the visit.

The Prime Minister of India announced that India would provide Lines of Credit of US\$ 500 million to support infrastructure projects, agriculture and energy. In this context, it is noted that in May 2010, India announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 25 million for rural electrification, and in all, six LOCs amounting to US\$ 140 million are operational or have been completed.

India has also extended a grant of US\$ 4.5 million for capacity building of Mozambique's police forces.

The following MOUs/agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MOU on Cooperation in the Fields of Mineral Resources, (ii) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), and (iii) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The two sides noted that bilateral trade has more than doubled since 2005-06. It has grown from US\$ 178.15 million in 2005-06 to US\$ 427.13 million in 2009-10. India today is one of the five largest trading partners of Mozambique. India was Mozambique's fourth largest importer and third largest exporter in 2009. In order to exploit the true potential of bilateral trade in a more diversified area, a target of US\$ 1 billion by the year 2013 has been set. India ranked the fourth largest investor in Mozambique in 2009 with investments of US\$ 64.17 million.

India welcomed the decision of Mozambique to be a partner country at the CII-EXIM Bank India- Africa Conclave in 2011. It would be a good event to highlight the opportunities of increasing Indian FDI in Mozambique.

The two sides reaffirmed their desire to continue their mutual support and cooperation at international fora, including at the United Nations. Mozambique reiterated its support to India's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the United Nation's Security Council for the term 2011-12 and Permanent Seat of the UNSC.

President Guebuza and his delegation met Indian business leaders during a Business luncheon meeting organised by Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of commerce and Industry and ASSOCHAM on September 30, 2010. President Guebuza also visited the Indian Agriculture Research Institute in Delhi.

President Guebuza visited Ahmadabad on October 1, 2010. He visited Indian Institute of Management, Sabarmati Ashram, and had meeting with the Mozambique nationals in Gujarat. He had meeting with the Governor and Chief Minister of Gujarat.

President Guebuza also visited Mumbai from October 2-3, 2010. He had meeting with the Governor of Maharashtra and also had business meetings.



NAMIBIA**463. Press Release on the Visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to Namibia.****Windhoek, July 15, 2010.**

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Namibia from 12-14 July 2010. Her visit coincided with the 13th CII EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership 2010. A 21 member business delegation was present in Namibia during the visit.

During the visit, Minister of State called on the Founding President of Namibia, Dr. Sam Nujoma. He fondly recalled his long association with India which he had visited 11 times and received Indira Gandhi Peace Prize. He has used the Prize money for establishing a maternity ward named after late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He also expressed gratitude to India for its support in their independence struggle and later for its development. In a special gesture the Founding President hosted Smt. Preneet Kaur and her delegation for a private lunch.

Smt. Preneet Kaur also called on the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba during which they discussed issues of mutual interest. The visit served as a useful follow-up to the successful visit of President Pohamba in August/September 2009. The visit of the business delegation was seen as a successful implementation of the ideas discussed during that visit. In the interregnum the first Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources had met in October 2009 and several Indian business houses have visited Namibia to look at emerging prospects, particularly in the context of the development of Walvis Bay as a major port in the South Atlantic which links Namibia and SADC countries. The President also praised the capacity building initiatives and support provided by India to the development of Namibia particularly NIPAM (Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management). Namibia has also signed PAN-African E-Network and is in the process of its implementation.

Smt. Preneet Kaur also called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia, Mr. Utoni Nujoma and discussed issues of mutual interest.

During the visit, opportunities in the agriculture sector were also discussed and there is a desire on the part of Namibia for developing ventures utilising their vast land resources with India's technology and investment. Namibia would be taking advantage of the special scholarships for agricultural scientists offered by India through the African Union. They were also informed of the opportunities arising out of the newly established C.V. Raman Fellowships for Scientific Research.

The delegation that accompanied Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preet Kaur covered a variety of sectors including agriculture, infrastructure development, mining, power and electricity, telecommunication, transportation, pharmaceutical and health care, IT and education and many others.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Hon'ble Immanuel Ngatjizeko, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the Republic of Namibia on behalf of Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry and by Smt. Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. They called for enhancement of India-Namibia economic engagement through a higher level of investment, capacity building and trade. The business delegation had enthusiastic response from a large number of Namibian businessmen. The visit was supported by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and SME Compete of Namibia.

The visit served as an important follow-up to the State Visit of President Hifikepunye Pohamba to India last year and showed a commitment on the part of India to engage with one of its closest friends in Africa in substantive terms.



NIGERIA**464. Press Release on the visit of the Indian Delegation led by Minister of State for Minority Affairs Salman Khurshid to Nigeria to participate in the 50th Independence Day celebrations of Nigeria.****New Delhi, October 3, 2010.**

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Corporate Affairs unveiled the foundation stone of India-Nigeria Friendship Hospital Project in Nigeria Capital Abuja yesterday. Nigerian Minister of State for Federal Capital territory Abuja, Navy Captain Caleb Olumolade and Dr Shabihul Hassan, Chairman of this project, were also present on the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by Dr Okwesilieze Nwodo, National Chairman of Nigeria's Ruling Peoples' Democratic Party. The Project will be completed in two years and will be the biggest healthcare project of its kind in West Africa.

Shri Salman Khurshid, as the head of an official Indian delegation, paid a 4-day visit to Abuja from September 29 to 2nd October 2010 as representative of India at the 50th Independence Day celebrations of Nigeria. He strongly condemned the bombings in Abuja that took place on 1st October, the very day Nigeria was celebrating its Independence Day. Shri Khurshid delivered a letter of condolence and solidarity to the President of Nigeria in which he said that India expresses its heartfelt sympathy to victims and their families and that India is ready to assist Nigeria on security issues too.

The unveiling of India-Nigeria Friendship Hospital Project will further strengthen the already robust Indo-Nigerian friendship, as Nigeria is the largest trading partner of India in Africa. Bilateral annual trade turnover exceeds US \$ 9 billion. Both share common perspectives on international political, social and development issues and these have manifested in various meetings at UN, WTO, etc. Nigeria, like India, is strongly opposed to all forms of terrorism. India and Nigeria have regularly exchanged visits at governmental and commercial levels to strengthen bilateral economic and commercial relations. Indian companies have sizeable investments in Nigeria in textiles, chemicals, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, plastics, fishing etc.



SEYCHELLES**465. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Seychelles on the 7th Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission Meeting.****Victoria, May 11, 2010.**

The 7th Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission Meeting was held in Victoria (Seychelles) on May 10-11, 2010. The Indian side was led by H.E. Mr. Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Seychelles side was led by H.E. Mr. Barry Faure, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were exchanges of views on wide range of subjects, including the danger from piracy and at the conclusion of deliberations, several new areas of cooperation were identified.

**466. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ESA) on the visits of President of Seychelles James Alix Michel and President of South Africa Jacob Zuma.****New Delhi, June 1, 2010.**

Please see Document No.472.



467. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet hosted in honour of the President of Seychelles James Alix Michel.

New Delhi, June 2, 2010.

Your Excellency, Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you and your delegation to India. We are delighted by the visit of a valued friend of India. We fondly remember Your Excellency's State Visit in August 2005. We also fondly remember your earlier visits to India as Vice-President of Seychelles in 1999 as well as a Minister in 1994 and in 1987. I wish you and the distinguished members of your delegation a very pleasant stay in India.

Your Excellency, you lead a country with strong democratic and cultural traditions. We, in India, have great admiration for the economic reforms you have successfully carried out in Seychelles, as also for the immense courage and conviction you have shown in tackling the problem of piracy, which affects us all and requires international co-operation.

The safety and security of the Indian Ocean is a shared objective of our two countries. In fact, the waters of the Indian Ocean have helped in connecting our two nations and brought us together since ancient times. The bonds between us are rich and infused with history. The links between us extend to every aspect of human life, be it social, economic, cultural, intellectual or political. Since your last State visit to India in 2005, we have moved forward a long way in our bilateral cooperation and engagement. We meet today as two vibrant democracies that share common values and common goals; and when our bilateral relations have reached a new dimension. India stands ready to be a full and equal partner in the realisation of your vision of economic development of Seychelles and in contributing to your security, especially in the face of piracy.

The enhancement of human capital is essential for progress. We have sought to contribute to the efforts of our partner countries in this direction. Thus, we have been assisting Seychelles in capacity building through scholarships for studies in Indian universities, and by providing training to your civilian and defence officers. We will continue to enhance our cooperation in this area.

We have opened a new chapter to diversify relations with Africa. The India-Africa Forum Summit was held in New Delhi in April 2008, when with African leaders at that Summit, we added a new impetus and dynamism to our partnership. We remain committed to working with our partners in Africa, for a more cohesive engagement in the present century. A milestone in our bilateral cooperation is the Pan-Africa E-Network. I am happy that Seychelles was one of the first countries to fully operationalize this project, which provides for tele-education and tele-medicine. I remain confident that the people of Seychelles will benefit from its use.

Your visit, Mr. President, will open a new chapter in our relations. We have finalised several initiatives to build a true partnership of friendship and cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in a toast to: -

- the health and happiness of His Excellency, Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles;
- the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of Seychelles; and
- the everlasting and ever growing friendship between India and Seychelles.



468. Press Release on the Visit of President James Alix Michel of Seychelles.**New Delhi, June 4, 2010.**

At the invitation of Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, His Excellency Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles, paid a State Visit to India from 1-3 June 2010. His delegation included Ambassador Barry Faure, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior officials and a business delegation.

President Michel met the President of India who also hosted a banquet in his honour. He also met Hon'ble Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India. President Michel held official discussions with Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, during which both sides were accompanied by senior delegation members.

The Leader of Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, called on the visiting dignitary.

The delegation level talks, led by Prime Minister, were held in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the close and friendly relationship between the two countries. Both sides expressed happiness at the special relationship and friendship that has developed between the two countries which is leading to an even greater mutually beneficial partnership. A wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation and future areas for partnership were discussed. These included economic cooperation, capacity building, defence and security cooperation, enhancing trade and investment, cooperation in the fight against piracy and the like.

India has offered a Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million to Seychelles. In order to assist Seychelles to develop self-sustaining and revenue generating projects, based on the request from Seychelles side, the Government of India has agreed to extend this LOC as a two-step loan to the Development Bank of Seychelles.

Seychelles is currently going through economic reforms aimed at recovery of its economy with the help of IMF. Seychelles had requested Government of India to reschedule the repayment terms of the US\$ 8

million line of credit, offered in 2007, in terms of the Paris Club formulations. The Indian side agreed to this request to reschedule the repayment as per Paris Club norms.

It was agreed that India will continue its commitment in building of Seychelles's infrastructure. It was also agreed that Indian side will consider extending all assistance in the areas identified during the 7th India-Seychelles Joint Commission Meeting held in Mahe in May 2010.

India will continue to assist Seychelles in capacity building efforts through short and medium term training courses through the ITEC programme as also through long-term scholarships.

Both sides agreed that there is large potential for increasing the volume of bilateral trade as well as enhancing Indian investments in Seychelles, particularly in the sectors of tourism, fishing, financial sector, fibre optic cables etc. The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) was signed during the visit. This is aimed at giving a necessary boost to Indian investment in Seychelles.

Both sides agreed that climate change issues affect both countries and action needed to be taken by global community to reduce its impact.

A business delegation from Seychelles accompanied the Seychelles President. They interacted with their Indian counterparts during a business event organized by FICCI together with CII and ASSOCHAM, during which presentations were made on investment opportunities in Seychelles.

The Seychelles President visited The Energy Research Institute (TERI) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on June 3, 2010.



469. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles.

New Delhi, July 7, 2010.

Please see Document No.454.



470. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence to extend cooperation to Seychelles for help in Maritime and Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance operations and capacity building force.

New Delhi, July 19, 2010.

India and Seychelles today agreed to take forward their cooperation to tackle the spread of piracy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). On the request of the Seychellois leadership, India also agreed to extend help for maritime and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance operations and capacity building of its Forces.

The decisions were taken at the series of meetings that the visiting Defence Minister Shri AK Antony had with the President Mr. James Alix Michel, the Vice President Mr. Danny Faure, the Minister for Home Affairs Mr Joel Morgan and the Foreign Minister Mr. Jean Paul Adam in Mahe. Shri Antony is leading a high-level delegation, which included the Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar and the Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral DK Dewan.

Shri Antony said the problem of piracy in the Gulf of Aden affects all countries of the world. He shared the concerns of Seychelles on the increasing reach of the pirates. "This is a problem which calls for cooperation among all countries. The Indian Ocean links us all and is critical for our economic interests. We must cooperate to ensure peace and stability in this region", he said.

Shri Antony reiterated New Delhi's assurance, as conveyed by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during President Michel's visit to India earlier, for continued cooperation in all fields particularly in the field of Defence and Security. The Prime Minister had announced a \$ 5 million assistance for Defence related projects for Seychelles. Over and above this, on a specific request from the Seychelles, Shri Antony agreed to provide one new Dornier and two Chetak helicopters from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for maritime surveillance, at the earliest. Although the normal delivery time is 18 to 24 months, he said, New Delhi will try to supply the aircraft in 15 months. During this period, India will provide one of her in-service Dornier Aircraft to carry out maritime surveillance. Agreeing to a request from the Seychellois side, Shri Antony said India will help them to carry out EEZ surveillance as frequently as possible. He said the Indian Navy will also make additional visits this year to conduct surveillance and hydrographic survey. During these visits, Seychellois personnel can embark on board the Indian Navy Ships for maintenance training and conduct drills and exercises. Shri Antony also agreed to offer help for capacity building of the Seychellois Forces.



SOUTH AFRICA

471. Press Release issued by the High Commission of India in Pretoria on the India-South Africa Foreign Office Consultations.

Pretoria, May 18, 2010.

The Sixth Round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and South Africa were held in Pretoria, South Africa on May 18, 2010. The Indian side was led by Mr. Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the South African side was led by Mr. Sisa Ngombane, Deputy Director General in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to impart further content and dynamism to the bilateral strategic partnership.

India and South Africa share extensive cooperation based on a positive legacy of historical ties and political cooperation. The contemporary relationship covers economic and commercial relations, educational and academic exchanges, cultural cooperation as well as scientific and technological partnerships. In particular, it was agreed to take necessary measures to further facilitate economic and commercial ties, which were developing well, to address issues raised by businesses on both sides.

The FOCs also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and views on major international issues of mutual interest. South Africa is an important partner for India in different frameworks such as IBSA, G-20, BASIC, etc. Both sides would continue their cooperation in endeavours to reform key international institutions, including the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions.



472. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (ESA) on the visits of President of Seychelles James Alix Michel and President of South Africa Jacob Zuma.

New Delhi, June 1, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to you all. As you know, we are expecting two important dignitaries during this week, - the President of Seychelles and the President of South Africa. My colleague Joint Secretary (ESA) Shri Gurjit Singh and I would attempt to give you a brief perspective on these two important state visits.

Let me start off with the visit of the President of the Republic of Seychelles. His Excellency Mr. James Alix Michel, who at the invitation of Rashtrapatiji would be arriving today. He would be in India till the 3rd of June. He has earlier visited India in 2005. Seychelles is a fellow Commonwealth country and also an Indian Ocean state, and as such it is a part of our neighbourhood. We enjoy close, friendly and cooperative ties with Seychelles underlined by very good mutual understanding and cooperation which has been growing over the years.

The Seventh Joint Commission Meeting which was chaired by Secretary (West) Mr. Vivek Katju - and Joint Secretary Mr. Gurjit Singh participated in that - was held in May, just a few days ago. Also preparatory to the important visit of the President of Seychelles, a number of new initiatives were considered which would now be operationalised including a school library project, supply of buses, technology development centre in Seychelles for small and medium enterprises, human resource development. We have been cooperating closely with Seychelles, assisting them in training, including of diplomats.

India has been extending wholesome support and cooperation to Seychelles including in development of infrastructure and enhancing its security capabilities. In fact, security and defence cooperation is one of the important aspects of our engagement which extends to assistance in training, supply of defence hardware and so on. I would like to particularly note that an IT centre at the request of the Government of Seychelles, is being set up at the cost of Rs.4 crore which would be operationalised soon.

Seychelles has also put the Pan-African E-Network to very good use, effectively utilizing the tele-medicine and tele-education facilities which connect them to designated Indian super-specialty hospitals and universities. They are also utilizing close to two dozen ITEC training slots annually.

I would particularly like to note that there is a lot of goodwill for India in Seychelles. Close to ten per cent of the population in Seychelles is of Indian origin. Their currency is called Seychelles Rupee. We are also exploring now possibilities to enhance our synergies. A business delegation from Seychelles is accompanying the President to precisely do so. By the way, Bharti Telecom Group has been in Seychelles since 1998 providing telecom services through Airtel Seychelles. Some agreements are likely to be signed during the visit.

Let me then move to the visit of the President of South Africa, His Excellency Jacob Zuma. South Africa is one of our key partners, our very important partners, in the African continent. The state visit of President Zuma is taking place in the 150th anniversary year of the arrivals of Indians in South Africa.

President Zuma is leading a very high-level delegation to India comprising of several Cabinet colleagues, and what we are told, the largest ever business delegation to accompany a President during his visit abroad. There will be some 200 businessmen and CEOs accompanying him representing various sectors of the South African economy. It is also President Zuma's first visit to any Asian country as a President of the country. He had earlier, you would recall, visited India in 2008 as the President of the African National Congress.

Let me take you through the delegation and the programme. As I said, a number of his Cabinet colleagues are accompanying him including the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, Minister of Defence, Minister of Public Enterprises, Minister of Trade and Economy, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Transport, Minister of Communications, and a number of other very senior officials.

Prime Minister would be assisted in the delegation-level talks by our Union Minister of Agriculture; Raksha Mantri ji; our Commerce and Industry Minister; Minister of Civil Aviation; Minister of State for External Affairs Shrimati Preneet Kaur; Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and IT; besides of course Principal Secretary to Prime Minister; National Security Advisor; Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West); Shri Gurjit Singh; and other officials.

Mr. Zuma reaches Mumbai tomorrow where he will be meeting with the Governor. Next day, he would be having meetings with the business fraternity and also have breakfast with the South African Business Forum, and the Business Unity South Africa. He reaches Delhi on the 4th and will have substantive delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister where they are likely to cover all issues of bilateral and international interest.

A number of agreements will be signed. He would be also having an important business meeting here. The Leader of Opposition calls on him. There will be calls by the Vice-President, and Chairperson of UPA. President of India would be hosting a banquet in the honour of the visiting dignitary.

Let me say that India and South Africa today share a wide-ranging and mutually beneficial relationship, spanning a number of sectors. We have a tradition of regular high-level exchanges. Just to enumerate a few, the

President of South Africa last visited India in 2008. That was President Motlanthe, who is now the Vice-President. Our President, our Vice-President, Prime Minister on two occasions, Chairperson UPA, amongst other leaders, have visited South Africa in the last few years.

Fellow democracies, our relationship is based on a strong sense of political solidarity, as well as, a common understanding and outlook on a range of international issues. You are aware that we are both members of a number of very important international organizations and bodies including NAM, G77, IBSA, BASIC, G20. In fact, South Africa is the only African country to be a member of G20. We are also members of the G8 plus G5 Outreach initiative. That itself is indicative of the wide slate of our cooperation and reflective of the similarity in our thinking.

The vibrant economic and commercial partnership is literally at the heart of this relationship. We have become one of the ten largest trading partners of South Africa. Trade which was 2.5 billion dollars in 2002, rose to 7.5 billion in 2008-09. What is even more significant is that in 2009-10, while we are still compiling the figures, in the first ten months the trade touched 6.4 billion dollars and would perhaps exceed the figure of 7.5 billion dollars. If you see the graph, trade with all countries practically, and the global trade due to the global economic crisis, tended to dip in 2009-10. With South Africa it has been at the same level or even there has been a spike, which I think tells its own story.

India and Southern African Customs Union have been negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreement to give a further boost to our ties. Investments in both directions are growing. In fact, Indian companies and the largest Indian companies that are present in South Africa, are in the process of investing something like 3.5 billion dollars in diverse sectors. Some of the biggest names from the South African companies are already operating in India, they have invested in India.

We are also negotiating a Bilateral Investment and Promotion Agreement to boost our economic relationship further. As significantly, we are in the process of launching a bilateral CEO's Forum to provide an institutional mechanism for business leaders on both sides to engage closely. The Forum will be chaired by Mr. Ratan Tata on our side and Mr. Patrice Motsepe on the South African side, who is the Chairperson of African Rainbow

Minerals and Business Unity South Africa. As such one of the focuses of the visit will be on deepening our economic engagement. We also have good cooperation in other areas like culture, academia, human resource development, science and technology, tourism, defence and so on.

It is noteworthy that South Africa is home to one of the largest concentrations of people of Indian origin anywhere in the world. It is estimated that there are over 1.5 million PIOs in South Africa which constitutes about two and a half per cent of the South African population.

Again, a number of agreements are likely to be concluded during the visit of President Zuma. We expect our warm, cooperative and multi-dimensional ties to be further enhanced during the visit.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: Many years ago India had banned the South African defence firm Denel. Is there any possibility of India reconsidering its position and lifting the ban and of resumption of bilateral defence trade with South Africa?

Joint Secretary (E&SA) (Shri Gurjit Singh): Thank you. It is good to see you all. The question of Denel is being discussed. I cannot comment on which direction it will take for the moment.

Question: And the resumption of bilateral defence trade?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): It is all linked to that. It is under discussion.

Question: Can you give us an idea about investments of both China and India in South Africa, if it is possible?

Official Spokesperson: About Indian trade and Indian investments in South Africa we have shared details with you. About Chinese trade and investments, I think either China or South Africa can tell you. We do not have any information. What we know is about our relationship with South Africa, what we are doing with South Africa. If Gurjit knows ...

Joint Secretary (E&SA): Let me give you something which will interest you. We have already given you the broad trade figure and how there has been a zoom up. In 2003, when South Africa exported 70.5 million metric tonnes of coal, India imported two per cent. Last year, South Africa exported 67 million

metric tonnes of which India imported 20.5 million metric tonnes. So, we are now importing close to 30 per cent of South Africa's total coal exports.

Coming back to your question, I have here a figure on China. Chinese purchase is more sporadic. I understand that they have imported a 143,000 metric tonnes in 2003 rising to 920,000 metric tonnes in 2009 compared to the Indian figure that I gave you of two per cent to 20.58 million metric tonnes. So, the Chinese trade with South Africa overall is not as big as some of China's trade with other African countries. In fact, 75 per cent of China's trade is with four countries - Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and the DRC. South Africa is not one of the top trading partners.

Question: Has South Africa expressed interest in joining BRIC grouping? Also, can you give us a sense of the kind of agreements which India and South Africa are going to sign?

Official Spokesperson: You know the ground rules. We will share details of the Agreements with you the when they happen. At this moment since it is still work in progress we would not like to get into those details.

As far as your other question is concerned, I have already mentioned that India and South Africa are members of diverse international fora from NAM, to G77, to G20, to BASIC, to IBSA, to G8 plus G5. You can see the range. That is on the one hand. Two, look at the history and background of Indian and South African ties, look at our historical relationship. We have both struggled against colonial powers. Gandhiji's experiments with nonviolence, with Satyagraha began in South Africa. Our support to South Africa's freedom struggle has been very steadfast. We have taken you through the nature of cooperation that has since obtained.

IBSA which has now almost become an institutional mechanism for the three democratic countries, has been in place since 2003. What does this indicate? What it indicates is that India and South Africa are very keen to engage with each other bilaterally, regionally, in international fora and so on. I think that is how we approach the relationship that is how we look at the relationship. As far as BRIC is concerned, the first summit took place in 2009, just about a year ago, and the second summit was held recently. It is at a nascent stage. The agenda is evolving, the thinking is evolving. That is where BRIC is at the moment.

Question: Sir, this was related to the question that Ranjit asked. Can you tell me at what level is this discussion, as you spoke, about Denel going on in the Government? When did this discussion begin? Has the Government of South Africa requested that this ban be lifted?

Official Spokesperson: What could be shared has been mentioned. JS ESA has already responded to the question. I am afraid at this juncture we do not have any further details to share.

Question: Gurjit Sir, the issue of nuclear cooperation with Angola and South Africa; and secondly, is there some talk of cooperation in UNSC that is going on?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): The nuclear cooperation is largely between our companies and their companies. How that evolves and what framework will have to be seen. It is something that will emerge once the cooperation takes off. I think it is too early to speculate what the impediments could be. I think we need to put the companies to take this forward.

On the UNSC, there are two wheels which are rotating. One, as you all know, is the common African position called the Ezulwini Consensus. Ezulwini is a place in Swaziland which literally translates into the word heaven. That the African Group has maintained and which India has fully endorsed and said fine we respect this. There are deviations between the Ezulwini Consensus and the G4 position. For instance, the African side wants two permanent seats but they want them with full powers as enjoyed by the permanent members today. That is one point of slight deviation from the G4 position. The second thing that they say is that they want three rotating nonpermanent seats to be added whereas I think in the G4 proposal it is two. So, there are differences of nuance but the Ezulwini Consensus has not really gone beyond whatever positions were adopted around 2005. On the other hand there is considerable movement in New York, and South Africa has been working closely with our Mission and with India and with other countries. As you know, about 144 countries signed a request to the facilitator to start a text-based negotiation. In the 144 countries there are a large number of African countries. I think at last count I thought there were 37 or 38, or maybe more by now. As I said, there are two wheels and we do not necessarily want to connect them right now. Let them carry on. Once the text-based negotiation starts, then we will see

what the African countries have to present in their position. They have of course presented the African position to the facilitator. India and South Africa are collaborating closely in New York and during other discussions like when their Foreign Minister came here in November last year and when recently Secretary (West) and I went to Pretoria for the Foreign Office Consultations, this issue was discussed. I think there is a fair amount of commonality of views and the desire to work together.

Question: Sir, we are talking for a long time about the Organisation of the Indian Ocean Rim Countries. Seychelles, India, South Africa are a part of the ring actually. But they always seem to be quite dormant in the sense that no activity is there. Is there going to be any kind of revival of the organization or any kind of activity is going to be there in future in the wake of these consultations, or is it going to remain just like that?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): I will take your question with regard to Seychelles. I would not comment on the organization as a whole. To the best of my knowledge, Seychelles withdrew from this organization as it did from some others a few years ago when it reassessed its economic engagement and what the cost, benefits were. I do not think they are back as members as yet. Having said that, Seychelles is a very important country in the Indian Ocean and they are severely threatened by piracy which is flowing out from Somalia. As you know, the heavy concentration of the world's Navies around the Gulf of Eden has pushed the pirates into wider oceans. And now that they use mother ships and then the skiffs, they are able to cover a wider area much further away from land. So, Seychelles is feeling terribly threatened by piracy. They have had I think two actions against piracy by their coastguard in the space of two months. Some of their nationals who were taken hostage were rescued. Seychelles has basically two industries - tourism and fisheries. Tourism has again two parts. One is shore-based, land based tourism wherein people come by air, stay in a hotel, and go away. That part seems to be alright. But then there was the huge amount of cruise or boat tourism when people landed and went off. That has taken a big hit. I understand when I went to Seychelles recently that they are suffering almost eight billion Euros a year negative impact from the piracy. Similarly, their fishing boats are suffering as well. So, two of their most important economic assets are taking a big hit in the centre of the Indian Ocean. This is where their concern is. They want a wider collaboration to

help them to overcome the threat of piracy which is impinging on their economic situation in a very severe manner.

Question: Talking of piracy, have we institutionalized some sort of anti-piracy cooperation with Seychelles? Secondly, on UN reforms how many African countries so far have expressed support for India for nonpermanent seat and permanent seat in the UN Security Council?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): The first one was on piracy. Vishnu has already told you that we have a steadfast engagement in the security set up of Seychelles, and we have been supporting them over a period of time. The security set-up arrangements are basically that the coastguard vessels that they have were gifted by India in 2005. Then we have some ITEC experts there. One of them is a legal officer, one is a maritime security advisor, one is a technical naval advisor, one is I think a guy who looks after the army. These are all open ITEC posts which are over there. Our people on deputation to them help them to plan their anti-piracy and general security strategy. In this they are assisted by many other countries as well.

When it comes to the second part of your question - I am very poor at math, I have not got down to writing but - there are only let us say a very few countries which have not openly come out in support of our nonpermanent candidature. There are I think even some countries who we thought had some doubt have in the last week or so sent out written confirmations. Seychelles has of course been supporting us at both levels consistently. With South Africa, they are also a candidate for a nonpermanent seat along with us. So, I think there is a kind of a mutual support to enter the Council together.

Question: Is India considering transfer of any new defence hardware to Seychelles for helping them in anti-piracy operations?

Official Spokesperson: Security and defence cooperation is a process. Already my colleague has elaborated on what I remarked about the nature of cooperation. So, this is dynamic thing. Depending on your needs, depending on the challenges, depending on how the situation evolves, you constantly review your security arrangements, defence

arrangements, and you take the process forward. So, you can very well appreciate that there cannot be any calendar to say that in the year of the Lord 2015 this is what we will do. Suffice it to say that, and I did mention, this is one of the important aspects of our relationship with Seychelles.

Joint Secretary (E&SA): And of course you must all remember that our entire policy towards Africa is request-based.

Question: South Africa is hosting a major sports event this month, the FIFA World Cup. Has any official invitation come to India? Is anybody representing India either in the Opening or Closing Ceremony?

Official Spokesperson: We will come back to you on that.

Question: I wanted to ask what the current position on Headley is. When will India be allowed to interrogate him?

Official Spokesperson: On the question on Headley, you know that the matter is being coordinated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and you may like to address this question to them to ascertain further details.

Question: Is the President bringing his spouse?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, Sir, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma will be accompanied by his spouse and as I said a very high-level delegation.

Question: Mr. Prakash, this is an issue which MEA has partly responded to earlier. This is about Canada asking very serious questions to India's visa seekers. After the consultation with the Foreign Office has India taken up the issue with Canada and is there any response from that country?

Official Spokesperson: On the issue involving some letters that were issued by the Canadian High Commission to some of the individuals, you have already heard what the External Affairs Minister said. He said that the content in some of the letters that were issued by the Canadian side to Indian individuals were not acceptable. We are a democracy. We have the highest regard for the valour, professionalism of our security

forces. This is something which was unequivocally shared with the Canadian side. Please understand, Canada is a friendly country. We have a very important relationship. Thereafter you are aware, I think if I remember right, on the 27th of May, the Minister of Immigration of Canada issued a statement regretting what was said and conveying that they have the highest respect for the Indian security forces. So, that is where the matter stands.

Question: My supplementary to that question is, today there were some news reports that Canada sought security related information from visa seekers.

Official Spokesperson: We have seen reports now and earlier that during processing of visa certain questions have been asked. It is the individual country which decides what kind of questions that they want to ask and it is for the individual concerned to decide whether or not to give a response to that question. I would like you to appreciate that it is a prerogative of any country to issue or not issue a visa. It is an Indian prerogative and it is a prerogative of any other country. There are factors of reciprocity that also kick in, that is a separate matter. But some letters were issued, certain questions were asked, we know about it. How many letters, we do not know for the simple reasons that over the past couple of years, as it is coming to light now that certain letters have been issued to individuals. That is where the matter is. What I would like to underscore is that national security, national interest are the paramount considerations for any country, as it is for India. Whatever it takes to secure these aspects, to safeguard these aspects, will be done and is being done.



473. Statement of Prime Minister to media during the visit of South African President Jacob Zuma.

New Delhi, June, 4, 2010.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome His Excellency President Jacob Zuma on his first State Visit to India. We are honoured by the fact that President Zuma has chosen India as his first destination in Asia.

The links between India and South Africa are rooted in history. We can never forget that South Africa was the land of the awakening of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, for which we owe a deep debt of gratitude to its people.

President Zuma has led South Africa with great distinction in the last one year. South Africa plays an influential role in world affairs. Its voice is heard with respect not only in Africa, but also on all major global issues.

In a week from now South Africa will host the Football World Cup. On behalf of the people of India, I have conveyed our best wishes to President Zuma for its grand success.

Our strategic partnership with South Africa is based on a mutuality of interests, common aspirations and close mutual understanding.

Today, President Zuma and I have decided to impart a forward-looking character to these ties, and to further broadbase our cooperation. We have agreed to focus on the expansion of our economic, trade and investment relationship. Our economies have come of age. A growing number of companies are investing in each other's countries, and South Africa has become one of the most significant economic partners for India in Africa.

We have also decided to provide fresh impetus to our cooperation in the areas of science and technology, agriculture, human resource development, people to people exchanges and security. India remains willing to work with South Africa in addressing the shared challenges of capacity-building, skill development, job creation and combatting disease, which are essential for achieving inclusive growth.

We have tasked the next meeting of the Joint Commission to develop concrete plans for implementation of the decisions we have taken today.

India and South Africa work closely in several international forums such as the United Nations, Non-aligned Movement, Commonwealth, WTO, G-20 and the IBSA and BASIC groupings. We have agreed to intensify our coordination in these bodies.

We will step up our efforts for the reform of global institutions of governance, including of the United Nations Security Council. We have agreed to support each other's candidatures for the non-permanent seat for the 2011-2012 term.

President Zuma's visit marks a new milestone in India's relations with South Africa. I thank him for his friendship to India.

Thank you.



474. Joint Declaration issued on the occasion of the visit of President of South Africa Jacob Zuma.

New Delhi, June 4, 2010.

At the invitation of the President of India, Her Excellency Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, paid a State Visit to India from June 2-4, 2010. During the visit, President Zuma met the President of India, the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of South Africa reaffirmed the vitality of the India-South Africa strategic partnership, based on their commitment to a global order built upon the principles of peace, justice and equality, upon the two countries' shared history of solidarity and partnership in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid and encouraged by the legacy and stature of Mahatma Gandhi and former President Nelson Mandela.

Both leaders underscored the importance of making the strategic partnership more result oriented and of greater direct benefit to the peoples of South Africa and India. They emphasised their commitment to

cooperation towards raising the existing level of friendship and partnership between South Africa and India to even higher levels.

The leaders recalled the defining documents of the South Africa - India relationship, the Red Fort Declaration of 1996, the Joint Declaration of 2003 and the Tshwane Declaration of 2006, and expressed satisfaction with the progress that had taken place. Both leaders welcomed the continued interaction between India and South Africa at the highest political levels. Such interactions are marked by an exceptional degree of cordiality, understanding, mutual trust and confidence. They expressed satisfaction at the consolidation of bilateral relations and underscored that the visit of President Zuma would contribute to consolidating the practice of regular political-level consultations.

The leaders recognised that South Africa and India draw their strength and inspiration from the diverse, multi-cultural societies constituting their respective nations; and stated that the best assurance for continued peace and prosperity lies in the adherence to democratic governance that is rooted in respect for human dignity and the fundamental rights of all people in accordance with their respective Constitutions.

Recognising that since the establishment of bilateral relations in November 1993, the two countries had established a framework for cooperation through bilateral and multilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. President Zuma and Prime Minister Singh committed their Governments to the fullest implementation of these milestones of the bilateral relationship. They noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the growing partnership between the two countries with the signing of the following bilateral agreements / MoUs during the visit:

- Air Services Agreement;
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors; and
- MoU between the Diplomatic Academy of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa and the Foreign Service Institute of India.

They expressed satisfaction at increasing cultural exchanges between the two countries and agreed to further promote educational exchanges

including through University-to-University linkages. President Zuma and Prime Minister Singh agreed that a more extensive and active network of cooperation in Science and Technology would be promoted by the concerned Departments, which would focus on cooperation between designated agencies and specialised institutions. Towards this end, the two leaders noted that the MOU for cooperation in the field of Communications and Information Technologies has expired in September 2009 and called for an early renewal of the MOU and a meeting of The Joint Working Group to identify projects for joint cooperation in the ICT sector.

Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of strengthening relations under the aegis of the India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) which affords both sides an opportunity to address a range of bilateral, as well as multilateral political and economic issues. They confirmed that the 8th Session of the JMC will take place in Delhi in 2010, allowing both sides to evaluate the implementation of bilateral agreements and decisions taken during the State Visit.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the progress recorded in developing a multi-faceted strategic partnership. They welcomed the fact that bilateral trade had grown to the extent that India was now one of the top ten trading partners of South Africa. The two leaders noted that there has been a healthy growth in two-way investment flows, which have increased substantially during the past five years. The two leaders welcomed the reconstitution of the India-South Africa CEOs' Forum as an institutional mechanism for closer business interaction with Government support. They look forward to its first substantive meeting in South Africa along with an India Show in August 2010.

In the area of economic cooperation, the leaders underlined the need to utilise their respective strengths to mutual advantage through greater cooperation between respective business entities. In this regard, they agreed that the focus should be upon sectors such as infrastructure and manufacturing, energy, mines and minerals, oil and natural gas, banking and financial services, tourism, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and auto components, textiles and garments, fertilisers, information technology, small and medium enterprises and forestry-based produce.

The leaders urged Indian and South African industry to work towards raising bilateral trade to US \$ 10 billion by the year 2012. They expressed satisfaction at the significant increase in investment flows in both directions, as businesses on both sides recognised complementarities and benefited from opportunities. In this context, the leaders recognised that the vast latent potential in the relationship was yet to be fully exploited.

In the regional context, President Zuma affirmed the importance of India as a partner of the African Union in the consolidation of peace and stability in the Continent, through its contributions to peacekeeping, and as a partner in the development of Africa through its support for the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

In addressing wider areas beyond the bilateral realm, and in recognition of the historical and civilisational links between the African continent and India, the leaders committed themselves to strengthening the India-Africa Forum and to the advancement of the seven pillars of the Action Plan of the Framework for Cooperation launched in Delhi in March 2010. The Action Plan will intensify India-Africa cooperation in various fields including Commerce, Politics, Social Development and Capacity Building; Science, Technology, Research and Development; Tourism; Infrastructure, Energy and Environment and Media and Communication. With this in mind, the leaders undertook to work even more closely to reinvigorate their cooperation for Africa's development.

Both leaders acknowledged the increasing contribution of their countries in Africa towards the achievement of peace, security, stability, development and economic prosperity. President Zuma took special note of India's active participation in all United Nations sponsored peace missions in Africa, and the role it continues to play in peace and security on the Continent. They noted the progress made in bilateral defence cooperation, and underlined the need to expand cooperation in areas of potentiality, such as military training and cooperation in UN peacekeeping.

Recognising the importance of the strategic partnership, the two leaders agreed on the need to expedite the ongoing negotiations on the India-Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) Preferential Trade Agreement so as to provide a significant incentive to business to explore mutually beneficial commercial opportunities and contribute to growing trade and investment relations.

The leaders recognised the importance of the emerging economies of the South, the structural changes taking place in the global economy and the importance of strengthening trade and investment relations with these new poles of economic growth. They acknowledged that new economic relationships will be based on the principles of partnership, complementarity and mutual benefit.

The leaders expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the 4th IBSA Summit in Brasilia on 15 April 2010. They reaffirmed the importance of IBSA as an effective instrument for promoting closer cooperation and coordination on global issues between the three major and diverse democracies of Africa, Asia and South America.

Both leaders reiterated their commitment to intensify consultations and cooperation at multilateral fora such as NAM, Commonwealth, G77+ China and G20. They share the view that developing countries, need to have a greater voice and vote in the international financial institutions. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to increase the voice, vote and representation of emerging and developing economies, including those in Africa, in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions.

The two Leaders emphasized the need for the reform of the United Nations (UN) to render it more democratic and consistent with the priorities of the developing world. They emphasised that no reform of the UN would be complete without the reform of the UN Security Council, including an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both, for the Security Council to have the representativeness and legitimacy it needs to face contemporary challenges. The two leaders undertook mutual support for their candidature for non-permanent Security Council seats for 2011-2012.

The leaders reaffirmed that people must come first in the formulation and implementation of public policies, allowing for fair, equitable and sustainable development. They considered this issue a priority in the context of an increasingly globalized world, in which the economic and financial crisis, and the need for restructuring of the international financial architecture directly affect the welfare of people, particularly of vulnerable groups. In this regard, they stressed the need to strengthen social policies

and to fight hunger and poverty, especially in times of global economic crisis. The leaders also reiterated the need to promote a job-intensive recovery from the downturn and create a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Sustainable recovery and growth will also depend on several factors such as enhanced investment for infrastructure development, stable capital flows to the developing markets, appropriate macroeconomic adjustments, and avoiding complacency in the area of financial sector reforms. Financial inclusion will be a major determinant of success.

The leaders stressed the need to reform the Bretton Woods Institutions to increase their effectiveness and to enhance their accountability, credibility and legitimacy. They underlined the importance for a greater voice and participation by developing countries in these institutions.

The two leaders stated that a positive outcome of the Doha Round of trade talks within the World Trade Organisation would be instrumental in economic recovery, particularly in job creation, as international trade has experienced its sharpest decline in several decades. A development oriented, balanced and successful conclusion of the Round at an early date would bolster the credibility of the multilateral trading system in the face of increased protectionist pressures. The Leaders confirmed their intention to continue to work to strengthen the alliances of developing members that have effectively changed the negotiating dynamic in the World Trade Organisation, placing developing countries, for the first time in the history of the global trade system, at the centre of the negotiations.

The leaders reiterated the unwavering commitment of South Africa and India to the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable manner and urged immediate efforts towards the realization of this goal. They reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful application of nuclear energy, consistent with their international legal obligations.

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 threats to international peace and security. President Zuma condemned attacks in India that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. The two leaders agreed on the need for greater

cooperation among States and regional organizations in this regard. They emphasized the urgent need to finalize the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues with the objective of an expeditious conclusion of negotiations and adoption of this Convention. They note that the fight against international terrorism must be done with full respect to the UN Charter and International Law.

The leaders reiterated the importance of a positive result for the current climate change negotiations at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Mexico. They stressed that the result should be reached in an inclusive and transparent manner, and should effectively address the challenge of climate change, in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC, especially the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They urged developed countries to take ambitious action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide adequate international financing and transfer of technology to support the efforts of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.

The leaders agreed to work closely together in the field of sports cooperation and on sharing experiences on upcoming events such as the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. They expressed confidence that this would form the foundation for enhanced partnership in their sporting relations.

The President of South Africa conveyed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the President and Prime Minister of India for the warm hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during the visit.



475. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of South Africa President Jacob G. Zuma.

New Delhi, June 4, 2010.

At the invitation of the President of India, the President of South Africa, H.E Mr. Jacob G. Zuma, accompanied by Mrs. Zuma was on a State Visit to India from June 2-4, 2010. President Zuma's delegation included 7 Ministers of his Cabinet including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Public Enterprises, Trade & Industry, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Transport, and Communication. A 200 member strong business delegation as well as senior officials were part of President Zuma's delegation.

This was President Zuma's first visit to India as the President of South Africa. This was also his first visit as the President of South Africa to any country in Asia.

President Zuma will be calling on the President who would be hosting a banquet in his honour. He has met the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. M. Hamid Ansari and held delegation level talks with Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. MOS for External Affairs called on President Zuma. The Chairperson of the UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, also called on him.

The discussions were held in an atmosphere reflective of the fraternal warmth, affection and strategic partnership that characterize the bilateral relations. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations, and the mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership that was developing between the two countries. They discussed a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest covering economic cooperation, trade and investment, agriculture, education, information and communication technology, health, science and technology and culture. A Joint Declaration containing the key understandings reached during the meetings was issued during the visit.

The following MOUs/agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and allied sectors, (ii) Air Services Agreement and (iii) MoU on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Diplomatic Academy of South Africa.

The two sides noted that while bilateral trade has grown from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2002 to US\$ 7.5 billion in 2008-09, it needs greater diversity. India today is one of the ten largest trading partners of South Africa. In order to exploit the immense potential, a target of US\$ 10 billion by the year 2012 has been set. At the same time, increasing Indian investments made South Africa one of our most significant partners in the African continent.

President Zuma and his delegation met Indian business leaders in Mumbai on June 2, 2010. An India-South Africa CEOs' Forum has been established, which is chaired by Mr. Ratan Tata on the Indian side and Mr. Patrice Motsepe, CEO of African Rainbow Minerals and Chairperson of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) on the South African side. The Forum includes senior representatives of the Indian and South African industry. The Forum aims at increasing interactions between business persons from both countries.

Both sides also discussed ways of implementing the many agreements that both countries have concluded in the past, to further broaden the base of bilateral partnership. The Joint Commission between the two countries, which meets later this year, will include these views.

The two leaders highlighted the importance of high level bilateral visits, including at the level of Heads of State and Government. They also decided to promote other high level ministerial visits. Vice President Shri. Mohammad Hamid Ansari visited South Africa during May 8-10, 2009 to attend the inauguration of Mr. Jacob Zuma. South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane visited India from 12-15 November 2009. The Finance Minister of South Africa Mr. Pravin Gordhan visited India during January 6-9, 2010 for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. Ms. Buyela Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa attended the BASIC Ministers Meeting during January 23-25, 2010.

Both sides exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest like UN reforms, IBSA, climate change and G-20. They reiterated the resolve to continue bilateral dialogue and cooperation at various international fora.

India expressed its willingness to work with South Africa in addressing the shared challenges of capacity-building, skill development and job creation, without which inclusive growth is inhibited.

Both sides have pledged to support each other's candidacies for the elected seats of the UN Security Council, elections for which would be held later this year.



476. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a Banquet in honour of the President of South Africa Jacob Zuma.

New Delhi, June 4, 2010.

Your Excellency, President Jacob Zuma,
Her Excellency Mrs. Zuma,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Your Excellency President Zuma, Her Excellency Mrs. Zuma, and the distinguished members of your delegation to India. You represent a nation and a people with whom India's links are historical, precious and special.

India-South Africa friendship is rooted in our common historical experiences of colonial exploitation, as also in our struggles against the injustice and deprivation under the abhorrent system of apartheid. India was privileged to be pro-actively associated with the struggle of the South African people, and to be the first country to raise its voice against racial segregation at the UN in 1946, before we had achieved our own independence.

I recall the words of Mahatma Gandhi that, "It is my unshakeable belief that India's destiny is to deliver the message of non-violence to mankind." It was in South Africa that Mahatma Gandhi first gave expression to the path of non-violent struggle. It was in South Africa that he evolved the methods of political action with which he led India's freedom movement. It is the foundation of this deep emotional linkage that makes our ties so unique and extraordinary.

Today, our common vision of global challenges and our dynamic partnership based on mutual respect and equality have brought us closer, as we work for inclusive socio-economic growth and the collective upliftment of our peoples. India's engagement with South Africa is a true partnership - multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional, embracing sectors vital to the lives of all our peoples such as health and food security, infrastructure, and energy, generic medicines and industrial development.

The firm basis of our cooperation is our commitment to share our developmental experience, expertise and technology in identified areas of mutual priority for mutual benefit. India has and always will, remain steadfast in supporting capacity building and human resource development initiatives in South Africa.

Our two countries have strived hard to further broaden and deepen our bilateral trade and economic engagement. The volume of bilateral trade and investment has grown rapidly in the past decade and shows promise. We can further harness the existing potential through the establishment of an enabling framework that encourages our business people to seek greater avenues of collaboration.

The India-Africa Forum Summit, held in New Delhi in April 2008, has helped forge a blueprint for future partnership between India and Africa. In order to operationalize the decisions of the Summit, an Action Plan was launched recently with the African Union. The Plan has provisions for enhanced cooperation in various sectors like agriculture, capacity building, Science and Technology, security cooperation and tourism among others. The bilateral and regional components are also being implemented in consultation with our partners. We hope to carry this process forward with the active support of South Africa.

Our excellent bilateral relations are well supplemented by the IBSA Forum, which has provided a unique framework of cooperation among the three vibrant democracies and developing economies from three different continents. Through IBSA, our shared values and similar aspirations are getting channelized towards pooling of material and intellectual resources. This is not only beneficial for our common causes, but is also contributing to the shaping of the global agenda by voicing the issues of concern to developing countries.

India and South Africa share a commonality of views on major international issues. Both our countries agree on the need for reform of the United Nations, including expansion of its Security Council. We wish to ensure a better representation for developing countries and correct the historic injustice done to developing countries in general and Africa in particular. Both our countries stand united in our common objective to ensure a political and financial international architecture which is fair, equitable and takes into account the changing geopolitical realities. We have co-ordinated our positions on climate change under the BASIC grouping at the Copenhagen Summit.

Your visit comes in a special year when people of Indian origin in South Africa commemorate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of their arrival on the shores of your country. We would like to join you in this commemoration. South Africa remains the home to one of the largest communities of Indian origin in the world, many of whom are significant actors within South Africa, giving yet another significant dimension to our relationship.

We are confident that a resurgent India and a strong and confident South Africa will together make a major contribution in the world in the 21st Century.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests may I now request you to join me in raising a toast to:-

- the good health of His Excellency President Zuma and Her Excellency Mrs. Zuma;
- to the prosperity and well-being of the people of South Africa; and
- to further strengthening of the bonds of cooperation and friendship between India and South Africa.



SUDAN**477. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level meeting on Sudan.****New York, September 24, 2010.****Mr. Secretary General, Foreign Ministers, Excellencies,**

At the outset permit me to compliment you for convening this very timely Conference on Sudan. The United Nations has been at the forefront of the international community's attempts to stabilise the situation in Sudan. As one of the prime contributors to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), India shares the principles and purposes behind the United Nations involvement in the country. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to contribute fully to the shared goals we have for this troubled region.

Sudan today is on the threshold of profound change. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the warring Sudanese parties has brought peace, after a prolonged and bitter civil war, to Sudan. The culmination of the CPA process will take place in a few months with the referendum of 9 January 2011 when the people of Southern Sudan will decide whether they favour unity of the country or opt for secession. We are happy to note that the referendum process is on track and is expected to be concluded by the stipulated date. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Government of National Unity in Khartoum and the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba for their statesmanlike approach in resolving the difficulties at hand and in ensuring that the referendum time schedule is maintained.

We trust that the referendum will be conducted in a timely, transparent and credible manner and the outcome of the referendum will be respected by all parties in accordance with the provisions of the CPA as also the international community. India hopes for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

Insofar as the situation in Darfur is concerned, we would like the issue to be resolved in a manner consistent with Sudan's unity and territorial

integrity. We are aware that there are several sets of on-going efforts in progress at achieving peace in Sudan and we wish the efforts, including the Doha Peace Talks, to bring peace and prosperity to Sudan.

India is extensively engaged with Africa and highly values its relations with the region. The Pan-Africa E-Network Project, the 2nd phase of which was inaugurated by me recently, is one of the finest examples of the growing partnership between India and Africa. We value Sudan's participation in the Project. It is the biggest project of distance education and tele-medicine ever undertaken in Africa. Extension of concessional lines of credit to countries in Africa, including Sudan, has been another way of assisting our partners in the development process.

India and Sudan share the most cordial of relations. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru successfully argued for Sudan's inclusion at the 1955 Bandung Conference even before Sudan became independent. Our age old ties have been cemented in modern times with people to people contacts, trade and commerce, investments and a broad commonality of outlook on global issues. India is, therefore, deeply committed to the stable development of Sudan. India looks forward to peaceful development of this region which will depend, irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, on maintaining close cooperation between Southern and Northern Sudan and its neighbours, and the world community.

Thank you.



478. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the operationalization of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between India and Sudan.

New Delhi, October 18, 2010.

Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) between the Republic of India and the Republic of Sudan has become effective from today with the exchange of Instruments of Ratification (IoR) between them. Shri Govind Mohan, Joint Secretary (Infrastructure & Investment), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and H.E Mr. Khidir Haroun Ahmed, Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan in New Delhi exchanged the Instruments of Ratification in a ceremony, here today.

India has so far signed BIPA with 79 countries. Of these, 68 have already come into effect. BIPA seeks to promote and protect investments from one country in the other country. BIPAs facilitate bilateral investment flows and grant benefits of National Treatment (NT) and Most Favoured Nation (MFN). With the exchange of IoR today, Sudan becomes the 69th country with which our BIPA has become effective.

BIPA between India and Sudan was signed on 22nd October 2003 by the Minister of Disinvestment and Communication and Information during his visit to Khartoum, Sudan. Indian model text was the basis of negotiation. Our Cabinet had approved signing and ratification of BIPA with Sudan in January 2003.

The Agreement requires both the countries to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of each other to make investments in their territory and to admit investments in accordance with their laws. Investments from either country in the territory of the other country are to be accorded National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation Treatment implying that the investment shall be provided a treatment which is not less favourable than that provided by the home country to investments of its own investors or investors from any other country. Besides, investors are to be provided Most Favoured National Treatment in respect of their investment. It also provides an elaborate dispute resolution mechanism which includes recourse to negotiations, conciliation and international arbitration.



ZAMBIA**479. Briefing by Secretary (West) On Vice-President's visit to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana.****New Delhi, January 4, 2010.**

Please see document No.433.

**480. Speech by Vice President M.Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Vice President of Zambia.****Lusaka, January 5, 2010.**

Allow me to say at the outset how happy my wife and I are to be in your beautiful country. I bring the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India to the government and people of Zambia. My wife and I, and indeed my entire delegation, greatly appreciate the gracious hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

We in India have great admiration for Zambia, its rich history and cultural heritage and its leading role in the pan-African and regional organizations. Zambia is an example of how people can live in peace and seek development within a plural democratic polity. Zambia and India have historically been close allies in the struggle for independence, equality, human rights, freedom and democracy for the Southern African and other developing countries.

Our support for decolonization and the fight against apartheid and racial inequalities contributed to the creation of a more just and equitable international order. Our mutual commitment to democratic governance and the furtherance of multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies has been a cornerstone for regional peace and global stability. Our close engagement has extended to regional and global fora including the UN, the Non Aligned Movement, SADC, COMESA and the African Union.

India's partnership with Zambia is an important component of our larger vision of close, cooperative and multi-sectoral partnership with African countries encompassing political, security, economic, science and technology, human resource development and cultural sectors.

The India-Africa partnership is based on the fundamental values of equality, mutual respect, and understanding between our peoples for our mutual benefit. It is guided by five basic principles :

- Respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and commitment to deepen the process of African integration;
- Promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, linguistic and racial diversities as well as gender equality;
- Development of intra-regional/sub-regional integration by complementing and building upon existing/sub-regional initiatives in Africa
- Recognition of diversity between and within regions, including different social and economic systems and levels of development; and
- Development and consolidation of plural democracy.

India and Zambia share common perceptions on the major issues before the international community today. We are committed to work together for the maintenance of global peace and security, United Nation reforms, universal disarmament, fight against terrorism, establishment of a fair and equitable global trading regime and addressing the vagaries of climate change.

Both our countries seek to ensure that in all these matters, the interests of developing countries are kept uppermost and the socio-economic developmental requirements of our countries are guaranteed. As responsible nations in a changing international order, we are committed to work together to foster the ideals of equitable representation, democratization of international institutions and to continue the struggle for our own development by seeking an international order which is responsive to our needs.

Bilateral relations between India and Zambia have developed in multi-faceted areas. Cooperation in the economic, commercial and technical fields is progressing. This seeks to be energized. We need to exploit our synergies and complementarities and utilize the enormous opportunities of cooperation that exist in areas of agriculture, irrigation, trade, investment, power, small and medium industries, education, telecommunication and tourism. We would encourage public private partnerships to realize this potential to the fullest and further deepen our economic engagement.

We were honoured by the gracious presence of His Excellency President Rupiah Banda at the first ever India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. We would like Zambia to take advantage of the new initiatives announced at the India-Africa Forum Summit particularly in regard to concessional credit lines so as to promote trade between the two countries. Zambian companies could also access the funds provided by India through the COMESA PTA Bank to finance purchase of technology, equipment and consultancy from India.

The Government of India has in 2008 approved US \$ 50 million Line of Credit for the Itezhi Tezhi Hydropower Project. We will continue with the process of extending our Line of Credit for infrastructural and industrial projects that would contribute to Zambian development. The Government of India would also make available grants for the social sector for projects covering agriculture, health and education sectors in Zambia. This is a signal of our commitment for cooperation and partnership with the people and government of Zambia.

The Indo-Zambia Bank which celebrated 25 years of its successful operations in Zambia last month, was the brainchild of our two visionary leaders, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Our recently commissioned pan-African E-Network Project is yet another milestone of South-South Cooperation. This project will facilitate tele-education and tele-medicine services and video-conferencing with all the Heads of State in Africa. This is an example of our efforts to bring the benefits of our technological development to our partners in Africa.

I am happy to note that Zambia has been a major beneficiary of our ITEC programme with around 2300 civilians trained in India so far. In addition,

several Zambian defence chiefs and over 325 other defence officers have been trained in Indian defence institutions. Our Military Advisory Team has also assisted in the setting up and running of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Lusaka. India stands committed to human resource development and building Zambian capacities.

The 13,000 strong Indian community in Zambia represents a vital aspect of our bilateral relationship. They have helped build bridges of cooperation and bonds of friendship between the two countries and peoples. I wish to express our deep appreciation for their effort.

I am looking forward to my discussions with His Excellency the President, Your Excellency and Hon'ble Ministers of Zambia. I am confident that continued high level exchanges between our countries would give a new impetus to our bilateral relations.

MULUNGU ADALISE ZAMBIA (GOD BLESS ZAMBIA)

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, May I now request you to join me in a toast to:-

- the good health and happiness of His Excellency the President, Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda
- the good health and well being of Your Excellency, Vice President George Kunda and his gracious wife , Madam Ireen Kunda
- to the continued well-being and prosperity of our two friendly peoples; and
- to the ever deepening friendship between our two countries.



481. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the engagements of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in Lusaka.

Lusaka, January 6, 2010.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Good afternoon. This morning the Vice-President was received by His Excellency the President of Zambia. Prior to that meeting, the Vice-President met with his counterpart the Vice-President of Zambia.

After the meeting with the Vice-President, an agreement on a Line of Credit was signed between the Government of Zambia and EXIM Bank to extend a loan of 50 million dollars on concessional terms for the construction of the Etezhi Tezhi hydropower project. This project is designed to have an output of 120 MW of electricity which will contribute to the energy sector in Zambia. The partners in the project are Zisco, which is a Zambian company, and Tata Africa Holdings. The 50 million dollars that we have extended as a Line of Credit will go to Zisco's equity participation in this project.

Both meetings with the President and the Vice-President were characterised by great warmth and friendship. The leaders of Zambia and the Vice-President recalled the friendship that has existed between our two countries. This friendship predates the independence of Zambia. The Zambian leadership expressed gratitude for the assistance that India gave them during the period of decolonisation. On a number of occasions, reference was made to the inspiration which the founding fathers of Zambia received from Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent struggle and his philosophy of nonviolence. It was recognised that India's contribution to the process of decolonisation in Southern Africa was very substantial. But it was also recognised that times have changed and there is now need, as our Vice-President put it, to reinvigorate and reenergise the relationship between the two countries.

That process, as you know, began in 2008 with the India-Africa Forum Summit. It is now our intention, as the Vice-President informed the Zambian leaders, to generally focus on three areas as we take our

relationship forward with Zambia. The first is the bilateral area; the second is an engagement in the context of Pan-Africa; and the third is our cooperation in multilateral fora.

In the bilateral area India's capabilities and capacities in the human resource development field were focused upon and it was decided that this process of our training assistance which has been fruitful for Zambia will continue.

The second area was on extension of our Lines of Credit. As the Vice-President said, we have already signed an agreement today for 50 million dollars for the Itezhi Tezhi hydropower project. In addition, we have decided to extend a Line of Credit for 75 million dollars over the next two years. To activate these Lines of Credit for 75 million dollars, we will now await proposals from the Zambian authorities. These proposals could be in different fields, in the areas of health, infrastructure, education, etc.

At the Pan-African level, India is engaged, as you know, in giving effect to the decisions which were taken at the India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008. It was then decided that we would be setting up Pan-African institutes, also vocational centres throughout Africa. This is an engagement which India is undertaking with the African Union. There has been a tradition of consultation between India and Zambia in multilateral fora in the area of trade, development, terrorism and climate change. So, this process too will continue.

Finally I may mention that it was decided that the Joint Commission between the two countries will meet soon so that a full agenda can be worked out at the appropriate level for the engagement between the two countries and to take this process of engagement further.

Forgive me, I should have also mentioned, as I have been correctly reminded, that in addition to the Line of Credit of 75 million dollars, we will also be giving a grant of five million dollars to Zambia. We will await proposals from Zambia for activating this grant component. The grant is generally available for the social sectors, which include health, education, etc.

If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

Question: Was the UNSC reform issue discussed?

Secretary (West): Yes, it was focussed upon. It was recognised that there is need for reforming the international architecture so that it is in tune with contemporary realities. Our cooperation with Zambia in this area will be significant. The Vice-President of Zambia reiterated Zambia's support for India's bid for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. I may also mention that the Vice-President's meeting with His Excellency the President of Zambia was marked with great warmth. In fact they had a one-on-one meeting for almost half an hour before they met with the delegations. This was a very special gesture on the part of the President which our Vice-President appreciated.

Question: Does this 50 million dollar loan mean that orders of this amount would be placed on an Indian firm?

Secretary (West): There are certain characteristics which are associated with a Line of Credit and those conditions will be fulfilled by the recipient of the Line of Credit. I think you are right. One of the characteristics is that about 85 per cent of all the material, the equipment, etc., is sourced from India. So, that will apply.

Question: What is the total Line of Credit that would have been extended by India to Africa as a ...(Inaudible)..

Secretary (West): The commitment that was made at the India-Africa Forum Summit was for 5.4 billion dollars over a period of five years. In addition there was a grant component of 500 million dollars. In fact at the signing ceremony of Line of Credit agreement today a reference was made to this by the Finance Minister of Zambia.

Question: Of the 5.4 billion dollars which has been committed over a period of five years starting 2008, how much has already been given?

Joint Secretary (Shri Gurjit Singh): Of the total offers and agreements, about close to a billion which is the target for a year has been more or less met for the current fiscal.

Secretary (West): I would say in conclusion that these two meetings of the Vice-President with the leadership of Zambia were fully in keeping

with the tradition of warmth, of friendship, of cooperation which has continuously marked the relationship. As the Vice-President said, we have a good and vibrant relationship without any problems and we are committed to work substantively to raise this relationship to a higher plane. I will ask my colleagues if they wish to add anything.

Question: I think the Business Delegation is meeting the Minister of Commerce. Is there any information available on that?

Secretary (West): I am afraid not. I do not have a feedback. We have been busy with these meetings.

Secretary (West): I am advised that nature has not been very kind to some members of the Business Delegation. Apparently, fog prevented some flights. But most of them have reached and meetings will be taking place. The reference material that has been given to you would show you the range of investments that have already taken place from India. It is our conviction that the opportunities to raise Indian investments here for mutual benefit are immense. I think I should also mention that the entire approach that we have is an approach of responding to needs. We are not prescriptive. We have capabilities. These capabilities are growing and these capabilities are available to our friends. There are major Indian groups that are involved here. This involvement we will encourage.

Thank you.



482. Speech by the Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by the High Commissioner.

Lusaka, January 7, 2010.

"I am happy to be in Zambia and to meet you all. Since our arrival in this friendly country, my wife and I have enjoyed the warm welcome and kind hospitality of the Government and people of Zambia. We have also enjoyed the natural beauty and greenery of Zambia and were wonderstruck to see the magnificent Victoria Falls during our trip to Livingstone yesterday. This was indeed a memorable experience.

The relations between India and Zambia are historical, based on shared experience of the struggle against colonial rule and our mutual commitment to a democratic polity, a multicultural society, rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Indian community in Zambia that has been here for over a century and made Zambia home, represents a vital aspect of our vibrant bilateral relationship. They have helped build bridges of cooperation and friendship between the two countries and peoples. While Zambia has embraced you with open arms, you too have adapted to the local situation and contributed immensely to the development of this great country.

In this increasingly inter-connected and globalised world, Overseas Indians are global citizens. However, the Indian Community in Zambia, as elsewhere, is as pluralistic a community as India. Our shared culture and shared values bind us. We are keen to deepen and diversify our engagement with Overseas Indian communities numbering about 26 million spread all over the world, of which you in Zambia are a significant part. The government of India has put in place a number of initiatives to realise this vision. The Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs has been created as the nodal ministry to look into these matters.

The visa regime has also been liberalised in tune with the Government's deep commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations and expectations of Overseas Indians. The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme

was introduced in August 2005 and greatly facilitates your travel to and engagement with India. We would like you to take advantage of these initiatives and contribute to the economic and commercial cooperation between India and Zambia. I am confident that our economic development would continue on a high growth path as a result of the entrepreneurship and initiative of citizens and Overseas Indians.

I wish you all the very best in your stay and work in Zambia and in your endeavours in building bridges of cooperation between the two countries".



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - VIII

EUROPE

CROATIA**483. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Visit to Czech Republic and Croatia.****New Delhi, June 5, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to you all and welcome to the briefing.

As you are aware, Vice-President of India, Hon'ble Hamid Ansari, would be leaving for Czech Republic and Republic of Croatia tomorrow. Secretary (West), Shri Vivek Katju, is here to brief you about the visit. Let me also introduce two of my colleagues who have joined us for the occasion. To the right of Secretary (West) is Mr. T.P. Seetharam, our Joint Secretary handling Europe West and Central Europe. To my left is Mr. P. Harish, Joint Secretary in the Office of Vice-President.

May I invite Secretary (West) to make his opening remarks? He will be happy to take a few questions thereafter.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Thank you Vishnu, and sorry ladies and gentlemen for dragging you out on a rather dusty Saturday afternoon. I have a brief statement which will give you an idea of the two visits.

Hon'ble Vice-President of India is visiting the Czech Republic and the Republic of Croatia from June 6 to June 11, 2010. The Vice-President would be accompanied by the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot, and four Members of Parliament. The Members of Parliament are Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri Prasanta Chatterjee, Shrimati Maya Singh from the Rajya Sabha; and Shri Mohammed Azharuddin from the Lok Sabha.

During his visit to the Czech Republic from the 6th to the 9th of June 2010, the Vice-President will meet with President His Excellency Mr. Vaclav Klaus, the Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Jan Fischer; and the President of the Senate His Excellency Dr. Premysl Sobotka. The Vice-President will also deliver an address on some aspects of global governance in the 21st century at the Prague Security Studies Institute. Vice-President's visit to the Czech Republic will be the first visit from India at the VVIP level after the visit of President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma to that country in 1996.

India has friendly, cordial and cooperative relations with the Czech Republic. The relationship covers political, economic and commercial fields as well as cooperation and technology, and cultural exchanges. A regular exchange of views between India and the Czech Republic has been maintained on bilateral as well as global issues. This dialogue is sustained through visits at the Ministerial levels as well as at the mechanism of foreign office consultations. High-level visits have also been exchanged between the two countries. Czech President His Excellency Mr. Vaclav Klaus paid a state visit to India in November 2005. The President of the Senate Dr. Sobotka visited us in December 2007.

The Czech Republic has supported India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council. It is also supporting India's bid for a non-permanent seat at the Security Council for the 2011-2012 term. As you know, elections for this non-permanent seat will take place later this year.

Bilateral trade between India and the Czech Republic is a little over US\$ one billion. Two-way investments by companies are also being made. Czech investments in India are in the automobile and power sectors, whereas from India companies in the automobiles and the IT sector, in textiles, and pharmaceuticals have been making investments in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic has a strong tradition in science and technology as well as in engineering. Indian and Czech institutions are exploring possibilities of cooperation in these areas. The Indian institutions that have shown an interest in cooperating with their Czech counterparts in science and technology are the CSIR as well as the Indian Institute of Technology at Mumbai.

During the visit of the Vice-President three agreements are likely to be signed. These are: (1) an agreement of the economic cooperation, (2) a social security agreement, and (3) a protocol on amending the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

During the visit to Croatia from June 9 to 11, 2010, the Vice-President will meet with President His Excellency Ivo Josipovic and the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament His Excellency Mr. Luka Bebic. Croatia, as

you know, was part of the former Yugoslavia with which India enjoyed excellent relations. Following Croatia's independence, the two countries have cooperated in multilateral fora. Croatia has expressed its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and Croatia is also supporting India's bid for a non-permanent seat for the 2011-2012 term.

Vice-President's visit will be significant for it will be the first visit at the VVIP level from India to Croatia. However, the process of interaction at official and political level between the two countries is continued since Croatia's Independence. The former Croatian President Mr. Stjepan Mesic paid a state visit to India in November 2002, and the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Mr. Luka Bebic led a delegation of Croatian Parliamentarians to India on a bilateral visit in March this year.

Croatian scholars have a strong interest in indology and Indian culture. A Centre for Indology was established in the University of Zagreb in 1962. I understand that at the moment there are around 80 Croatian students who are studying at the Centre. Their studies include courses in Hindi and Sanskrit. Croatia has also been a beneficiary of our ITEC programme.

Bilateral trade between India and Croatia is still limited. We will make efforts to see that it grows. At the moment the two-way trade is around US\$ 160 million. The sectors that have been identified as promising for the purposes of cooperation are energy, infrastructure, IT and tourism.

During the visit, an agreement on cooperation health and medicine, and a programme of cooperation in the field of culture are expected to be signed. The Vice-President, during his visit to Croatia will, of course, apart from visiting Zagreb the capital, also visit the historic city of Dubrovnik which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

I will stop here. If there are any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them.

Question: Will the Vice-President be accompanied by any trade delegation?

Secretary (West): No. I could add that we have had this interaction especially with the Czech side in the field of trade. We had an Economic Committee meeting recently. There was also a seminar held in India on technologies available in the Czech Republic. As I mentioned, the Czech Republic has very strong traditions in science and technology, and Indian institutions, Indian companies are exploring the acquisition of technologies across a wide range from the Czech Republic. This process is on but specifically during the visit we do not have a delegation.

Question: Please tell us something about the Social Security Agreement we are expected to sign with the Czech Republic.

Secretary (West): The essential purpose of the social security agreements is to ensure that the contributions that are made by Indian nationals who are working in the country are able to safeguard these contributions. Often we find that states make it obligatory for our people working in there to make contributions for social security. But once our people return on leave the country, then these investments or these contributions really - how should I put it - are 'lost' in the sense that there is no way of retrieving them. So, one of the purposes of a social security agreement is to see that a mechanism is devised whereby these contributions are protected.

Joint Secretary (CE&EW) (Shri T.P.Seetharam): What happens is that people from India who go to work in these countries have to make a contribution from the salary towards social security. If they move to some other country or return to India, they do not get the benefits of it. This agreement will ensure that their benefits are carried forward to whenever they return to India. And if they are going for a short period, for less than five years, they do not have to make those contributions; they are exempted from making those contributions from the salary. This is an agreement that we are in the process of signing with several countries.

Question: Is this one of the first?

Joint Secretary (CE&EW): We have already signed this with some other countries including Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and so on. It is a

process. Wherever we have large numbers of Indians working this would be a useful arrangement.

Question: Just one question on David Headley. Yesterday India was allowed access to Headley to interrogate him for one hour and forty minutes. Could you please update us on that?

Official Spokesperson: This briefing is, as I said, on the visit of Hon'ble Vice-President to the Czech Republic and the Republic of Croatia. But since you raised it, and that would be the last question, you are aware that the two sides are in touch with each other. And I mentioned in the past also that it is the Ministry of Home Affairs which is the nodal Ministry. The best would be for you to check with them about the progress in the matter.

Thank you.



484. Toast by Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Croatian President.

Croatia, June 9, 2010.

My wife and I are deeply touched by the warm reception and gracious hospitality that has been extended to us and members of my delegation since our arrival. We are delighted to be in Croatia, renowned as much for its beauty as for its contribution to art, literature and culture.

Excellency

Relations between India and Croatia have been friendly since the days of the former Yugoslavia when our leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru and President Josip Tito, along with others established the Non Aligned Movement. Non-Alignment was a powerful idea that served the interest of all nations that refused to join confrontational power bloc politics of the great powers of the time. It is a concept that is extremely relevant in the multi-polar scenario that is emerging today.

I would also like to pay tribute to Paulinus a Sancto Bartholomaeo, better known as Filip Vesdin, who stayed in Southern India for 13 years from 1776 and pioneered the Croatian tradition of Indological Studies. He was a versatile scholar who travelled widely in the Malabar region and met all sections of society, from fishermen to the Kings of Travancore. He published several books and papers on Indian culture, ranging from Sanskrit grammar to Indian botany. I am happy to note that the Centre for Indology at University of Zagreb is encouraging such studies actively.

Our friendly relations have strengthened over the years and have been given substantial content with the signing of several bilateral agreements and cooperation in multilateral fora. The recent visit of a parliamentary delegation to India led by your Speaker has added yet another dimension to the multi-faceted cooperation between our two democracies. It is my sincere hope that the deliberations we have had today and those that are scheduled during the rest of the visit would open further avenues of cooperation and strengthen our friendly relations.

Excellency

I am privileged to witness the rapid progress made by Croatia in recent years as it is engaged with the European Union, with which India has a strategic partnership. There are many opportunities for us to enlarge our engagement as we noted during our discussions. Our management of the economy over past two years helped us to minimise the effect of the unprecedented global financial crisis on our growth momentum. After growing at an unprecedented average of 9 per cent per year for four years, the economy slowed down to 6.5 per cent in 2008-09 and then recovered to 7.4 per cent in 2009-10. In the current financial year 2010-11, the economy is expected to grow at 8.5 per cent. This reflects the strong fundamentals of our economy.

It is my earnest hope that our two countries would forge a meaningful and mutually beneficial partnership in the coming years based on our respective strengths and capabilities.

Excellency

The challenges of today defy borders. Recent incidents of terrorism in India and other countries serve as a grim reminder that the scourge of

terrorism is disruptive of all civilized life. It knows no boundaries and seriously threatens international peace and security. We must continue and reinvigorate our collective efforts to strengthen international cooperation to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Swift and credible steps must be taken to eliminate terrorist safe havens. There is an urgent need to strengthen the global consensus and the legal regime against terrorism, including early adoption of the long overdue Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations.

Distinguished guests, May I now invite you to rise and join me in a toast:

- to the good health and continued success of His Excellency President Ivo Josipovic and Madam Tatjana Josipovic;
- to the peace and prosperity of Croatia;and
- to the friendship between India and Croatia.



485. Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Vice President's Meetings in Zagreb.

Zagreb, June 10, 2010.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): There had been two substantive meetings so far. The first was with His Excellency the President of Croatia, which was held yesterday evening. And this morning there was a meeting with the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament. It is my understanding that you have been given copies of the speech that was made yesterday by the Vice-President at the dinner hosted by the President of Croatia, and that you were also given an account of the agreements that were signed yesterday. So, I will not go into those aspects.

Both these meetings were held in an atmosphere which was warm, which was welcoming. The President as well as the Speaker underlined the importance that they attached to a visit at the VVIP level from India to this country. On his part, the Vice-President said that the objectives of his visit were to strengthen existing areas of cooperation between India and Croatia,

to explore new areas of cooperation, and to put in place structures that would sustain this cooperation. Finally, he said that there was need to look at a much wider agenda between the two countries. Both the Vice-President's interlocutors agreed with these objectives.

In respect of specific areas of cooperation, it was felt that there was great scope for enhancing cooperation in the areas of science and technology. Within the realm of science and technology, there was focus on possibilities in biosciences, in physical sciences, in environmental sciences and information technology. The idea is that scientists from both countries should get together and identify common projects which can then be pursued between the two countries. Croatia too has a fine tradition of scholarship in the bio and the physical sciences, as well as environmental science. So, there is a great scope for cooperation in these areas.

In addition, the Vice-President as well as the hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology - who as you know was with the Vice-President yesterday - emphasized that India has embarked on a very ambitious programme of development of its infrastructure, and in this context we recognize that there is a considerable experience and skills in some specific areas like the road construction, in Croatia. It was, therefore, mentioned that we would welcome the participation of Croatian companies in India's infrastructure development. As you know, there are companies from different parts of the world that would participate in our infrastructural development. So, as part of that process we would welcome companies from Croatia too.

The President of Croatia as well as the Vice-President remarked that the level of trade between the two countries was low and that there was scope to improve this level of trade. On our part, while Croatia itself because of the relatively small size of its population offers a limited market, but Croatia is placed at the gateway of Eastern and Central Europe. Therefore, it does offer access to a wider market. It was felt that business people from both countries could explore the opportunities that Croatia offers as a gateway. In this context the Croatian side has been interested for some time in promoting the Rijeka Port which is on the Adriatic and which can serve as access for the export of our goods to this part of Europe.

Among the other areas that were mentioned was health. The President of Croatia said that India had excellent medical facilities, that India's experience and skills in the areas of health and medicine were very advanced and, therefore, this did provide opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. In addition, an industry associated with health is pharmaceuticals and the quality of our pharmaceutical products was also underlined in the meeting. The two other areas that were mentioned were education and culture. As you know, we have signed a cultural exchange programme yesterday. There is a long tradition of Indology in this country. You would have noticed the remarks that the Vice-President had made yesterday about Father Filip Wesdin who had worked on Sanskrit grammar in the 18th century and had been based in what is now a part of Kerala and perhaps was the first European to really work on Sanskrit grammar. In addition there were other Indologists too.

From the Croatian side there was recognition that tourism offers opportunities for greater people-to-people contacts. On our side we mentioned that for success in tourism as well as in business, movements of people had to be facilitated. You will recall that this was the point that was also mentioned by the Vice-President in his interactions with the Czech leadership. Like that, here too this point was made.

In the meeting with the President, there was an exchange of views on the regional situations as obtaining in the neighbourhood of Croatia as well as in India's neighbourhood. Specifically in our context there was an exchange of views on Afghanistan and the situation prevailing there. The Vice-President emphasized that India's relations with Afghanistan are long-standing, that in addition to being relations between Governments, they are relations rooted among the people of the two countries. An account is also given of what India is doing for reconstruction in Afghanistan, and that was greatly appreciated. Vice-President also drew attention to the need for greater international cooperation against international terrorism, and that was recognized by the President of Croatia.

In the meeting with the Speaker this morning, the Vice-President and the Speaker both mentioned that there was need for greater support from Parliaments and Legislatures for the work being done by Governments in promoting people-to-people contacts. In this context the Speaker of the

Croatian Parliament drew attention to a Friendship Group which has been established in the Parliament of Croatia. During the meeting the Head of the Friendship Group, Member of Parliament Marija Lugaric, was present. She gave an account of the activities of this Group. They are seventeen Members of the Croatian Parliament out of a total strength of 154, who are a part of this India-Croatia Friendship Group. Not only are they focused on promoting friendship between the two countries and strengthening ties, but also in bringing different aspects of India culture, of India's success in the field of economy and commerce to the Croatian public.

The Speaker of the Croatian Parliament also remarked that India was the world's largest democracy, that India's all-round development and the development of India's democracy was important for the world, and given India's important role in the world it was only logical to have India as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and that Croatia supported India's permanent membership of the Security Council. It is also noteworthy that the Speaker of Parliament said that the Croatian Parliament celebrates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. He said in fact that time could be divided in a sense on pre-Gandhi and post-Gandhi lines on account of Gandhiji's enormous contribution to democracy, to independence, and to freedom in the world. He also recalled the strong bonds that existed between India and the former Yugoslavia, and the role that was played by Jawaharlal Nehru and Tito who, as you know, was a Croat, a person from this part of Yugoslavia. The Speaker went down memory lane and recalled that he was 18 years old when in 1955 Panditji and Shrimati Indira Gandhi had visited his hometown in Yugoslavia.

Just as a matter of curiosity, the Speaker drew a comparison between the word for Parliament in Croatian language which is Sabor, he said this was derived and was similar to Sabha. He said that there is this commonality between us.

The last point I will make is that there was recognition of the role that the Non-aligned Movement had played, of course, in a different era. Our Vice-President said that through the Non-aligned Movement we had tried to put better structures in the world in another age and in different circumstances, and that there was need today to have better structures, structures that would reflect contemporary realities. I think that thought was accepted by his interlocutors.

I will conclude here. I think we will need to have a wrap-up briefing session because this evening the Vice-President will be meeting with the Prime Minister. We can decide when it will be a good time to tell you something about that meeting. If there are any questions, I will be happy to answer.

Question: Is there some agreement also on the movement of paramedics and medical support personnel?

Secretary (West): I think there is an agreement generally that there has to be greater cooperation in the field of health. But I do not think that as of now there is any specific protocol on movement of people. Of course, as I mentioned it would be excellent if our own skills in the field of health - whether it be doctors, or paramedical people, or the strengths that exist in terms of research in India in this field - are recognized.

Question: Is it a fact that Croatia has enough uranium reserves? Can you tell us if any discussion took place on the energy sector?

Secretary (West): No, there has not been any focus here on the energy sector.

Question: I wanted to ask about Afghanistan. We heard similar comments when the Vice-President visited Prague, basically giving an account of India's assistance in Afghanistan, and we have a similar thing coming here. So, is this something that our dignitaries when they travel abroad are doing on purpose? Are we trying to tell the world of our involvement in Afghanistan?

Secretary (West): No. On the other hand there is a great awareness of India's positive contribution to Afghanistan. These countries, the Czech Republic as well as Croatia, have contributed troops to NATO. So, there is an awareness of Afghanistan and there is also an awareness about who is doing what on Afghanistan. In terms of India's contribution, there is recognition of the positive and constructive role that India has played and is playing in Afghanistan. So, it is not something that we need to say. A discussion begins with your playing this role and then as part of that discussion, it is a logical thing that you then tell them what you are doing because there is interest in knowing precisely what you are doing. There is a general awareness. So, it is not something which we need to publicize in a manner. It is known.

Question: Is there any proposal to have cooperation between our Parliament and the Croatian Parliament?

Secretary (West): I think there is a proposal.

Question: When will it take place?

Secretary (West): The Speaker of their Parliament had visited India and I think that the process of setting it up is on.

Thank you.



486. Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the reception hosted by Mayor of Dubrovnik, Andro Vlahusic.

Dubrovnik (Croatia), June 11, 2010.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be in the beautiful historic city of Dubrovnik. I wish to express my gratitude to you for your gracious reception and extend my greetings and best wishes to you and the friendly people of your city.

I have just concluded my visit to Zagreb where I have held extremely constructive and friendly meetings with the President of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Ivo Josipovic, Speaker of Sabor H.E. Mr. Luka Bebic and Prime Minister H.E. Mrs. Jadranka Kosor. I am confident that the friendly bilateral relations between our two countries would grow further for the mutual benefit of the peoples of our two countries.

Excellency

Dubrovnik has been an active trading centre throughout history and has produced many explorers, merchants, bankers and mariners of repute. I must compliment you for the excellent manner in which the

rich historical legacy of this beautiful city, spanning many centuries, has been maintained. The fact that Dubrovnik attracts millions of tourists every year from all over the world is testimony to the glory of Dubrovnik's past and the friendliness of its residents.

The city of Dubrovnik is in my thoughts at work, as a beautiful painting of the city adorns my Chamber in the Indian Parliament.

I am also happy to learn that despite its distance, Dubrovnik has left its imprint on India. Seafarers from this city have been known to travel to Goa in the middle of the 16th century for trade and ship-building. They also constructed a church in the village of Gandaulim, replicating the church of St. Blaise or Sao Braz, the Patron Saint of Dubrovnik. It is said that the church bell was brought from Dubrovnik. In recent times, we have had high level interaction between our countries and former President of India Mr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan visited Dubrovnik in 1965. I am happy to maintain this important and historical link between Dubrovnik and India.

I take this opportunity to once again thank Your Excellency and the friendly residents of Dubrovnik for your hospitality today and extend my best wishes for your good health and success.



Czech Republic

487. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Visit to Czech Republic and Croatia.

New Delhi, June 5, 2010.

Please see Document No.483.



488. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice President's meeting with President of the Czech Republic.

Prague, June 7, 2010.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Good afternoon. I hope you are comfortable here and you have had an opportunity to see a little bit of the city since our arrival yesterday.

This morning the Vice-President met His Excellency Mr. Vaclav Klaus, the President of the Czech Republic. Vice-President was accompanied by the hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, and the four hon'ble Members of Parliament who are accompanying the Vice-President on this visit.

The meeting with the President was characterised by the warmth and cordiality which always marks India's interaction with the Czech Republic. The President recalled his visits to India and both leaders expressed a very strong desire to enhance the content of the relationship which, as you know, is already strong in every way.

The relationship is marked, the two leaders noted, by political understanding and by a level of economic and commercial activity. The two leaders expressed the desire that this level of economic and commercial interaction between the two countries should increase. They also were of one mind with respect to an increase in both the volume as well as the content of India-Czech interaction in the field of science and technology, and engineering. As the Vice-President had briefed you yesterday, the Czech Republic has strengths in these areas and there is a desire on our part to interact with them in these areas of their strengths. This was noted in the meeting today.

At a political level it was significant that the President again reiterated the support of the Czech Republic for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the 2011-2012 term, as well as support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

There was also a focus on India-Czech cultural interaction. The Vice-President remarked that there was a strong tradition of Indology in the Czech Republic and that we could take this interest in Indology to build in new directions relating to Indian culture and cultural interaction. The Czech President welcomed this desire. So, at the bilateral level there was agreement on the need and there was agreement also and interest in enhancing of ties.

During the meeting there was also a focus on certain current international issues. There was some discussion on the evolution of the European Union. The Vice-President noted that India has strong ties with the European Union and India would like to develop these ties for mutual benefit. In this context the current developments in the European Union were also discussed, but this was really a discussion at the level of concepts between two leaders who are statesmen in their own right and who have perspectives on what is happening in the world and the way the world should go for the benefit of all.

That in brief was the nature of the interaction today between the Vice-President and the President of the Czech Republic. In the afternoon the Vice-President is addressing the Prague Security Studies Institute.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer.

Question: What was the duration of the meeting?

Secretary (West): About half an hour. That was what was slated. Then the Vice-President and Shrimati Ansari had a tour of the Castle which, as you know, is a very celebrated castle not only in Europe but perhaps in the world. They spent about an hour touring the Castle.

Thank you.



489. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari organised by the Prague Security Studies Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prague, June 7, 2010.

Some Aspects of Global Governance in the 21st Century

I claim to be resident of a city of considerable antiquity. It is one of eight cities built successively on the same stretch of land on the banks of a river. I, therefore, cannot but be fascinated by another city of ancient vintage. Legend has it that the founding deity of Prague visualised 'a large town whose glory shall reach the stars'. The beauty and architectural splendour I see here testify to this prophesy.

Geography and history have bestowed on Prague a centrality that is evident. It has for centuries witnessed ideological and political contestations in central Europe and is today an active participant in the making of a new Europe.

For all these reasons it gives me great pleasure to be here today at the Prague Security Studies Institute. The Institute's formidable reputation for contributing to policy debates makes it an appropriate venue to think aloud and explore policy options for the world of tomorrow. I thank the Institute for inviting me to address this distinguished gathering today.

Ladies and gentlemen

Ours is an era of great change - political, economic and technological. Humankind has benefited from it, though in unequal measure. Some live in affluence and prosperity unmatched in history; others are less fortunate. The levels of disparity between peoples, nations and societies are starker than ever before.

The impact of change is pervasive. Concepts, values and systems are in flux. The sanctity of the Westphalian Order of State sovereignty has been dented by international covenants and practices. Globalisation has accelerated it by the imperatives of what the historian Philip Bobbitt has called the 'Market State'; technology has added to it. Clarity

nevertheless evades us; the sociologist Anthony Giddens has described the present day world as "puzzling, strange, elliptical" in which 'we are far from being fully in control of the forces we have unleashed'.

It is evident that we need a new global consensus, a new paradigm for assessing performance.

Many in this audience would recall that in 1992 Vaclav Havel had called for a redefinition of modernity. 'Man's attitude to the world', he said, 'must be radically changed'. He then went on to elaborate the concept:

It is my profound conviction that we have to release from the sphere of private whim such forces as natural, unique and unrepeatably experienced of the world, an elementary sense of justice, the ability to see things as others do, a sense of transcendental responsibility, archetypal wisdom, good taste, courage, compassion and faith in the importance of particular measures that do not aspire to be a universal key to salvation. Such forces must be rehabilitated.

I concede it may not be altogether easy to implement such a vision in its totality. Nevertheless, today we have the objective conditions for economic and political emancipation of a majority of humanity since technology and political evolution have exponentially multiplied the strands of connection, movement and circulation between States of peoples, ideas, goods and services.

We are also in a better position than ever before to suggest for observance, norms of social behaviour appropriate for the requirements of the age, remembering Aristotle's dictum that moral virtue does not emanate from nature and has to be imbibed by habit.

Converting this potential for change into reality represents the most significant governance challenge, nationally and internationally.

Ladies and gentlemen

Governance has been a subject of debate since the advent of civilisation. Greek philosophers dwelt on it. In the 4th century BC, the Indian strategic thinker and administrator Kautilya maintained that the objective of

governance was "the happiness and welfare" of the subjects of a state: 'in the happiness of his subjects lies his happiness; in their welfare his welfare'. An 11th century medieval scholar wrote that the God-ordained duty of the king was "to close the doors of corruption, confusion and discord" so that people may live in constant security.

Global Governance is today understood as a minimum acceptable framework of norms, principles and rules needed to tackle global problems and achieve global objectives, and that are upheld by a broad institutional framework, including multilateral, regional and international organisations, national governments, the private sector and civil society. These objectives include eradication of poverty, mitigation of conflict, achieving minimum standards of health and education, environmental sustainability, upholding human rights and addressing the problem of hunger. Good governance is about leadership, sensitivity to the concerns of others, and upholding of basic norms of equity, justice and fairness. It is essentially about humanity defined in universalistic terms.

The dimensions of the problem, and the complexity of the task, unavoidably bring forth disjuncture and challenges. Allow me to mention a few of these.

We know, **in the first place**, that while the primacy of nation-states has not ended, their absolute control over their territory and their citizens has been partly ceded to trans-national, multilateral, global and regional institutions and mechanisms. This upward power shift is still a work-in-progress as exemplified by the experience of the European Union.

Secondly, governance at the global and national levels confronts the old dilemma of a choice between normative standards and realpolitik. The unacceptability of a chauvinistic concept of the nation-state must go hand in hand with a similar undesirability of an unequal global order. The latter is most evident in the institutional inadequacy of the global political and financial institutions. A sustainable argument for global governance cannot overlook David Held's observation that 'a theory of legitimate power is inescapably a theory of democracy in the interlocking processes and structures of the global system. It is a theory of the

democratic state within the global order and the theory of the impact of the global order on the democratic state'.

A **third** reality to be registered is the state of flux characterising the contemporary world order. The past two decades have witnessed bipolarity conceding ground to unipolarity and then to multipolarity. Affiliations and identities are no longer exclusive, and overlapping multiplicity has become a necessity rather than an option. Alongside, globalization and homogenization have had an adverse impact on cultural distinctiveness of peoples and nations. The articulation of who a people are, and what the quintessential values of their culture and civilization are, is a more difficult process today. This is more so in multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious states, or groupings of states, when identifying syncretic threads from the past has become important in building a broad-based framework of national identity.

A **fourth** point to be noted is that unknown to the casual observer and undocumented in its minutiae, the disparate elements of global governance are welding treaty-based global and multilateral organisations and national governments with the evolving global discourse on rights, democracy, legitimacy, and international cooperation. National governments, peoples, corporate entities and civil societies, who may or may not have similar value systems, are cooperating in transnational networks for achieving common objectives. Some are old, strong and cross-cutting alliances, while others are recent loose groupings focused on limited themes. The future evolution of this process has important consequences for all of us.

Ladies and gentlemen

Even when there is a convergence of views and recipes, the experience of individual societies remains critical to correctives. It is in this context that I wish to speak of my country. India is one-sixth of the world in terms of population, is a vibrant democracy and is a microcosm of the diversities that characterise our world. It has been rightly called 'the largest multicultural society in the world.'

I wish to highlight **three aspects** of our experience for your consideration.

First, and the most important, is the accommodation of diversity and acceptance of multiple identities. We have been fortunate in implementing it due to our civilisational heritage and innate capacity for synthesis. In the words of a distinguished academic, 'the Indian Constitution was well ahead of its time not only in recognizing diversities but also in providing for representation of the collectivities in the formal democratic structures.' The special provisions for guarantees or affirmative action in eight broad categories - caste, class, tribe, backwardness, religion, region, sex and language - is evidence of this approach for securing justice and ensuring cultural autonomy in a composite culture within a framework of a quasi-federal structure. Accommodation of diversity has thus been consciously incorporated as a distinctive feature of the Indian state. It implies that a standardized image of an Indian cannot be constructed.

Second, rapid economic and human development has raised new issues of identity and integration. Living in isolation is not an option in the era of globalisation; there are, however, many ways of living together. Integration is necessary and desirable; assimilation is neither desirable nor practical. Throughout our history, we have seen identities being built on a series of inclusions and exclusions reflective of ground realities. The challenge for us in the future, as in the past, would be to maintain a balance in favour of inclusions.

Third, it has been said that societal "conflict is written into the idea of India" and that some of the dimensions of such conflict include caste injustice, religious differences, economic inequality, environmental degradation and competition for resources, internal migration, political rights and recognition, issues arising out of a federal structure and competing claims of rural-urban populations, present and future generations, and rival perceptions of nationalisms. The constant effort of our polity, through its democratic churning, has been to address societal conflict through accommodation and good governance and realise the vision of an India that is more prosperous, more inclusive, more accommodative and more confident of its ability to resolve complex social issues.

The Indian approach to multiculturalism is to 'aspire towards a form of citizenship that is marked neither by a universalism generated by complete homogenisation, nor by particularism of self-identical and closed communities'.

Ladies and Gentlemen

At a basic level, global governance is deeply impacted by the quality of governance of nations. I would like to conclude by noting that both of our countries have been fortunate to be blessed with vibrant democratic polities and dynamic economies. Our peoples and leaders are committed to peace, freedom and justice for all. Our mutual cooperation and our role in the various regional and global groupings would substantially contribute to better profiles of global governance in this century.

No discussion of global governance in the contemporary context would be complete without attention being paid to what has been called the 'Hydra-Headed Crisis' confronting the world. The reference, of course, is to the overlapping, even interlinked, economic and financial, security, and environmental threats that have emerged so sharply in the past year or so. They are interlinked and impact the capacity of players on the global stage. They also reflect on national and global governance, demonstrate the limitations of national governance and the inadequacy of existing global mechanisms.

The experience reiterates the imperative need for restructuring institutions of global governance to make them more representative, more effective and more dedicated to the common, rather than sectional, good.

I thank the Director of the Prague Security Studies Institute Mr. Oldrich Cerny and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Hynek Kmonicek for their kind words.



490. Speech by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the banquet hosted in his honour by the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Premysl Sobotka.

Prague, June 7, 2010.

Thank you for your warm words of welcome and your gracious hospitality.

As I stand here I am reminded of the ties which bind our two countries. These are based not only on our commitments to the values and principles of democratic and parliamentary governance but are rooted in our civilisational legacy, linguistic affinity and contact between men of letters. Our great poet Rabindranath Tagore visited Prague in 1921, and again in 1926, at the invitation of his friend Professor Lesny, the celebrated Czech Indologist who had translated his poems and novels. Jawaharlal Nehru visited Prague in 1938, accompanied by his daughter Indira. Long before our independence, we had established institutions in our countries to foster friendship between our peoples.

My delegation includes members of the Indian parliament representing different political parties. Exchanges between our parliaments reinforce the growing multi-faceted relations between our countries. Your Excellency's visit to India in December 2007 was instrumental in consolidating our cooperation.

The challenge before us in India is to attain and sustain rapid and inclusive economic growth within the framework of parliamentary democracy. Our management of the economy over past two years helped us to minimise the effect of the unprecedented global financial crisis on our growth momentum. Economic growth recovered to 7.4 per cent in 2009-10 and in the current financial year 2010-11, the economy is expected to grow at 8.5 per cent. This reflects the strong fundamentals of our economy.

We believe that there exists an ideal synergy between India's growing market and Czech technology. There is already bilateral trade and investment in sectors as diverse as software, pharmaceuticals,

infrastructure, textiles and engineering goods. The meeting in New Delhi last month, between industrial users and R&D organizations of our two countries, points to further areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The challenges of today defy borders. Recent incidents of terrorism in India and other countries serve as a grim reminder that the scourge of terrorism is disruptive of all civilized life. It knows no boundaries and seriously threatens international peace and security. We must continue and reinvigorate our collective efforts to strengthen international cooperation to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Swift and credible steps must be taken to eliminate terrorist safe havens. There is an urgent need to strengthen the global consensus and the legal regime against terrorism, including early adoption of the long overdue Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations.

We have opportunities to further intensify cooperation between our two countries. The agreements to be signed tomorrow relating to Economic Cooperation, Social Security and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection provide additional frameworks for our bilateral engagement. We are also working together in the context of the broader India-EU strategic partnership.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in a toast to:

The good health and success of His Excellency Senate President Dr. Premysl Sobotka and Madam Radmila Sobotkova

closer cooperation between our elected representatives and enhanced engagement between our two governments; and

stronger bonds of friendship between our countries and peoples.



491. Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Ceremony hosted by Lord Mayor of Prague Pavel Bem at Old Town Hall.

Prague, June 8, 2010.

My wife and I and my entire delegation are delighted to be in your beautiful and renowned city, so rich in culture and tradition.

Prague is one of the great cities of the world, and I am happy to be back here, having visited it several years ago. We in India have great admiration for the Czech Republic and its capital city in particular. We admire its history, cultural heritage and its accomplishments in all the fields of human knowledge. Prague lies at the intersection of Europe. It was here that tradesmen, politicians, scholars and artists from all over the world have met. Prague has witnessed the unfolding of events that have impacted the course of history.

Czech Republic and India have historically been close partners in our quest for equality, human rights, freedom and democracy. The leaders of India's freedom struggle, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, visited your beautiful city in the 1930s. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore visited Prague in the 1920s. Both Pandit Nehru, as well as Tagore, raised their voices against Czechoslovakia's occupation.

I thank you very much for this honour that you have extended to me and my delegation and through us to the people of India.



492. Remarks by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Toast at the Working Lunch hosted by Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer.

Prague, June 8 2010.

Excellency

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today. I am touched by your gracious hospitality and your warm words of welcome.

Our relations go back to the period before our Independence. Tagore, our national poet, came here twice in 1921 and 1926 and the translation of his works into Czech had nurtured a close cultural and historical link with India.

Jawaharlal Nehru visited your country in 1938 at a critical juncture in your history in an act of solidarity with the Czech government in their resistance to Hitler. He wrote about this visit in his newspaper.

Prague has been the intellectual centre of Europe. You also have a rich cultural tradition. This has made your capital an important centre for globally significant events.

In modern times, our economic engagement has intensified to the mutual benefit of our peoples and countries. Czech engineers have contributed to India's industrialization and BATA, Yezdi and Skoda are well known brand names in India. Many Indian companies are present in the Czech Republic in diverse sectors such as software, trucks, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

Our countries are bound by our commitment to democratic and parliamentary governance, human rights and our tradition of pluralism. My delegation includes Members of Indian Parliament representing different political parties. They represent the diversity as well as the unity of India.

We have attempted inclusive economic growth within the framework of a Parliamentary democracy, so that all sections and groups have a stake in the growing prosperity of the nation.

We believe that there is an ideal synergy between Czech technology and India's growing market. There is also scope for cooperation between our universities and cultural institutions.

I look forward to working with Your Excellency to strengthen ties between our two peoples and governments.



493. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on Vice-President's Meetings in Prague.

Prague, June 8, 2010.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Good afternoon. Yesterday I had briefed you after the Vice-President's meeting with the President, and you had also covered the Address of the Vice-President to the Prague Security Studies Institute. What I propose to do today is to cover the meetings that have taken place since the Address to the Institute. Let me first tell you what these meetings have been and then I will try to give you a kind of a wrap up so that one does not become repetitive.

Yesterday evening the Vice-President met with the President of the Czech Senate, who also hosted a dinner for the Vice-President, This morning there was a formal ceremony at the Czech Senate premises where the signing of two agreements and an amendment to one agreement took place. After that there was a meeting with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. Finally, there was also a meeting and a working lunch with the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. Before that, this morning began with a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Prague at the Town Hall of the Prague. The Mayor also gave the Vice-President the key of the City of Prague which was an indication of the kind of relationship this city wishes to develop with India.

In all these meetings there was one theme which was going right through. That was the desire to take the relationship forward in a comprehensive manner, to build on the kind of cooperation that already exists between the two countries, to utilize all the untapped potential that exists - whether

it be in the area of economic and commercial relations, or in investments, or in science and technology, in engineering, in research and development.

The Vice-President conveyed to his interlocutors that it was the business of the government to create a conducive atmosphere which would facilitate the growing contacts between the two sides. For example in economic and commercial matters or in investment, it was actually for the players themselves, for businessmen, for industrialists, to take the things forward, to develop projects and to take them forward. In this context, as with the President so also with his other interlocutors, the Vice-President emphasized that it was important to ensure that the people were free to come and go, that mobility of people was an important ingredient in creating and facilitating business and commercial contacts in particular.

New areas were also mentioned. For example, the Czech Prime Minister mentioned that agriculture was also an area where the two countries could cooperate, and this was accepted by the Vice-President. There was some discussion in the meeting with the President of the Senate on specific technologies. The President of the Senate pointed out that the Czech Republic had developed strengths in nanotechnology. He spoke of the nanofibres that had been developed in the Czech Republic and we thought that this was a good area to pursue contacts.

In discussions with the President of the Czech Senate, the Vice-President and his counterpart said that contacts between the Parliaments of the two countries could facilitate, assist and support the work being done by Governments or being done by the executive branch of both countries to take the relationship forward. So, they did see that there was a specific role which the Parliaments could perform in this process.

The Vice-President also conveyed to his interlocutors, in particular to the President of the Senate, about the dangers that terrorism posed to the international community, the threat of terrorism and the difficulties that we have been facing on account of terrorism for two decades now and the need to combat this through international cooperation. There was also discussion, especially with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, on our region, on the situation in Afghanistan in particular. There the Vice-President gave an account of the assistance being given by India to Afghanistan. This was appreciated by the Czech side.

There was also a discussion on developments in Europe. The Czech leadership gave its perspectives on what is happening in Europe. The one point that the interlocutors of the Vice-President made was that there is need now for Europe to undertake steps that would be fiscally prudent.

I would sum up recalling what the Vice-President told to his interlocutors. He said that the operative words for the world of today and tomorrow were coordination and cooperation between nation states. I will stop here. I would be happy to answer questions.

Question: What was discussed...(Inaudible)...terrorism?

Secretary (West): The Czech side appreciated the perspective given by the Vice-President on the threat that India faces from terrorism and agreed that there was great need for the international community to cooperate meaningfully to combat international terrorism. Terrorism in particular was discussed with the President of the Senate.

Of the three agreements that were signed today, one was an agreement on cooperation in economic matters, and the second was an agreement on cooperation in social security issues. Both these agreements were signed on our side by the hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot. The Czech signatory was the Minister for Labour Affairs.

Indian Ambassador in Prague (Shri D.P. Srivastava): The agreement on social security was signed on the Czech side by Minister for Social Affairs and Labour. The agreement covers exemption for Indian professionals who come for short periods, specifically for less than five years. For those who are here for longer periods, beyond five years, this will ensure portability of pensions which means that they can take their pension benefits to the next destination. There is also a provision that in case the term of service in either of the two countries falls below the minimum eligible period, then it can be combined so that they cross the threshold and do not lose their benefits. This will help both our software professionals who come for short periods as well as people who are here in connection with Indian companies, who are stationed for a longer period.

Secretary (West): The other agreement which is on economic cooperation was signed on the Czech side by their Deputy Minister of Industry and

Trade Mr. Milan Hovorka. Finally the third, which is the protocol on amendment of the agreement between India and the Czech Republic on promotion and protection of investments, was signed on our side by Ambassador Shri Srivastava. On the Czech side it was signed by Mr. Jan Milic, the Deputy Minister for Finance.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): The economic cooperation agreement lists out a large number of areas in which the two sides will cooperate. These include industry, technical and technological areas. It specifies that the two countries will develop bilateral economic cooperation through business contacts, will facilitate investments etc., will exchange information, will identify opportunities and facilitate investment flows, will cooperate in science and technology. And for these purposes and others a Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation will be established, which will be led at senior official levels, on our side by the Ministry of Commerce and on the Czech side by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. This Joint Commission can set up working groups as required.

Question: Has any target been set for the Commission?

Secretary (West): No, I think the Commission will set its own targets after studying the situation.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): I think the Czech side has some strengths in various areas including genetics, etc. We have, as you know, a large network of research and development institutions in agriculture. The idea was at a preliminary stage at the moment. But the idea was that both the countries should get their concerned people together so that they can discuss research in different areas of agriculture. There was some discussion on food-processing. I think the Czech side again has some strengths in food-processing. So, our people can look at opportunities in food-processing.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): I think it is difficult to give you a precise number. But the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs that anchors this subject has been

in the process of signing these agreements with different countries where Indian professionals and others are working. I think these agreements are important for the reasons that the Ambassador mentioned about this particular agreement.

Ambassador: There are, at any point in time, 600 to 700 Indians here. I think they will benefit either in terms of short-term exemptions or portability benefits to those who are here for longer periods.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): On the mobility issue, the idea is that there has to be greater ease in terms of travel of business people so that they can go where they are needed and when they are needed. The Vice-President mentioned to one of his interlocutors that there is a competitive market today, and naturally if a person who is working, or a company that is going to make investments finds that it is difficult for its people to come and go, then that acts as a disincentive. So, mobility would mean that the facilitation for the people who need to travel to be able to do so.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): I do not think on such occasions you look for a concrete working out of an administrative arrangement. When leaders meet, they discuss and accept certain principles and then those principles, as you know, are implemented by bureaucracy. And it will now be our endeavour to pursue what has been accepted. Now if you ask me if the process will be easy, perhaps no. It is something that we will keep working at.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): I think this protocol on the amendment was required because the Czech Republic has, since the actual agreement was signed, become a member of the EU, they had to bring in line certain things which flow from the EU membership. Seetharam reminds me that the original agreement was signed in 1996, and as you know, the Czech Republic joined the EU in 2004. So, these are the consequent things.

Question: How would you rate this visit?

Secretary (West): I would rate it as a great success. This was, as the Vice-President mentioned to you on the flight, an engagement with old friends in new circumstances. And that engagement has been a substantive engagement, it has been a comprehensive engagement. I think the Czech Republic is, in a manner of speaking, at the heart of Europe. This is an engagement with a country with which we have significant contact in the past. It is a visit at the VVIP level which has come after 14 years from India. We have renewed ties. We have given an indication that India values this relationship and wishes to take it forward in a comprehensive manner across the board. Finally it was also shown and profiled once again that there are significant opportunities that has to be tapped. I think it has been a success in any manner that you seek to define success.

Question: What was discussed with the EU?

Secretary (West): This was not the EU. This was what his interlocutors were saying. When the Vice-President asked them what is happening in Europe, they were giving their perspectives of the processes under way in Europe. In this context, as you know, there had been a certain amount of turbulence in the financial sphere in Europe. So, I think it is in this context that his interlocutors were saying that there is need.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (West): I think science and technology is a vast area. The Czech Republic has strengths in different aspects of science and technology. Its engineering skills for example are well-known. Its skills in manufacturing precision instruments are also well-known. It has a base of laboratories. Its universities are excellent. And our own institutions in science and technology are now feeling that there will be a mutual benefit if our people and their people collaborate. When scientists and technologists will get together, then they will decide on the kind of projects that can be undertaken.

Question: Have you identified ...(Inaudible)...specific areas of cooperation in Science and Technology?

Secretary (West): For example, one of the areas which had come up, as I mentioned to you, was nanotechnology, nanofibres. These are ideas that are emerging and these ideas then are explored by experts to determine precise projects. The basis would be that. From visits like these at the VVIP level ideas are thrown up and those ideas are then later carried forward and are implemented.

Thank you.



FINLAND

494. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Finland for cooperation in the field of ICT.

New Delhi, January 19, 2010.

Indian and Finland have signed a memorandum of understanding here today to promote cooperation and exchange of information relating to the Information Security Sector in accordance with relevant laws and regulations of each country and on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The MoU was signed by Shri A. Raja, the Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology and Ms. Suvi Linden, Minister of Communication Finland. The agreement that comes into effect on the date of signing will remain in force for a period of 5 years.



FRANCE**495. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's meeting with French President Sarkozy on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit.****Washington (D.C.), April 13, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. I hope you have received the address of Prime Minister at the Nuclear Security Summit. You would have also seen this brief write-up by the Department of Atomic Energy outlining the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership that Prime Minister has offered to set up in India. You would have also seen the text of remarks by President Obama welcoming the initiative by Prime Minister of India.

A bilateral meeting between Prime Minister and President Sarkozy has just concluded and I would like to share with you some salient details of the meeting. Today's meeting, as in the past, was held in a very warm and friendly atmosphere given the convergence of views, convergence of interests between India and France. Prime Minister reiterated a warm invitation to President Sarkozy to visit India along with the First Lady. The visit is likely to take place in the last quarter of this year.

Both sides expressed satisfaction and happiness at the relationship of strategic partnership which was forged in 1998 and over the last decade or so has moved from strength to strength. The canvass of our ties is broad and expanding steadily which is a matter of satisfaction for both Governments, both countries; and this has been happening under successive Governments in both the countries.

President Sarkozy, many of you would recall, visited India in January 2008 within eight months of his assuming office when he was also the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations. The Prime Minister held the second summit in 2008 with France on the 30th of September at Paris. I would like to point out here that practically within three weeks of the decision taken by NSG and IAEA to lift restrictions on civil nuclear cooperation between India and NSG, which was in early September, the first IGA on civil nuclear cooperation was signed in Paris on the 30th of September 08 between India and France.

Prime Minister again visited France in July last year when he was the Guest of Honour at the French National Day Celebrations. The two leaders have kept in regular touch, have regularly met on the sidelines of international conferences and fora. In 2009 they had at least four meetings - in April at London during the G20; in July at L'Aquila during the G8 plus 5 process; at Pittsburgh in September 2009 during the G20; and finally in November in Port of Spain during the Commonwealth Summit. That has been the manner in which the two countries and two leaders have been engaging each other.

As I mentioned, our bilateral relations have been growing in strength and vitality in practically all fields. Within this framework of strategic partnership we are collaborating in vital areas like energy, space research, defence, industry and commerce, science and technology, education, culture, tourism, etc. Earlier this year on 14th January, Foreign Secretary and the Ambassador of France in New Delhi exchanged instruments of ratification of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. India and France intend to develop multifaceted civil nuclear cooperation covering a wide array of areas including nuclear power projects, fuel supply, research and development, nuclear safety, education, training, etc.

During the meeting today between the two leaders which lasted close to 50 minutes President Sarkozy reiterated French support for the permanent membership of India at UNSC. He remarked that India should get its rightful place in the international comity of nations. They had a very good discussion on regional issues of mutual interest including the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They particularly agreed to beef up the efforts of the international community on counter terrorism which touches everybody, affects everybody.

The two leaders also had detailed discussions on G20, especially in the context of the upcoming French Presidency of EU. President Sarkozy shared his views with Prime Minister on the role of G20 in the post-economic recovery phase. He spoke of his desire to push towards a new world monetary order. The two leaders exchanged views on commodity price regulation. Prime Minister of India opined that the G20, in order to continue to remain relevant and enhance its relevance should formulate concrete steps to sustain the global economic recovery; and G20 should also decide

what aspects it should maintain its focus on. He cautioned against complacency. These briefly are some of the important aspects that the two leaders touched upon.

Question: Did the French President raise the question of the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill in India so that the India-France nuclear trade can begin?

Official Spokesperson: I am not sure whether that was specifically raised, but what was mentioned was the satisfaction by both sides at the manner in which both sides are proceeding in operationalising the IGA. That is something which is of considerable interest to both countries.

Question: As far as a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council is concerned, has this issue ever come up among the discussions between India and the US officials or with President Obama? What is the position of the United States on this?

Official Spokesperson: Our membership of the UN Security Council is a matter of very high priority for India. We are very clear that by any yardstick, by any measure, India is eminently qualified to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The international architecture which was framed in 1945-46 needs democratisation. The ground realities have changed. We are actively pursuing that matter. We are closely working with our friends in the G4, and outside that framework with key players internationally, and with the international community to move forward on that matter so that India assumes its rightful place in the international community or international organisations.

Question: Would you just elaborate a little as to what actually formed the core of the discussion on Pakistan and Afghanistan. You mentioned that the President and the Prime Minister had a brief interaction on that.

Official Spokesperson: I told you, and I can repeat it, basically they had an exchange of views on this. In the past also we have noted a similarity of viewpoint between our two countries on the issue of terrorism, on the issue of counter-terrorism, about how we view the situation in the region. It is in common interest to see peace and tranquillity return to the region. It is important to see that the international community stays the course in terms of helping to bring about stability in Afghanistan, security in Afghanistan, economic development in Afghanistan. That is how India sees the situation.

And France, in our interaction we find, has a similar outlook. That is speaking in general terms. Specifically on Afghanistan and Pakistan I have already mentioned that in today's meeting both sides spoke of the need for a concerted action on the part of international community to boost counter-terrorism efforts.

Question: What was French President's reaction to the Global Nuclear Centre which India is going to be setting up?

Official Spokesperson: I do not have the specific reaction of the French President to that but my understanding is that this initiative of India has been warmly welcomed by the Summit. I have already mentioned the reaction of President Obama immediately after Prime Minister had made this offer. It would also find a reflection in the Joint Communique which will be released. As far as I know, it has been welcomed by the international community.



496. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Paris on the Cultural Festival of India in France (Namaste France- 2010 - 2011).

New Delhi, April 20, 2010.

1. "Namaste France" follows "Bonjour India" - the French Cultural Festival held in India from November 2009 to February 2010. The two festivals are being implemented under a Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme and the Declaration signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) (the Culture body of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of France. ICCR and Embassy of India in Paris and CulturesFrance are the implementing agencies of the Festival.

2. Presenting the dynamic and ever-evolving culture of India, the 15 month long Indian festival in France will bring to people of France a comprehensive package of Indian culture including dance, music, literature, theatre, painting, sculpture, cinema, cinema-based spectacles, gastronomy,

fashion, yoga and Ayurveda, a variety reflecting the Indian ethos that is deep rooted in its traditions and at the same time continuously experimenting and adapting to modernity. The Festival that begins with the exhibition of indigenous art and Aadi Nritya ends with an exhibition of paintings by Rabindranath Tagore.

3. The Festival's highlights are:

- **Art and craft exhibitions** including an exhibition of indigenous Indian arts Quai Branly Museum; an exhibition of original paintings of Rabindranath Tagore at the museum of Modern Arts of the city of Paris; an exhibition on the city of Lucknow in the Musee Guimet; an exhibition of royal costumes at the Yves Saint Laurent Foundation; a photographic exhibition on the steps wells of Patan at the museum of Asiatic Arts, Biarritz; Kalpana - an exhibition of digital representations of contemporary art from India in Morlaix and Lyon and with others to follow...
- **Literary events** - Exchanges between visiting Indian poets and authors and the French poets and authors and the release of the first of a seven volume publication on Ramayana illustrated in miniatures... o Dance, music and theatre - The festival begins with Aadi Nritya - Les danses autochtones -by Mallika Sarabhai and a troupe of the Darpana Academy followed by performances of noted artists from India representing classical, folk and popular dance and music forms through out the festival. These include performances by Ms Malvika Sarukkai (Bharatnatyam), Ms Preeti Patel (Manipuri), Ranjana Gauhar (Odissi), Rukimini Chatterjee (Bharatnatyam & Fusion), Pandit Jasraj (Hindustani Vocal), Meeta Pandit and Mushkur Ali (Hindustani Vocal), Dr. Mustafa Raza (Vichitra veena), Ustad Shujat Hussain (Sitar), Kamal Sabri (Sarangi), O.S. Arun (Carnatic Vocal), Vijay Venkateshwar and T.V. Gopala Krishnan (Carnatic Vocal), Pandit Bhajan Sapori (Santoor); Bhangra, Giddha, Bihu folk dances...
- **Indian Cinema** - Indian films of all genres will be presented in film festivals and cities around France. The festivals include retrospective of Satyajit Ray films at the Indian Summer in the Musee Guimet; retrospective of Ritwik Ghatak films at film festival of Marseille; films

by young Indian directors in the Festival of contemporary films in La Rochelle, heritage films at the festival in Auberville, Bollywood films at the festival in Guadeloupe...

- **Bollywood Spectacles** - Bollywood spectacles at Cite de la Musique, Guadeloupe and many more related events are planned.
- **Other events** include gastronomy weeks in Paris and Biarritz, yoga and Ayurveda workshops in Normandy, Lyon and Paris, exchange between the journalists of two countries, culture and incredible India campaigns, fashion events....
- **Indian Festival in the regions** - Cultural festivals could be enjoyed in Lyon, Morlaix (Brittany), La Rochelle, Strasbourg, Saint Tropez, Marseille, Auberville, Biarritz, Metz and Guadeloupe.

4. The festival will close with an exhibition of original paintings of the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in the Museum of Modern Arts during May-July 2011. Tagore's paintings were last exhibited in Paris in 1929.

5. The principal Indian partners in the festival are the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs (Publicity Division) and Ministry of Culture and the Indian diaspora in France. The principal French partners are Cultures France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Mayoralty (Mairie) of Paris. The Mairies of Lyon, La Rochelle, Strasbourg, Saint Tropez, Auberville and Regional Council of Guadeloupe are also public partners. Significant events' partners include Quai Branly Museum, the Museum of Modern Arts and Cernuschi Museum of the City of Paris, the Guimet Museum, Museum of Asiatic arts (Biarritz), Hotel du Palais, Biarritz, the Festival d'Automne, the Festival l'Imaginaire, the Cite de la Musique, the Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, Bharati, the Maison de Metallois, Jeanine Roze Productions, Tapovan, Diane de Selliers Publishing house, the Film Festivals of La Rochelle, Marseille and Guadeloupe, Indian associations in Lyon, Guadeloupe, Strasbourg, Paris, Normandy and local cultural associations in Marseille and Morlaix, Corporate agencies including Bouvet Ladubay and media including Radio France International, L'Express and Inde-en-ligne...



497. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on 'India -France Foreign Office Consultations'.

New Delhi, May 4, 2010.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and France were held in New Delhi on 4 May, 2010. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao led the Indian delegation. The French delegation was led by Mr. Pierre Sellal, Secretary General in the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The last round of such Consultations was held in Paris in February, 2009.

India and France share a Strategic Partnership forged in 1998. The relations between the two countries are broad-based and include diverse areas such as trade & investment, science & technology, defence, civil nuclear cooperation, space, education, culture etc. The two sides maintain regular high level contacts.

During the Consultations, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed. There was also a detailed exchange of views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.



498. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meetings with British Prime Minister and French President on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

Toronto, June 26, 2010.

Please see Document No546.



499. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Europe West) on visit of French President.

New Delhi, December 1, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. My colleague Joint Secretary (Europe West) Mr. T.P. Seetharam and I would like to brief you about the forthcoming working visit of President of France H.E. Nicholas Sarkozy.

The President would be arriving at Bangalore on the 4th of December on a four-day working visit. His delegation would include his spouse Madame Carla Sarkozy; seven Ministerial colleagues who are: the Minister of Defence and War Veterans; Minister of External and European Affairs; Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing; Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry; Minister of Higher Education and Research; Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Town and Country Planning; and the Minister of Culture and Communications. His delegation will also include a number of Parliamentarians, senior officials, industrialists and business leaders.

Let me take you through the important engagements during his stay in India. At Bangalore, he would be visiting ISRO where he would see the Indo-French Megha-Tropiques Satellite being jointly developed by ISRO and CNES, the French counterpart of ISRO. Later in the day he leaves on a private visit for Agra. On Sunday the 5th, he would visit the Taj Mahal as well as Fatehpur Sikhri, and arrive at New Delhi in the evening.

At New Delhi he would have a restricted meeting with the Prime Minister of India who would also be hosting a private dinner in the honour of the visiting dignitary and his spouse.

On Monday, the 6th December, there will be delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House followed by signing of agreements and a Joint Press Conference. Prime Minister would host a working lunch in honour of President Sarkozy. The President would also be meeting with the President of India.

On Tuesday, 7th December, he would leave for Mumbai where he would be visiting the Police Memorial honouring the victims of the heinous terrorist

attack on 26th November. He would also visit Taj and Oberoi hotels to pay tributes to those who were killed. In the second half of the day, he would be addressing a business meeting jointly organized by FICCI and CII. In the evening he departs for Paris.

This is President Sarkozy's second visit to India in two years. You would recall that in January 2008 he was the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day Celebrations and his visit had taken place just eight months after assuming office of the President.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a return visit to Paris in the same year on the 30th of September. At the invitation of President Sarkozy and as the Guest of Honour at the National Day Parade in Paris, Prime Minister again visited Paris on 14th July 2009. President Sarkozy had made the special gesture of inviting a 400-strong Indian Armed Forces contingent to lead the French National Day Parade on the occasion.

The two leaders have been in close touch and have been meeting regularly on the sidelines of the international fora. The high-level attention and the robust cooperation in an array of vital areas have further cemented our strategic partnership that was established in 1998.

France is an important global power and the fifth largest economy in the world. We attach a great deal of importance to our relations. As fellow democracies and pluralistic, multicultural societies, our relations have traditionally been close, warm and friendly.

The last decade has witnessed significant progress in wide-ranging political, economic, commercial, technological and cultural cooperation. We are pleased that our enhanced partnership in strategic areas as defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology has been growing steadily.

Defence cooperation with France is one of the key aspects of our overall bilateral partnership. We have a High Level Committee on Defence Cooperation, which is headed by the Defence Secretary from our side. The Committee has been meeting regularly to monitor developments and to review all aspects of defence cooperation. The 13th meeting of the Committee took place in Paris on the 18th and 19th of November this year.

Similarly, France is a key partner of India in the area of civil nuclear cooperation. We have been cooperating in the civil nuclear energy sector for many decades. Our scientists have a long history of cooperation in nuclear sciences. I may note that France played a very important role at the IAEA and NSG during the negotiations on lifting restrictions on civil nuclear cooperation with India.

A landmark Inter-Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was signed during the visit of our Prime Minister to Paris in September 2008. This was the very first agreement of its kind that India signed with any country after the NSG waiver. The Inter-governmental Agreement has since been operationalised. NPCIL is discussing with AREVA construction of a number of EPRs in Maharashtra.

We also have an annual strategic dialogue between the two National Security Advisors. Their last meeting was held in New Delhi in October this year.

Moving on to the space sector, I would like to note that France is again a very important partner of ours for the last four decades. ISRO is closely collaborating with its counterpart National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) in research and development, sourcing of high-technology items, as well as fabrication and launch of satellites.

Our cooperation in the field of science and technology is expanding rapidly particularly through the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research which in the last 20 years supported 380 scientific collaborations. Medical research is yet again an important element of our cooperative endeavour. You are perhaps aware that India is a partner country in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) which is located in France. Indian scientists have been making significant contribution to the ITER project.

In the important area of counter-terrorism, India and France believe that there is need for stepped up action. We have been closely cooperating with each other. France has been supportive of India's proposal for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN. We also have a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. Thanks to the French support, India became a full member of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force during its Plenary Meeting in June 2010 at Paris.

France is our fifth largest trading partner in Europe. The trade and economic relations while important has yet to attain its full potential. Energetic efforts are under way in that direction. Bilateral trade which had declined somewhat in 2009 due to the global economic woes stood at Euro 5.36 billion. This year we have already seen a 27 per cent increase in the first eight months. A trade target of Euro 12 billion has been established for the year 2012.

France is also the ninth largest investor in India with cumulative investments of Euro 2.34 billion. We have more than 950 technical and financial collaborations that were approved till April 2010. Indian companies are also looking at France quite closely and our investments are currently estimated at over Euro 1 billion.

An Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation has been established at the level of the Minister of Commerce. The 16th session of the Committee was held in Paris on 24th and 25th June this year, which was co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister from our side and the Minister of Economy, Industry and Employment from the French side. It regularly reviews measures to enhance trade and investments.

A decision was also taken during the state visit of President Sarkozy to India in January 2008 to establish a CEOs Forum which was duly set up by mid 2009. It is led by Mr. Narayana Murthy from India and by Mr. Bertrand Collomb, the former Chairman of Lafrage from the French side. The first meeting was held in New Delhi in November 2009 and the second meeting in June 2010 in Paris. It has been undertaking deliberations in sessions on important areas like energy, water and infrastructure, green growth, education and research, SME collaborations, as well as investments both bilaterally as well as in third countries.

Yet another area of promise and cooperation is educational exchanges as well as research and training. This is being done within the framework of the India-France Educational Exchange Programme which is respectively overseen by the Ministry of HRD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in India and France.

A consortium of Indo-French universities has been created which has brought together 70 universities in both countries. Discussions are also under way on the French assistance for a newly established IIT in Rajasthan

at Jodhpur. This decision was again taken during the visit of our Prime Minister in September 2008.

We are pleased that Indian culture enjoys wide interest and a discerning audience in France. A number of cultural events have been organized all over France and in India which has intensified interest in cultural exchanges in both directions.

The French Festival called Bonjour India ended in February 2010, and Indian Festival called Namaste France was launched on the 14th of April 2010 and will go on till mid 2011. The Festival features events covering the entire diversity of Indian culture including art, music, dance, fashion, tourism, films, literature, and so on. We are also planning an exhibition in Paris and other events to celebrate the Tagore Centenary in 2011. We are actively working towards establishing an Indian Cultural Centre in Paris.

Indian cinema, the Bollywood, is finding new appreciation in France and often France has been chosen as a location for shooting of Indian films. We are looking at initiatives for co-production of films.

In sum, France is an important EU, G8 and G20 nation. It has since assumed Presidency of G20. France is also a key permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is one of the first countries with which we established a strategic partnership which has been deepening in content and scope. France has been supportive of India's candidature for a permanent membership of UN Security Council. The visit of President Sarkozy is an occasion to reaffirm and enhance our close and dynamic ties. Wide-ranging discussions on a whole range of issues and matters of common interest are likely to take place. Some agreements are also expected to be signed during the visit of President Sarkozy.

Thank you. My colleague will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the visit of President of France to India.

Question: Recently the Nuclear Power Corporation of India has released a booklet in which it said that AREVA will supply uranium and reactor units, and an agreement between AREVA and NPCIL is expected to be signed during Sarkozy's forthcoming visit. Can you tell us anything on that? Is it going to be signed?

Joint Secretary (Shri T.P. Seetharam): I believe one or more framework agreements between NPCIL and AREVA are currently under negotiation. If they manage to wrap it up over the next couple of days, we will have those signed. These would be a framework agreement on early works as it is called. So, these are possibly concluded and maybe signed.

Question: Supply of uranium agreement, will that be signed?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): I am not aware of those specific details. I know that some kind of framework agreement would be signed.

Question: Can you just explain broadly what this framework agreement is? What does it entail?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): The proposal is for supplying two European Pressurized Reactors initially, which will gradually increase to six in number. When it is called a framework agreement, it would mean that more details will have to be worked out subsequently. But it would facilitate further negotiations relating to specifics. The location of this Facility is to be in Jaitapur in Maharashtra which has been in the news recently because of the environmental clearances.

Question: What other agreements are likely to be signed?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): The agreement between AREVA and NPCIL is likely to be a commercial kind of agreement. But in addition, for all this to be facilitated, it may be necessary to have some government-to-government agreements for such arrangements, such as the confidentiality agreement and intellectual property rights, etc., which are also being looked at. In addition to agreements in the area of civil nuclear cooperation, it is possible that agreements on cooperation in space will be looked at, and as already mentioned on co-production of films, these are under consideration shall I say. Till it is actually finally ready I cannot give you an ...

Question: Does space cooperation involve development of new satellites?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): The space cooperation would be in terms of what they call an Earth Systems Science and Climate Programme, which is science-oriented which would naturally have the requirement for a satellite launch. But there is already an ongoing cooperation in space, as mentioned,

like Megha-Tropiques and Saral which relate to again study of climate change, ocean surface and so on. So, that is already in progress.

Official Spokesperson: I may just add that space is a very important sector of cooperation between us. ISRO and CNES have been cooperating quite closely. We have been using European satellite launch vehicles for launch of Indian satellites. There is also an agreement between Antrix Corporation and EADS Astrium for use of Indian satellite launch vehicles to launch small European satellites. So, we have a number of areas in which we are cooperating.

Question: Sir, in the area of defence is there any likelihood of new agreements ?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): It is not our practice to have defence supply agreements to be signed during such high-level visits. So, there may be agreements that you mentioned which are under negotiation, but they will not be put under the pressure of a deadline for such high-level visits. So, that will have an independent process of its own. We do not anticipate any defence deals to be signed during the visit.

Question: On nuclear issue, have the issues relating to liability provisions been sorted out?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, we have already operationalised the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation, and commercial negotiations are under way. My colleague has already indicated that active negotiations are going on. So, I guess all aspects that need to be looked at have been looked at or are being looked at.

Question: You have mentioned defence. ... (Inaudible)... the long-awaited agreement on the ... (Inaudible)... of the ... (Inaudible)... Is it not going to be signed?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): It will not be signed during the visit, but I am sure that negotiations and discussions on such programmes are ongoing. It does not require an agreement to be signed during the visit.

Official Spokesperson: And also it is not our practice to speak about the outcome before the outcome happens. You can well appreciate that till the

last minute, agreements are discussed. We are in very close touch. We are energetically looking at all aspects of cooperation because it is one of our vital relationships. Therefore, my colleague and I have spent some time to take you through different facets of cooperation which are all very significant for both of us.

Question: Can we ask a couple of important questions not relating to this visit? We have this important release from the Wikileaks on Pakistan today essentially affirming India's fears about the Army and its role vis-à-vis terror groups. Do you have a reaction to that?

Official Spokesperson: On the issue of Wikileaks I would just reiterate what I had stated yesterday that we would prefer not to comment on the issue of Wikileaks. It is basically supposed to be an account of privileged internal US Government assessments and correspondence. We have a multifaceted and forward-looking strategic cooperation with the United States. We also have regular, open and candid dialogue between the two countries on a number of issues of mutual interest. That is what would be my reaction to the issue of Wikileaks.

Question: Also anything you have heard about the residents staying here, again people ...(Inaudible)...

Official Spokesperson: We have seen these reports. We will ascertain details.

Thank you.



500. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media at the Joint Press Interaction.

New Delhi, December 6, 2010.

Your Excellency President Nicolas Sarkozy,

Distinguished representatives of the media.

It is a great pleasure to welcome President Nicolas Sarkozy to India. President Sarkozy's visit is the fourth in a series of high level exchanges between India and France in the last three years. This reflects the high importance that both our Governments attach to our Strategic Partnership.

The strengthening of this partnership owes a great deal to the personal commitment of President Sarkozy. It is because of his inspiring leadership and unqualified support that relations between India and France are today underpinned by warmth, dynamism, strong mutual trust and confidence.

My discussions with the President were wide-ranging and extremely productive. We have made significant progress on all issues that are part of our bilateral agenda.

In the field of nuclear energy, negotiations have reached an advanced stage to pave the way for the launching of nuclear power reactors in Jaitapur in partnership with Indian industry. Several other agreements to expand interaction in the nuclear sector to areas such as research and training of scientists and students, nuclear safety, nuclear waste management and regulatory practices have been concluded.

France is one of India's most important and reliable defence partners. We deeply appreciate France's willingness to supply us advanced defence technologies in a way that contributes to the modernisation of our own defence industry. Counter-terrorism is a significant area of cooperation, where we are making good progress.

The areas of space, science and technology, research and development and green technologies are emerging as the new sources of growth which can drive our relationship forward in the coming years. France has been highly supportive of India's space capabilities in Europe which we value immensely.

President Sarkozy and I have renewed our determination to achieve the trade target of 12 billion Euros by 2012. We value the role being played by the India-France CEOs Forum. We will examine their recommendations on increasing investments in the energy, water and infrastructure sectors, establishment of joint ventures in third countries, and enhancing collaboration in areas of R&D and higher education.

We discussed our cooperation in the fields of education and culture. India will soon establish an Indian Cultural Centre in Paris. France will collaborate with us in the creation of a centre of excellence in the Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan.

I congratulated the President on France's assumption of the Chairmanship of the Group of 20. We will work closely with France to push forward the process of global economic recovery, better regulation, and financial sector reform. France has been a consistent advocate of India's permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. It has also been an active supporter of India in other international forums, for which we are grateful.

We discussed other regional and global issues of common concern, including the situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Myanmar, terrorism and climate change. We have agreed to work closely with each other on all these issues during our membership of the UN Security Council.

President Sarkozy's visit has provided further impetus to our partnership and reconfirmed its strategic nature. Ours is a relationship that rests on shared democratic values and is an essential part of the global peace and development architecture.

I once again extend a very warm welcome to President Sarkozy and Mrs. Carla Bruni Sarkozy and wish them a very pleasant stay in India, a country where they have many admirers and are held in the highest esteem.



501. Joint Statement issued during the visit of French President Nicolas Sarkozy-"INDIA-FRANCE: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE".

New Delhi, December 6, 2010.

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, the President of the French Republic paid a working visit to India from 4 to 7 December, 2010. Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy and Dr. Manmohan Singh had detailed and useful discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Reaffirming their shared vision and values inspired by multilateralism, justice, freedom, equality and fraternity, France and India reiterated their determination and confirmed their commitment to work together towards peace and global security.

As the Strategic Partnership between France and India enters its 12th year, the French President and the Prime Minister of India, recognizing India's growing role on the international stage, have shown their determination to give a new impetus to the Indo-French Strategic Partnership.

1. Global and regional challenges

France and India would like to work together to make the G20 as effective as possible and help it find its place within an international system that will better reflect today's world and challenges. Monetary instability, major macroeconomic imbalances, volatility of the price of commodities including agricultural food products, development gap especially infrastructure and lack of food security are tangible threats which our two countries refuse to ignore. The G20 has become and must remain the premier forum for international economic cooperation with a view to laying new foundations for strong, sustainable and balanced growth and the international economic system. In respect of multilateral trade, the two countries are looking forward to the ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round of Negotiations in 2011.

India and France reiterated the need for in-depth reform of the United Nations, including of its Security Council, to make it more representative of today's world. France reaffirmed its support for India to become a

permanent member of an expanded Security Council without further delay.

With the French Presidency of the G20 which has just started, India's dual participation in the G20 and the Security Council for the 2010/2011 timeframe present an historic opportunity to step up joint work in these two bodies. Both countries will look to all members and groupings, including G20, to make clear support for reform of the Security Council.

France and India reaffirm their wish to continue and expand their dialogue and concrete cooperation in multilateral bodies, especially in UNSC during the 2011-2012 biennium, so as to address threats such as regional crises, terrorism, climate change and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, as well as to promote arms control and global disarmament.

International Terrorism is a common threat that needs to be countered jointly. Today, it has become one of the core issues in our bilateral strategic cooperation. International cross-border terrorism needs to be addressed at the global multilateral level by supporting initiatives in the framework of the United Nations such as the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We need to work together in international bodies like the FATF to counter financing of terrorism and money laundering.

France and India reaffirm their determination to work for peace, democracy and development in Afghanistan. The French President and the Indian Prime Minister welcome their countries' contribution and efforts towards the reconstruction and security of Afghanistan. The two countries underline the need for adequate development of the Afghan National Security Forces to enable Afghanistan to defend its sovereignty and independence.

They expressed concern at the continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorist groups beyond Afghanistan's borders and resurgence of terrorist groups. They agree that terrorism must be combated firmly by the international community. The two countries call on the neighbours of Afghanistan to play a constructive role conducive to the country's stabilization and development in its regional environment.

India and France have pledged to enhance cooperation at bilateral and global level to effectively address climate change. The two countries have decided to pursue this objective by working to achieve ambitious outcomes

in Cancun in the form of balanced operational decisions on mandated issues in accordance with the Bali Road Map. France and India have also reaffirmed their determination to continue to work in the framework of the bilateral working group on environment established in 2008 which is to convene in Paris in the first quarter of 2011.

Recognizing India's non-proliferation record as well as its willingness to further contribute to global non-proliferation efforts and with a view to enhancing the international non-proliferation regime, France favors and will jointly work with India towards India's increased participation with international non proliferation initiatives and full membership of multilateral export control regimes NSG, MTCR, AG, WA in a manner consistent with procedures and objectives of these groups.

In the context of their shared commitment to universal and general disarmament and to the reinforcement of the non-proliferation regime, India and France affirm the need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons, in particular those holding the largest arsenals, to build trust and confidence and promote international stability, peace and security. They support international cooperative efforts to reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or material. The two countries reiterate their support to starting immediate negotiations in the Conference of Disarmament for a multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

France and India reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, and discussed the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council.

India and France also expressed concern about the situation in the Korean peninsula and urged DPRK to comply with UNSC and IAEA BoG resolutions.

France and India will continue to support the development of relations between the EU and India more so when India and EU are enhancing cooperation as reflected in the deepening of the strategic relationship as well as the entry of the Lisbon Treaty into Force. The two countries welcome

the holding of the EU-India Summit on 10 December 2010 in Brussels and call for renewed efforts to achieve the mutually beneficial conclusion of the EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement.

2. Indo-French Strategic Partnership

Civil nuclear energy

The two States welcome the entry into force on 14 January 2010 of the India-France Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and the signing of Agreements on the protection of Confidentiality of Technical data and information relating to cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and concerning intellectual property rights on the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which supplement it.

Noting the innovative, broad-based and dynamic nature of their partnership in the field of civil nuclear energy cooperation, France and India welcome the progress towards further strengthening cooperation between the two countries including in research and development and in setting up joint nuclear power projects. In this context the signing of the General Framework Agreement between NPCIL and AREVA represents a significant milestone.

Following India's enactment of a 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.

The "Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives - CEA" for France and the "Department of Atomic Energy - DAE" for India have concluded on December 6 a Cooperation Agreement in the field of Nuclear Science and Technology for peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with the aim to establish a general framework to enhance their collaboration and signed a specific implementing agreement in the field of education and research.

The CEA expressed its interest in cooperating with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP), as a means to contributing to multilateral cooperative efforts to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The fight against terrorism

Terrorism strikes not only the people and the interests of our two countries but also imperils peace and stability of our respective regions and the world. We reaffirm our irrevocable condemnation of this scourge in all its forms and our will to intensify our cooperation to counter it.

Since our Joint Statement of 25 January 2008, we have aimed at intensifying bilateral consultations and exchanges with the objective of better assessing these threats and sharing relevant information. Today, we have decided to make this cooperation a priority of the Indo-French security relationship.

With the tragic losses suffered in the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai particularly in mind, we call for the active prosecution of the authors of such crimes and their accomplices, and urge that they be brought to justice expeditiously.

In our common fight against terrorism, we will continue to enhance our operational cooperation as far as possible and will seek to ensure that the widest possible measure of mutual legal assistance is rendered, and that extradition requests are processed expeditiously.

Our two governments will coordinate their endeavours in international bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force in order to define common positions and promote concrete initiatives.

In the pursuance of our efforts to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism, we resolve to intensify our efforts to urgently conclude the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations. France and India call on all countries to become part, as a matter of urgency, of all international counter-terrorism conventions.

Both sides reiterated the importance of adhering to sanctions regime against Al Qaeda and Taliban as established by UNSCR 1267 and subsequent Resolutions and the need to preserve its credibility.

Security and defence

France and India reaffirm their common interest in continuing to strengthen their defence relationship, which is an important pillar of their Strategic Partnership and reflects their common determination to work for global peace and security.

The two States agree to continue and intensify their cooperation on counter piracy and maritime security. France and India recognize the need for an intensified cooperation in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden and other areas.

The two states welcome the ongoing exercises between their Navies (Varuna) and Air Forces (Garuda) and have confirmed their interest towards extension of their cooperation through exercises between the two Armies.

The two States also welcome the on-going efforts and future prospects for joint programmes in defence industry, which would include joint research and development and transfer of technology. In this regard and as a first step, the two States expect to launch soon the SRSAM and Kaveri program. Discussions concerning the upgrading of Mirage 2000 aircraft are expected to be finalised soon.

Space Cooperation

Acknowledging the essential nature of cooperation in the field of space, which is a key sector for scientific cooperation between the two countries, India and France intend to broaden the scope of their exchanges and further develop their joint efforts in this field. In the spirit of the Framework Agreement signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and French National Space Agency (CNES) on a wide range of issues related to use of space for peaceful purposes, they applaud the Space establishments of both nations for the progress made in developing the Megha-Tropiques and SARAL satellites, due to be launched in 2011 timeframe.

The two governments reaffirm their determination to pursue space cooperation in the fields of Earth Observation for climate change studies and space exploration.

India and France also acknowledged the ascending trend of the industrial cooperation over the years nurtured by space industries of both countries. In this regard, they gladly welcome the recent breakthroughs made by Astrium and Antrix Corporation in the joint development and marketing of communications satellites, following their 2005 Agreement. They also welcome continuing this promising collaboration in the coming years.

3. Bilateral cooperation

Development of economic and trade exchanges

France and India welcome the outstanding development of their bilateral economic exchanges in recent years. The two countries welcome the contracts signed in the latter part of 2010 for aircraft leasing, satellite launching, biometric technology, energy and urban transportation.

Aware of the potential for the development of their bilateral exchanges and investments, and confident about the opportunities afforded by the dynamism of their economies - ranking among the leading global economies - the two governments reiterate their objective of doubling their trade exchanges in a balanced way despite the crisis, over the period 2008-2012.

Beyond that, the liberalization of exchanges provided for by the EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement, combined with ongoing cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy and the resumption of aviation industry contracts, will further boost trade between the two countries.

France and India welcome the significant development of cross-investments between the two countries and large-scale investment by India-based French companies in the car industry, building materials, electrical equipment, public water utilities and rail transport. They also welcome prospects for Indian investments in France.

They welcome the private sector's involvement in boosting bilateral trade and call on the Indo-French CEOs Forum to continue to play a decisive role in identifying new avenues for cooperation and facilitating the business climate between the two countries.

Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Food Processing

France and India recognize the strategic importance of the agricultural and food processing sector in addressing the needs for affordable, healthy, high quality and sustainable food products in both countries.

They express in particular their will to double and balance exchanges of agricultural products as part of comprehensive cooperation including food products logistics, the distribution sector and agrifood research.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the on-going cooperation between the two countries through the Indo-French Joint Working Group on Agriculture. The areas identified for further cooperation include strengthening the post-harvest management capacities (e.g. cold chains, storage...), wine/Vineyards, research and training and exchange programmes, animal identification and tracing and genetic improvement of dairy cattle breeds.

Cooperation in the field of sustainable development (town planning, transport, housing)

Both parties expressed their commitment to the continuation of bilateral exchanges in the field of standards, best practices and capacity building in order to further enhance cooperation between Indian and French institutional structures as well as business partnerships.

Cooperation in the field of human exchanges

France and India, reiterating the importance they attach to encouraging people to people contacts and human exchanges in accordance with the joint declarations of 25 January 2008 and 30 September 2008, reaffirm their determination to cooperate closely in the field of migration, with a view to encourage legal and orderly migration of students, professionals and skilled workers to each others' country, depending on opportunities available, to assure the return to their country of illegal migrants who have been properly identified as their nationals and to combat irregular migration.

Welcoming the preliminary talks held in New Delhi in November, 2009 and which led to beginning of negotiations on a bilateral partnership agreement on migrations under this comprehensive approach to migration, the two States agreed to swiftly launch these negotiations between the two countries based on a draft text submitted by France with a view to conclude them as soon as possible.

University and scientific cooperation

The two States reaffirm their determination to pursue efforts in order to ensure that human exchanges permeate and stimulate all areas of bilateral cooperation, including in the fields of research, education and cultural

exchanges. They encouraged the trend of increasing number of Indian students studying in France and French students studying in India. More than 200 framework agreements for promoting student mobility have been signed by French and Indian higher education institutions. The five scholarship programmes established under the "Quai d'Orsay / Entreprises" scheme have helped welcome 101 Indian students to the best schools and universities in France since 2006. A total of almost 400 scholarships were awarded in 2009. France and India call for an increase in bilateral student exchanges and pledge to facilitate the academic stays of French students in India and Indian students in France.

France and India support the launch of an ambitious cooperation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Rajasthan, which is to allow a consortium of French higher education institutions, to initiate a partnership and joint works on sustainable development and on green accounting project. This project will ultimately make it possible to incorporate the environment into the daily business of enterprises and to develop the territory and urban heritage targeted by decentralized cooperation actions.

Recognizing the essential contribution of education and scientific research to global prosperity and stability, they welcome the success of the Franco-Indian Centre for Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) which has been steering closely science and technology-related projects since 1986. They welcome the ambitious initiatives envisaged to increase its outreach and develop its partnerships. They further reiterate their common determination to strengthen Indo-French cooperation in the field of innovation. They welcomed research collaborations in the areas of solar thermal technology, ICT in health lab, systems and designs for automobiles and aerospace, robotics and control systems, art, culture and heritage restoration.

India and France recognize that with the 21st century being hailed as the century of knowledge, alliances in the knowledge economy will be critical for both countries, especially by leveraging Information and Communication Technology. Based on their shared endeavour to strengthen democracy, transparency and accountability, France and

India wish to start an initiative on Democratizing Information and Open Government as a way to use Information and Communication Technology to modernize the relationship between the State and the citizen.

The two governments welcome the action of the French Development Agency (AFD) which contributes through concessional financing for supporting projects in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency, sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. As a key instrument of our cooperation in the field of sustainable development, the AFD's level of intervention is to increase significantly over the next few years.

Cultural exchanges

France and India welcome the holding of the cross cultural seasons Bonjour India and Namaste France which meet the desire for understanding and exchange on the part of the Indian and French peoples. They welcome the launching of the news channel France 24 in India. They reaffirm their determination that an Indian Cultural Centre should be established at 3 Avenue de Lowendal in Paris and intend to finalize the necessary arrangements to that end.

The two governments welcome the signing of the film Co-Production Agreement which is to inspire our future joint co-operation projects in the film industry and will be viewed as an example in terms of co-production.



502. Agreements signed during the visit of the President of France

New Delhi, December 06, 2010.

NAME/TITLE	INDIAN SIGNATORY	FRENCH SIGNATORY
Agreement on Film Co-Production between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic	Smt. Ambika Soni, Minister for Information Broadcasting	Mr. Frederic Mitterrand, Minister of Culture and Communication
Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Intellectual Property Rights on the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy	Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy	Mrs. Michèle Alliot-Marie, Minister for Foreign & European Affairs.
Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the Protection of Confidentiality of Technical Data and Information Relating to Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy DAE	Mrs. Kosciuszko-Morizet, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing.
Cooperation Agreement Between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) of The Government Of India and the Commissariat A L'energie Atomique Et Aux	Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and	Dr. Bernard Bigot, Administrateur General, CEA

Energies Alternatives(CEA) in the field of Nuclear Science and Technology for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

Secretary,
Department of
Atomic Energy

General Framework Agreement between NPCIL and AREVA for Implementation of EPR NPP Units at Jaitapur site, Maharashtra

Dr. S.K. Jain,
CMD, NPCIL

Mrs. Anne
Lauvergeon,
CEO, AREVA

Early Works Agreement between NPCIL and AREVA for Implementation of EPR NPP Units at Jaitapur Site, Maharashtra

Dr. S.K. Jain,
CMD, NPCIL

Mrs. Anne
Lauvergeon,
CEO, AREVA

Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Centre National D'études Spatiales (CNEc) for Cooperation in Earth System Science and Climate

Dr. K.
Radhakrishnan,
Chairman, Indian
Space Research
Organisation
(ISRO)

Mr. Yannick
d'Escatha,
President,
Centre National
d'Etudes
Spatiales
(CNES)



GEORGIA**503. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations.****New Delhi, April 1, 2010.**

India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations were held on 29th March 2010 at New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary, Eurasia Division, Ministry of External Affairs. From the Georgian side, the delegation was headed by Ms. Khatuna Salukvadze, Director, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The two sides discussed bilateral relations with particular focus on the possibilities of strengthening cooperation in the fields of trade, economy and culture.

Separately, on 30th March 2010, the following three Agreements (which had been in the pipeline for some time) were signed: (i) Agreement on the establishment of Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation; (ii) Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Science, Sport and Youth; and (iii) Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology. The Agreements were signed by Mr. Alexander Nalbandov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, on behalf of the Government of Georgia, and Ms. Latha Reddy, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Secretary (Culture) and Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary (Science & Technology) respectively on behalf of the Government of India.



GERMANY**504. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the German President Dr. Horst Kohler.****New Delhi, February 2, 2010.**

Your Excellency, Dr. Horst Kohler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany,

Madame Eva Luise Kohler,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to have you, Mr. President, in our midst today. I extend a very warm welcome to you and Madame Eva Luise Kohler and to the distinguished members of your delegation.

The ties between India and Germany are long standing. Some of India's finest accomplishments in art, literature and philosophy, were introduced to Europe and to the wider world, through the great German tradition of scholarship and pursuit of academic excellence. Indologists from your country have helped many, to discover and rediscover India. As far back as 1818, the University in Bonn set up the first Department of Indology, and who can forget the pioneering work of Fredrich Max Mueller in advancing the study of Indology? The Max Mueller Bhavans have become the cultural calling card and a very popular address for Germany in India.

Today, Indo-German relations are based on shared values of democracy, pluralism, diversity and respect for individual freedoms and the rule of law.

Since the establishment of our Strategic Partnership in 2001, the relationship between India and Germany has touched new heights. We, in India, see Germany amongst our most important interlocutors and as one of the pillars of the future multilateral order. We cooperate closely in the international fora and on important issues, like the reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council. Our cooperation

extends to focused groupings such as the G- 20. On issues such as the global economic crisis, international terrorism, poverty alleviation and food security among others, our political leaderships remain in touch.

We are happy at the pace and direction of our economic and commercial interactions. The global slowdown notwithstanding, we remain confident of achieving the target set during the visit of Chancellor Merkel in October 2007 to India, to raise bilateral trade to Euro 20 billion by 2012. Investments by our businesses and companies are growing in both directions. Our economic imperatives, centered on inclusive growth and sustainable development, require ambitious strategies for development of our country's infrastructure, in areas such as ports and shipping, railways and energy, and we see major opportunities for cooperation with Germany.

And going beyond, we seek to transform the parameters of our bilateral relationship in education, scientific and technological research and development and in innovation. I welcome the steps that are being taken in this area, particularly initiatives such as the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre that bring in industry partnerships for targeted research in technology and the applied sciences as well. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries in 2011. I am informed that preparations are afoot to mark this occasion with a "Year of Germany" in India and a "Year of India" in Germany in 2012.

Mr. President, we join you in celebrating this year, the 20th anniversary of German re-unification. This was a momentous achievement that caught the imagination of the world and transformed it. It threw away the shackles of an adversarial and conflict-ridden approach to international politics and opened new opportunities.

As we consider our world of tomorrow and seek a better world for our people and future generations, there is much that India and Germany can contribute together. With the quality of our human resources and the dynamism and aspirations of our youth, we will use our two nations' capacity for enterprise, innovation and research to foster a peaceful, progressive and secure world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in raising a toast:-

- to the good health of His Excellency, President Dr. Horst Kohler and Madame Eva Luise Kohler;
- to the prosperity and well-being of the German people; and
- to friendship and cooperation between India and the Federal Republic of Germany.



505. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on collaboration between India and Germany in the Knowledge Sector and Cooperation in Infrastructure.

New Delhi, October 8, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, during his 3-day (6-8 October) visit to Düsseldorf and Berlin (Germany), emphasised on the strategic partnership in innovation between India and Germany. Discussions focused on taking Indo-German collaboration forward in key areas such as knowledge sectors like ICT, energy including renewable energy, cutting edge technology including environmental and green technology, life sciences and biotechnology, nano-technologies, small city and integrated townships, besides further enhancement of ongoing cooperation in infrastructure, manufacturing and engineering.

In Düsseldorf, Shri Sharma inaugurated the "India Goes to Germany Mission" and attended interactive meetings with the Chamber of Commerce of Düsseldorf and with select CEOs besides the meetings with the Minister of Economic Affairs, Energy, Construction, Housing & Transport of the State of North Rhine Westphalia.

In Berlin, Shri Sharma held a bilateral meeting with Federal Minister of Economics & Technologies, Mr. Rainer Brüderle and also inaugurated

the FICCI-Fraunhofer Roundtable on "Innovation as a Driver of Indo-German Economic Relations". Both the Ministers agreed on the establishment of a hotline between the Commerce & Industry Ministry in India and the Federal Ministry of Economics & Technology in Germany to facilitate resolution of any business-related visa issues that may arise from time-to-time. Both sides agreed on cooperating in multilateral fora on combating protectionist tendencies that have emerged recently.

Shri Sharma suggested further strengthening of institutional linkages especially between economic research and policy institutes in India and their German counterparts. Such linkages could be established between institutes such as German Institutes of Economic Research in Berlin, the Ifo Institute of Economic Research in Munich, Kiel Institute for World Economy and the Halle Institute of Economic Research Partners and, on the Indian side, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), and the Gokhale Institute of Economic and Politics in Pune. Shri Sharma also endorsed linkages between National Institutes of Design in both countries and between the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and an appropriate German counterpart.

Shri Sharma delivered a special address as part of the Konrad Adenauer Lecture Series on "An Emerging India: Expanding Economic Frontiers" at Humboldt University.



506. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Europe West) on the visit of German Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle.

New Delhi, October 15, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening and welcome to the Media Hall.

I would like to introduce my colleague Joint Secretary (Europe West) Mr. Seetharam. We would like to brief you about the official visit of the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Germany Dr. Guido Westerwelle, who arrives on Sunday the 17th and would be here till the 19th. This would be his first official visit to India. He is accompanied by an important delegation comprising of five parliamentarians, a number of officials, businessmen and others.

Besides holding delegation-level talks with EAM the the Foreign Minister of Germany would be meeting with our Commerce and Industry Minister. He would be delivering an address at IIT Delhi. EAM would be assisted by Secretary (West) Mr. Vivek Katju; our Ambassador in Germany; Mr. Seetharam our Joint Secretary (Europe West); and a number of other officials.

As you are aware, we have warm and friendly relations with Germany. In 2001 we decided to elevate our relationship to the level of strategic partnership. Germany is also our largest trading partner in Europe. Last few years have witnessed a steady expansion of our bilateral relations especially economic ties, S&T cooperation and so on.

This relationship has been driven by regular high-level exchanges. German President Dr. Horst Kohler had paid a state visit to India in February 2010. Earlier, Chancellor Merkel was in India on a state visit in October-November 2007 when she was accompanied by a number of her Cabinet colleagues and a large business delegation.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to Germany in April 2006 when he along with Chancellor Merkel inaugurated the Hannover trade fair in which India was a partner country. Prime Minister again visited Germany in June 2007 for the G8-O5 summit. He and Chancellor Merkel have been meeting regularly on the sidelines of international fora.

This year has seen the important visit already of the German Minister for Economics who came for the Joint Commission meeting. Our Commerce and Industry Minister had led a delegation of SMEs to Germany. Our parliamentary exchanges have also intensified in recent years. I mentioned that German FM is being accompanied by five parliamentarians.

Germany is the fifth largest trading partner of India besides being our largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade in 2009 had crossed Euro 13 billion. Despite the global economic difficulties, the level of our trade was sustained in 2009. In the first five months of 2010, there has been a 26% increase in bilateral trade. And I may add that we are well on the way of attaining the 20 billion Euro trade target that has been set for the year 2012.

Germany is also the eighth largest investor in India. In recent years their investments have been increasing rapidly. Cumulative investments are estimated at \$ 3.5 billion. We understand that another 6 billion dollars of German investments are in the pipeline. Leading auto majors like BMW, Daimler, Audi, Volkswagen have either manufacturing or assembly facilities in India. Other well-known German companies like Siemens, Bosch, Bayer, Deutsche Bank, Bombardier, etc., have a presence or have announced investments in India.

I may also note that Indian companies in recent years have been gravitating towards Germany in numbers. In particular I would like to mention Bharat Forge, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, NIIT, Mahindra, Reliance and Biocon. As such leading lights of Indian industry are heading towards Germany, have acquired German companies or have established subsidiaries.

The momentum to our economic and trade ties is provided by the Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation which is led by our Finance Minister and the German Minister for Economics and Technology. This very important forum, has been meeting every two years. The 17th session, was held in New Delhi on 23rd September 10. They have been particularly focusing on sectors like infrastructure, coal, automotives, vocational education - vocational education and training is another very important sector of cooperation for us - and other areas.

During the visit of Chancellor Merkel in October 2007, S&T was termed as a central pillar of our strategic partnership. Our S&T dates back to 1971. We already have more than 150 joint S&T research projects and a number of direct partnerships between our universities. Good work is being done in sectors like nano materials, space and sustainable development.

You would recall that during her state visit to India in 2007 Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister flagged off the Indo-German Science Express on the 30th of October, which visited 56 towns and cities in India. PM had described it as a symbol of our new relationship with the 'superpower of technology in the world'. Defence cooperation is yet another area which holds promise.

We have traditionally enjoyed close cultural ties. For the last few years five ICCR rotating Chairs are being set up in different German universities, and we also find a growing interest in Bollywood. To mark the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries - I may note here that India was one of the first countries in the world to recognise FRG after the World War II - a Festival of Germany will be held in India in 2011, next year. The following year we expect to have a gala Festival of India in Germany.

We are fellow G4 countries and have a similarity of views and hold consultations on a regular basis on global issues of mutual interest. Both Germany and India have just been elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the years 2011 and 2012. India and Germany are also members of G20. In addition, we find considerable potential for increasing synergies in sectors like renewable energy, IT, biotechnology, the small and medium enterprises, infrastructure and entertainment.

We greatly value our strategic partnership, our relationship with Germany. EAM and German FM would be holding in-depth consultations on bilateral issues to expand, to add more dynamism to all facets of our cooperation. They will also have an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

My colleague and I will be happy to take questions relating to the visit of the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Germany. Thank you.

Question: Our strategic relations with Germany, what does it entail basically? What do we talk about there? On terrorism and what else? What is there of mutual interest between India and Germany? What will be on the table this time apart from business?

Official Spokesperson: We have a very broad canvas of bilateral cooperation. Therefore, I gave you a feel of the relationship. While trade and economic aspects are very important so are, science and technology, vocational training, energy, investments, defence and cultural. Then, we have a similarity of views on global issues, whether it is terrorism or on other aspects. As fellow members of G4 we are consulting closely, we are working closely. Both the countries are going to be, non-permanent members of the Security Council. My colleague may like to add more.

Joint Secretary (Europe West) (Shri T.P. Seetharam): We have strategic partnerships with several countries for instance UK, France and Germany. That encompasses a very broad range, as was just mentioned by Vishnu. It is not only economic, economic issues are important, technology is a very important component in our relationship with Germany. As you know, their technological capabilities are very well-known. Training of our people, upgradation of skills, is again something Germany has an excellent system of training their people in terms of vocational training. That is something that we require if we are to maintain high growth rates we need to have employable skilled people of a very large number. So, that is an area where we can work together. Defence, of course, energy, renewable energy sectors, green technologies, it is a very broad area. Most critically, we will both be on the UN Security Council initially temporarily, hopefully in the long-term permanently.

Question: Can you tell us something more about the UNSC expansion programme with Germany and India? Also, what is the stand of other two permanent members that come under your Division regarding the election? I am referring to France and UK.

Joint Secretary (EW): We already have the support of several countries. France and UK have already indicated their support for India's permanent membership. Germany being part of G4 is part of a coordinated effort

for that permanent membership. So, we are working towards that. But as you know, we require the support of all five permanent members before we see results.

Official Spokesperson: And you are already aware of the details. India has just been elected with one of the highest ever numbers of 187 votes. Text-based inter-governmental negotiations have already commenced in UNGA. We believe that we have impeccable credentials for playing the role and assuming the responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. We are engaging with our G4 friends and all our interlocutors in order to achieve that objective as soon as possible.

Question: You have already answered this question in a certain sense. But in the past few weeks, Europe and particularly Germany have had very specific terror alerts - the Hamburg cell being restarted as well as Paris and other cities being under threat. At the same time India had faced a certain threat perception over the Commonwealth Games. How much is that kind of terror alerts, cooperating on terror, intelligence going to be a part, if any, of this?

Joint Secretary (EW): To counter terrorism and working jointly to deal with the threats of terrorism is very much part of our strategic relationship. That can take many forms whether it is financing of terrorism which requires joint working together, sharing of information real time, and very close interaction between the agencies which are actually engaged in this kind of work. All that is part of our framework for cooperation. There is also the support that we seek in the United Nations framework for the Comprehensive Convention on Internal Terrorism (CCIT). This is again an area in which we work together. Wherever there is information on specific impending threats, there again it is a question of sharing of information and the agencies working very closely with each other. There will be, of course, meetings between the National Security Advisors also on a regular basis which is part of the structure of any strategic relationship.

Question: You said defence cooperation holds promise. I would like to know if we have some kind of sophisticated armaments supply from Germany.

Joint Secretary (EW): Yes, definitely there is already cooperation in defence areas. But this is an area where there is always room for more given our future plans, as you are aware, in various fields. So, there is ongoing cooperation but there are prospects for far more given their technological capabilities. Here we are not looking merely at acquisition of equipment but joint production and joint research and development, so that there is actual transfer of technology which is crucial for us.

Official Spokesperson: I would just like to add here that a framework for annual consultations for defence cooperation was concluded in 2006. Under that framework we have had regular exchanges including that of the Service Chiefs, consultations and training. Again, like with any other major country, we have a broad canvas and are looking at different aspects of cooperation in the area of defence and security.

Question: What is the trade basket of exports from India? Earlier textiles was something like 63 per cent.

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Major Indian exports, a lot of it is traditional, are cotton and textile products, leather and leather products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metal products and more recently automobile components. Textiles still remain significant portion of our exports. Nontraditional exports include electrical goods, electronics, automobile components which have been increasing its portion. Imports to India are very obvious - machinery, electro-technical goods, aircraft, metal goods, chemicals and automobile components for the large investment in the auto sector that they have in India.

Question: Is there a likelihood of any agreements being signed during the visit on defence cooperation? Business delegation is also there.

Official Spokesperson: You know the standard operating procedure. We will certainly let you know of the agreements signed once they are concluded.

Question: Sir, just recently we finished the Indo-French Strategic Cooperation dialogue where you sort of briefed them about the performance of the Rafale. Now that the German Foreign Minister is

going to be here and this issue is going to come up, will you brief them about the performance of the Typhoon?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Actually the Ministry of External Affairs does not brief them about the performance of such specialized equipment. I think the Ministry of Defence is conducting its tests and evaluations, and they would be the ones who should be doing that.

Question: But you already have during the Strategic Dialogue. So, I was wondering if similar ...

Official Spokesperson: All aspects of cooperation that the Ministry of External Affairs is engaged in, we have tried to give you a feel for that. Thank you very much.



507. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany.

New Delhi, December 7, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. As you are aware, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh will be leaving shortly for Brussels to participate in the 11th India-EU Summit, and also to hold a bilateral summit meeting with his Belgian counterpart. The Prime Minister of India would also be going to Berlin for a summit meeting with Chancellor Merkel.

Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju is here to brief you about the important visit of the Prime Minister of India. I would also like to introduce my colleague Mr. T.P. Seetharam, Joint Secretary (Europe West) who is to the right of Secretary (West). I will invite Secretary (West) to make an opening statement. Thereafter, he will be very happy to take a few questions.

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I have a brief introductory statement.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is visiting Belgium for the 11th India-European Union Summit which is being held in Brussels on December 10, 2010. The EU side will be represented at the Summit by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and Mr. Jose Barroso, President of the European Commission. Prime Minister will also have a bilateral meeting with the Belgium Prime Minister Yves Leterme in Brussels on the same day. On December 11, 2010, Prime Minister will visit Germany where he will have meetings with the German President H.E. Christian Wulff and with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The 11th India-EU Summit is the first to be held after the Lisbon Treaty came into force on December 1, 2009. It will provide an occasion to discuss the expansion of the India-EU engagement as EU itself evolves and takes on more and diverse responsibilities. The leaders will hold discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual concern.

The India-EU engagement is rooted in the shared values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights and civil liberties. These values and commitments are reflected in the India-EU interaction at different levels, including governmental, institutional and people to people. India-EU relations cover political, economic, commercial, cultural, educational, science & technology, transportation, energy among other areas. They have expanded significantly over the years and especially since the First India-EU Summit which was held in Lisbon in 2000. At that Summit, a decision was taken to hold annual Summits. It will not be out of place to recall that India and EU decided to elevate their relationship to the level of strategic partnership at the Fifth Summit in 2004. A Joint Action Plan, setting out a road map for India-EU interaction and diverse sectors, was adopted at the Sixth Summit in 2005.

EU is an important trading partner of India and also a significant source of investment. The bilateral trade in goods in 2009 was •53 billion in value while services traded in the same year at •16.3 billion. The two sides have been in discussion to conclude a Broad-Based Trade and Investment agreement. Negotiations are progressing well and we are hopeful of concluding the agreement in early 2011.

An India-EU Business Summit will be held on the margins of the Summit on the theme "EU-India Partnership Opportunities for Sustainable

Development". It would have 2 sessions on "Clean Technologies in Energy" and "Transport and Infrastructure" and a CEO Round Table on "Growth and Partnership Opportunities".

A Joint Declaration on culture is expected to be signed between the Department of Culture and the EU Commission.

Our relations with Belgium are cordial and friendly and there has been regular interaction at the highest levels. The King of Belgium visited India in November 2008. The Crown Prince of Belgium has visited India four times, most recently in March 2010 leading a large business delegation. The Prime Minister of Belgium Guy Verhofstadt had visited India in November 2006. During his visit to Brussels to attend the ASEM Summit in October 2010, the Vice President of India had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Belgium.

Bilateral trade turnover is about US\$ 7 billion, of which 75% is in diamonds. Several Indian companies, particularly in IT and software sectors, such as Aricent, HCL, TCS and Infosys have established a base in Belgium.

There is potential for diversification of trade, cooperation in the field of transport, and in steel, bio-technology and pharmaceuticals, aeronautics, science and technology, automotive parts etc. There is potential to develop investment in areas such as energy, ports, construction, banking and finance, solar energy and bio-technology.

India and Germany have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations. The strategic partnership forged between the two countries in 2001 has further strengthened the ties. There has been close interaction between the leadership of the two countries over the past few years. PM last visited Germany for G8+5 Summit at Heiligendamm in June 2007, Chancellor Merkel visited India in October, 2007. Former German president Dr. Horst Koehler visited India in February 2010. German Foreign Minister, Dr. Guido Westerwelle visited India in October, 2010. This will be PM's third visit to Germany after April 2006 (when India was partner country at the Hanover Fair) and June, 2007 (G 8+5 Summit).

The talks of PM with the German leadership are expected to focus on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern.

The Indo-German relations are also marked by rapidly growing economic and trade ties. Germany is our largest trading partner in EU, one of the top investors and a source of technology. Bilateral trade has been growing in the recent years to reach Euro 13.4 billion in 2008, in 2009, due to global economic crisis, it decreased marginally to Euro 13.09 billion. This year, bilateral trade has revived and is growing by over 15% and has reached Euro 9.80 billion during January-August, 2010. Germany was the eighth largest investor in India in 2009 with FDI inflows of US\$ 599.93 million. For the period April, 2000 - August 2010, Germany was the eighth largest investor cumulatively with FDI inflows of US\$ 2868 million.

India and Germany cooperate well in various multilateral fora such as G4 and G20 and have close consultations and engagements through institutionalized dialogue mechanisms in areas as diverse as energy, vocational education, urban infrastructure, health and science & technology. PM's forthcoming visit to Germany will further enhance our strategic partnership.

Question: Sir. My first question is, would the Prime Minister and Chancellor Merkel be discussing in some detail their strategy for pushing forward the G4 bid at the UN? Related to this, we have heard Obama endorse India's candidature as a permanent member in a reformed Security Council. Such an endorsement for Germany has not come through from the US side. Does India believe that Germany could be a bit of a drag in the joint campaign?

Secretary (West): India and Germany are firm partners in the G4 process. When the two leaders meet they will be discussing a host of issues. Certainly, the reform of the Security Council is an important international issue presently.

Question: Sir, can you give us an idea of where exactly the FTA talks are? You have just mentioned that it is early next year that we would be looking at an agreement. Which are the areas where there are possible impediments?

Secretary (West): Negotiations are in progress on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement. I do not think it will be proper to discuss various aspects of the negotiations when these are in progress. There has to be certain confidentiality in the process.

Question: I was just going to ask that if the FTA comes through early next year, as you said, what would be the enhanced trade and investment between India and Europe that is expected to flow out of it?

Secretary (West): I think it is our expectation that the BPIA, as we call it, will reach a conclusion, as I said, in early 2011. Some estimates indicate that the level of bilateral trade well might go up to Euro 100 billion. Certainly it will be a big fillip to the trade.

Question: What are the areas that are still awaiting agreement in the FTA?

Secretary (West): I have already answered that question that there is certain confidentiality to the process of negotiations and that confidentiality be maintained. The negotiations are going well. They are making progress. There has been a fairly regular and good contact between the negotiators. I will stop at this.

Question: The sectors?

Secretary (West): I will not go beyond what I said.

Question: Is there any proposal to have a nuclear agreement with Germany?

Secretary (West): There is no specific proposal on this issue. But, you are aware that the Germans played an important role in the discussions that took place leading to the NSG decision which enabled India to become a full participant in the civil nuclear energy matters.

Question: Will international terrorism or Indo-Pak relationship be discussed?

Secretary (West): I think international terrorism is a very significant issue these days. It is an issue of world-wide concern. And certainly when leaders meet there is a focus on all issues of international concern.

Question: And Indo-Pakistan relations?

Secretary (West): India-Pakistan relations are bilateral relations. But it is also possible and it happens that when leaders meet, then discussions about the regions where countries are situated are discussed.

Question: Sir, I have a question on a different subject. Could you please give us your response on the statements recently made by Gen. Musharraf in a TV interview about you being responsible for the failure of Agra Summit?

Secretary (West): Yes, I have seen that statement.

Question: Are you amused? How do you react?

Secretary (West): I will only say that I have seen that.

Thank you.



508. Statement by the Prime Minister before his departure for Belgium for the India-EU Summit and Germany.

New Delhi, December 9, 2010.

I leave today on a visit to Belgium and Germany. In Brussels, I will attend the 11th India-EU Summit jointly hosted by the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso. India and the European Union have a Strategic Partnership, with Annual Summits and a Joint Action Plan reflecting the intensity and breadth of our interaction.

Our partnership with the European Union has evolved from economic and development cooperation to a broader strategic engagement. This will be the first India-EU Summit since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty of the European Union which recast its structures for strengthening the European Union's external relations. India welcomes the enhanced role that the European Union seeks to play in global affairs pursuant to this Treaty.

India and European Union share common values of democracy, pluralism, tolerance, the rule of law, respect for fundamental human rights, freedom of the press and independence of the judiciary. There is a high degree of convergence of our views on global issues. I will seek

to deepen our political and strategic cooperation, including in the area of counter terrorism and other non-traditional threats to security.

The European Union is India's largest trading partner and a significant source of investment and technology. It is also increasingly a destination for Indian investment. Negotiations on a Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement are underway, and we hope to review the progress of the negotiations during the Summit.

I will also attend the India-Belgium Summit in Brussels at the invitation of Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr. Yves Leterme. Belgium is a key partner in Europe, and has been supportive of India on issues of importance to us. Our discussions will explore ways of diversifying our trade basket and promoting cooperation in high-technology sectors.

I will pay a working visit to Germany at the invitation of the Chancellor of Germany, Mrs. Angela Merkel. Our engagement with Germany is strong and multi-faceted. I look forward to reviewing with Chancellor Merkel the developments in our bilateral cooperation in the areas of high technology, trade, investment, energy, education, vocational training, skills development and culture. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting the President of Germany, Mr. Christian Wulff. Germany and India will serve together on the United Nations Security Council as non-permanent members during 2012-13.

My discussions in both Belgium and Germany will also include a review of the major regional and global issues we face today. These include the situation in Afghanistan and climate change, as well as the state of the global economy and the role of the G-20 in the recovery process.



509. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction in Berlin.

Berlin, December 11, 2010.

Your Excellency Chancellor Merkel,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank Chancellor Merkel for her very warm words and for her gracious hospitality. It is a great pleasure for me to visit Germany once again, and to meet with Chancellor Merkel. I have great personal admiration for Chancellor Merkel and for her leadership.

India's relations with Germany are excellent. There are no bilateral irritants and I believe that the sky is the limit for our cooperation. This happy state of affairs has been made possible due to the Chancellor's personal guidance of our partnership, for which we are most grateful.

Germany is the economic powerhouse of Europe, and India's largest trading partner in Europe. It is playing a key role in ensuring financial stability and economic recovery in the Eurozone. I conveyed India's full support to Chancellor Merkel in this endeavour.

The economic resurgence of Europe is critical for a balanced recovery of the global economy. We have agreed to continue our close consultations within the G-20 framework to work towards such an outcome.

India and Germany will both be on the United Nations Security Council in 2011 and 2012. We will work closely with Germany both bilaterally and within the G-4, to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council, as well as in support of the expansion of the permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership.

The world must continue to build upon the progress has been made at the Cancun Conference on Climate Change. India will play its part in arriving at a pragmatic and balanced solution within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

On the bilateral side, we deeply value Germany's consistent support, including in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, for the opening of international

commerce for India in the field of civil nuclear energy. We have discussed the possibilities of entering into bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

German excellence in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors is well known. We welcome the steady growth of German investments in India. Despite the economic downturn, we are hopeful that the target of achieving bilateral trade of 20 billion Euros by 2012 will be achieved.

There is vast untapped potential for high technology trade between India and Germany, and I conveyed to Chancellor Merkel that relaxation of German export control laws will open new horizons for such trade. This will be to our mutual benefit.

In 2007, we had identified science and technology as a central pillar of our partnership. We have agreed today to continue to enhance our cooperation in the fields of higher education and renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Vocational training and skill development has emerged as a high priority for our Government. It is critical for the success of our socio-economic development plans. We have chosen Germany as our preferred partner in this field and I am happy to announce that we have agreed to significantly scale up our cooperation in this sector.

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany. Germany will organize a Year of Germany in India beginning September 2011, and India will organize the Days of India in Germany during 2012-13. I have invited Chancellor Merkel to visit India next year, and I look forward to hosting her in Delhi.

Relations between our two countries are based on the strong foundations of shared values of freedom, democracy and respect for fundamental rights. Our strategic partnership has evolved tremendously in recent years. I look forward to working with Chancellor Merkel to further strengthen and deepen this partnership.

Thank you



HUNGARY**510. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. Peter Balazs.****New Delhi, January 19, 2010.**

Foreign Minister of Hungary, H.E. Dr. Peter Balazs, is currently on an official visit to India from 17-21 January 2010. Besides Delhi, the visiting dignitary will also be visiting Mumbai (19-21 January). The Foreign Minister of Hungary had an official meeting with the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna (19 January) during which they discussed bilateral, regional and international issues. The two sides stressed on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, IT, pharmaceuticals, auto-components, energy, defence & security, S&T, agriculture sectors and also in consular and cultural matters, including sports. There were also discussions about Civil Nuclear Energy cooperation. Hungary is the current Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Earlier in the day, the visiting dignitary had a meeting with Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, where issues pertaining to strengthening of trade and investment were discussed.

This is the maiden visit of the Foreign Minister of Hungary to India and he visited Agra (17 January) and did some sightseeing in and around Delhi.



511. Press Release of the Embassy of India at Budapest on the visit of Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur to Hungary.

Budapest, November 3, 2010.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs paid an official visit to Hungary from November 1-3, 2010 at the invitation of her Hungarian counterpart.

2. During her visit, she had talks with her counterpart Mr. Zsolt Nemeth on all issues of bilateral, regional and international concern. There was a comprehensive and frank dialogue on all issues between the two sides. Subsequently, Smt. Preneet Kaur called on Foreign Minister Mr. Janos Martonyi and Prime Minister Dr. Viktor Orban. The meeting with the Prime minister lasted for over 40 minutes.

3. Her discussions with various Hungarian dignitaries were characterised by friendship and warmth. Hungarian side expressed their keen desire to further strengthen Indo-Hungarian relations at all levels. Indo-Hungarian relations have been traditionally close and friendly. Bilateral trade and economic ties have expanded over time. The present level of bilateral trade is in the region of US\$ 700 million per annum. Indian investments in Hungary are in the region of US\$ 1 billion.

4. During the visit, Smt. Preneet Kaur also inaugurated the newly constructed building of the Chancery Annexe in Budapest. The inaugural ceremony was attended by a large number of senior officials from the various Ministries in the government of Hungary as also by some members of Hungarian Parliament. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Hungary was the Chief Guest on this occasion.



ICELAND**512. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Presentation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 to the President of Iceland Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson.****New Delhi, January 14, 2010.**

I had the privilege as the Chairman of the jury of this Award, to be part of the unanimous decision of the members of the Jury to confer the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 on. H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland.

It is indeed a great honour to have you, President Grimsson, in our midst today to receive this prestigious Award that bears the name of the great statesman and architect of modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru. Time, Nehru once said, "is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves". It is by a similar yardstick that you have been found worthy of this award.

You had first visited India as a young parliamentarian in 1983 and have ever since been closely associated with India and her leadership and in promoting true international understanding. We have witnessed your exemplary work in building international peace and understanding as the Chairman and later the International President of the Association of Parliamentarians for Global Action, in the Six Nations Peace Initiative as well as your significant contribution to the Parliamentary Conference of the Council of Europe which created the basis for work on North-South relations.

You have brought together elected representatives from over a hundred parliaments around the world to focus their energies and talents on issues of global concern such as peace, democracy, rule of law, human rights, sustainable development and population issues.

You have by your personal example encouraged political leaders to go beyond the issues that divide peoples and parties to demonstrate statesmanship in the interest of our common good.

You lead a nation that is reputed for its valuable role in promoting democracy in the world.

Excellency

Jawaharlal Nehru engaged in the task of consolidating democracy in the fledgling republic by drafting necessary constitutional and statutory provisions, creating and respecting democratic institutions and scrupulously ensuring that a developing country such as India did not lapse into the temptation of dictatorship. You have over the years similarly and consistently pursued your commitment to democratic practice, global peace and freedom.

I now invite the Director General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Secretary of the Jury of the Award to read the citation and request the President of India to present the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 to H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland.



513. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet in honour of the President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grimsson.

New Delhi, January 14, 2010.

Your Excellency President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson,

Madame Dorrit Moussaieff,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you and Madame Dorrit Moussaieff as well as your delegation to India.

Mr. President, you are a long-time friend of India. We have with great respect and admiration observed your deep knowledge and interest in our country.

You have personally played an important and active role in promoting friendship between our two countries from the early 1980s, as the President of the Iceland-India Friendship Society.

In the words of Har, in the Norse Poems of EDDA,

*"If you know that you have a friend and that he is true,
and that you will get good from him,
share your mind with him, exchange sincere thoughts,
and visit him often"*

Mr. President, we are delighted to have you, our friend, in our midst once again. We are particularly happy that you are with us as the recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had a unique role in the making of India as a nation and how India is perceived by the world. He constantly strove for establishing harmony amongst countries. By accepting the Award that bears his name, Mr. President, you have honoured the memory of that great Indian visionary and statesman, who has a special place in our hearts. We also recall that you earlier received, on behalf of the Parliamentarians for Global Action, the first Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. You richly deserve the awards conferred on you.

It is also deeply satisfying that our two countries have had a very friendly and warm relationship. Iceland is acknowledged as the world's oldest functioning democracy and India as the world's largest democracy. We share the cherished values of democracy, human rights and personal freedoms and hold similar views on a wide variety of regional and international issues.

Iceland which was classified as a developing country until the 1970s, today occupies a high rank in the global Human Development Index. This remarkable achievement has made Iceland a model for the world, to learn about how innovation and renewable energy can improve the economy and environment, in a single generation. Mr. President, your deep commitment to environmentally friendly measures has played a significant role in this. Iceland's achievements in Science and Technology cover a wide spectrum from genome mapping to hydrogen cell research. India

has also had successes in agriculture, Information Technology, pharmaceuticals and space research, among others. We are confident that your visit will further enhance our relations by strengthening bilateral trade and investment, as well as by opening up new mutually beneficial opportunities for both our countries.

We believe that our cultural, educational and youth exchanges should be expanded. The splendours of nature that Iceland is gifted with, coupled with our traditional and holistic health approaches such as Ayurveda, can create a new dimension in the area of wellness tourism. Mr. President, the major role you have played in the international drug prevention campaign, can contribute to promoting the cause of the well being of our peoples.

Both India and Iceland are committed to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We believe that there is an urgent need to reform the United Nations, to make it more in unison with contemporary realities. We greatly value Iceland's support for our just aspirations to be represented in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

We deeply appreciate Iceland's unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008. International terrorism poses a major threat to global peace and security. The international community must fight the scourge of terrorism unitedly.

Mr. President, we look forward to continued friendship and cooperation with you and your country, to further strengthen our relationship and to open up new vistas of further opportunities of working together. It is significant that you are with us on a day when we are observing Makar Sankranti in India, a festival in which we rejoice as we celebrate friendship and mutual understanding. We traditionally share sesame sweets as tokens of goodwill. I invite all to taste the sesame sweets on the table, as a symbol of friendship between our two countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, join me in a toast to:-

- the health and well being of President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson and Madame Dorrit Moussaieff;
- the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Iceland; and
- friendship and cooperation between India and Iceland.



514. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of the President of Iceland.

New Delhi, January 15, 2010.

President of Iceland, H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson and First Lady, Mrs. Dorrit Moussaieff are on a State visit to India from January 11-17, 2010. He is accompanied by a 20-member strong business delegation of prominent Icelandic companies. President Grimsson arrived in Mumbai on 11th January, 2010 where he met the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and had meetings with Indian businessmen and industrialists.

On 14th January, 2010 President Grimsson had meetings with Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Leader of Opposition and Chairman of UPA. He was also conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 by Rashtrapatiji. A State Banquet was hosted by Rashtrapatiji in honour of President Grimsson. President of Iceland also participated in a workshop on renewable energy and paid a visit to Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In their meeting, Prime Minister and President Grimsson discussed bilateral and international issues, including cooperation in the field of geo-thermal energy, IT, carbon sequestration and recycling, glaciological studies, earthquake prediction and, oil exploration by Indian companies of Iceland's coast. They also discussed the way forward on Climate Change after the COP-15 Conference.

President Grimsson now travels to Bangalore where he will meet Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka and also visit the facilities of some Indian companies, including Wipro. President of Iceland will depart from India on 17th January, 2010.



KOSOVO**515. Reaction of the Official Spokesperson on the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo.****New Delhi, August 8, 2010.**

In response to query on Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo, the Official Spokesperson said, "We are studying the Opinion of the ICJ (International Court of Justice) on the Kosovo issue. Our position on Kosovo's UDI (Unilateral Declaration of Independence) has not changed."

**NETHERLANDS****516. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in the Hague on the MoU signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, Netherlands for establishment of Council's Long-Term Chair for the study of Contemporary India.****The Hague, June 3, 2010.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Leiden University, The Netherlands signed on June 3rd, 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of Council's Long-Term Chair for the study of Contemporary India at the Leiden University, The Netherlands. The Chair will function under the aegis of the LEI Faculty of Humanities. H.E. Mr MANBIR SINGH, Ambassador of India in the Netherlands on behalf of ICCR and Prof. Mr. P.F. VAN DER HEIJDEN, Rector Magnificus and President on behalf of the Leiden University, signed the MoU.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of two years. During his/her term, the Chair would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring at various levels. The Chair would commence from September, 2011. The MoU would remain valid for five years until June, 2017.

Leiden University is the oldest and foremost amongst the institutions of higher learning in the Netherlands with over 18,000 students. Leiden University has a unique combination of excellence in the fields of international law, political science, and a specialized department of South Asian Studies with a focus on India through the unique Kern Institute. It has an international reputation as a leading research university. This makes Leiden University an ideal Dutch partner to host an India Chair in the politics and economy of modern India. The establishment of Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies would be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening educational and cultural bonds and towards enhancing academic knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



NORWAY

517. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Foreign Ministers of Australia and Norway.

New Delhi, March 2, 2010.

Please see Document No.265.



POLAND**518. Condolence Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski in an air crash.****New Delhi, April 11, 2010.**

"I have received with great shock and sadness the news about the death of President Lech Kaczynski, in a plane crash today. In President Kaczynski's death, Poland has lost an outstanding statesman. It is a special loss to India as President Kaczynski was personally committed to strengthening bilateral ties between our two countries. India mourns with you at this tragic hour.

On behalf of the Government and the people of India and, on my own behalf, I extend my deepest condolences to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of Poland at this most unfortunate and grievous loss."

**519. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Central Europe) on the visit of Polish Prime Minister.****New Delhi, September 6, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon.

Today, my colleague Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, who is the Joint Secretary (Central Europe), and I would like to brief you about the visit of the Polish Prime Minister His Excellency Donald Tusk, who is already here on a state visit at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India along with his spouse. He arrived today morning in Bangalore.

Let me take you through his programme. He would be meeting with the Governor. He would also be inaugurating and addressing a session of the India-Polish business organizations. This evening he comes to New Delhi.

Tomorrow, there is the ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan by the Prime Minister of India.

There will be calls on him by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna; Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. He calls on the President of India and the Vice-President of India. There is a meeting with the Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Later in the evening tomorrow, he would hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister, who is also hosting a banquet in the honour of the visiting dignitary, his spouse and the delegation. The day after he visits Agra, and thereafter he departs from New Delhi.

His delegation includes, besides his spouse, the Ambassador of Poland; the Head of Prime Minister's Office Mr. Arabsky; senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Defence, Foreign Investment Agency, and so on.

Joint Secretary (Central Europe) (Shrimati Banashri Bose Harrison):

The Indian Delegation for the talks will include our Defence Minister. It includes Commerce and Industry Minister. Of course it includes the External Affairs Minister. And it also includes other senior officials, including Culture Secretary because the only agreement which will be signed, though there were several in the pipeline, is the cultural exchange programme tomorrow.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you. We are both flourishing democracies. India-Poland relations are deep-rooted; have been traditionally close and friendly. These contacts have been nurtured by regular people-to-people exchanges and close cultural interactions which date back to the 15th century.

We appreciate by the strong tradition of Indology that has prevailed in Poland. Polish people have always evinced interest in Indian culture, spirituality and traditions. Polish scholars have been visiting India over the centuries to study Sanskrit, religion, philosophy; and some Sanskrit classics have been translated into Polish.

The first Chair of Sanskrit studies was established in Krakow more than a century ago in 1893. The Indology Department in the Oriental Institute of the University of Warsaw has been functioning since 1932. Our Indian Council for Cultural Relations has been supporting the Chair and been

sending teachers for Hindi and Tamil. Chairs on Indian studies have also been established in other cities of Poland. Similarly, Polish is being taught in Delhi University since 2009.

We established diplomatic relations in 1954, and the ties have flourished over the decades. We have had regular high-level exchanges. The President of India, paid a state visit to Poland in April last year, when amongst others she also met with Prime Minister Tusk. A Parliamentary Friendship Group has been constituted between the two countries.

Poland, is also our largest trading partner and export destination in the Central-European region. It has been a member of EU since 2004, and is one of the important gateways into the European Union and CIS. By the way, Poland will assume the Presidency of EU in the second half of 2011.

Our bilateral trade has maintained an upward trajectory, having grown seven times in the last ten years. It touched an all-time high of over 1.2 billion dollars in 2008, but dipped slightly in 2009 due to global economic downturn.

More than 20 Indian companies, have invested in Poland. These include Videocon, Escorts, Reliance, Ranbaxy, Essel Propac. In IT services, all our IT majors are there including Infosys, TCS. We have Tata Tetley, Berger Paints, Arcolabs, and so on, just to give you a few examples which are indicative of the robust economic and trade relations between India and Poland.

Polish companies too have manufacturing facilities in India in areas like hygiene and sanitary products, metal packaging, air-conditioning systems; and they have been offering services in oil exploration and extraction.

A number of important bilateral agreements underpin our relationship. These include the Bilateral Promotion and Protection Agreement on investments, the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, an extradition treaty, a defence cooperation agreement and agreement on science and technology.

Currently, we have good cooperation in other important sectors like science and technology, defence, culture, people-to-people exchanges. And there is good potential which both sides want to harness, in furthering cooperation in areas like energy, engineering, mining, and so on.

Our agreement on science and technology cooperation was signed in 1993 and is doing well. Our Defence Minister visited Poland in November 2004 when a Joint Working Group of Defence Cooperation was established and has been meeting regularly. The last meeting took place in Warsaw in April this year.

We have also a cultural exchange programme. I have already alluded to some of the important facets of our cultural exchanges. Interestingly we find that Bollywood is becoming popular in Poland.

Poland has also committed support for our candidature of the permanent membership of the UNSC. During this important visit, Prime Minister Tusk and the Prime Minister of India with their Delegations, will hold in-depth exchange of views on robust bilateral relations and also discuss bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Thank you. We will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: Can you tell us more about bilateral defense cooperation?

Joint Secretary (Central Europe): Defence cooperation with Poland began in early 1970s when, as you know, much of our defence equipment is of Soviet origin. So, Poland had at that time supplied us spares as well as technology for maintaining and upgrading several kinds of equipment, including something that they are currently interested in supplying to us also is tank recovery vehicles. They have expertise also in aircraft, some specific kinds of Soviet aircraft, again for which the upgradation technology as well as maintenance technology is something that Poland has.

I would like to mention a particular positive feature that Poland, unlike some of our business partners, is not interested only in selling the equipment to us but is also ready to have joint ventures and transfer technology. A Polish company is in collaboration already with an Indian company for some items and there are discussions under way for expanding that cooperation further.

Question: Are there any agreements expected to be signed in the defence area? What other agreements are expected to be signed during the visit?

Joint Secretary (Central Europe): None in defence. While there are a number of agreements on the table, the one agreement which will be signed

during the visit is the cultural exchange programme for 2010 to 2012. In the area of defence, as my colleague mentioned, after 2004 a Defence Working Group has been established which has been discussing cooperation in various fields including, I would like to highlight, training which is under way.

Official Spokesperson: Just to add here, this is ongoing cooperation. The fifth round of JWG discussions had taken place in Warsaw in April this year.

Question: Madam, you just mentioned about an Indian company being in discussion with a Polish company for defence equipment. Can you give us some details what this equipment is and at what stage we are? About the tank recovery vehicle, has New Delhi sent any request for information? Is there any RFP in the pipeline?

Joint Secretary (Central Europe): As you are aware, I think it would not be appropriate for me to mention the names of any companies in a government briefing.

Question: You said that defence cooperation would be expanded to other areas. Can you tell us to which other areas defence cooperation is likely to be expanded?

Official Spokesperson: I think my colleague and I have already covered this matter at some length. We have an important relationship, a multifaceted relationship, of which defence cooperation is also an important area. We have already shared with you how the defence cooperation has been progressing. She explained that. It is an ongoing process, and it certainly covers all elements including exchanges, training, technology transfer, procurement of defence equipment, and so on. So, suffice it to say that it is an important relationship and it is a process that is ongoing.

Question: Poland is a member of the EU. How do you think during the visit of the Prime Minister of Poland the issue of the Free Trade Agreement between EU and India will be discussed? And what are the chances of signing this agreement this year?

Joint Secretary (Central Europe): I would be going I think beyond my remit to be able to answer the last part of that question about the signing of

the agreement. But certainly Poland, as you are aware, is an active member of EU, and we would be discussing each other's activities in various multilateral organizations in which the other has an interest. So, we would certainly I think be hearing from Poland. Poland would be sharing with us its experiences within the EU, its perceptions of the priorities of EU and so on. And, I would imagine that this agreement would also be something that would be touched upon.

Official Spokesperson: I would only like to add here that EU is our largest trading partner. We have regular India-EU Summits. We have been working closely with each other. On the India-EU agreement, active discussions are ongoing.

Thank you very much.



520. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs during the visit of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

New Delhi, September 7, 2010.

The Prime Minister of Poland, Mr. Donald Tusk and his wife Mrs. Malgorzata Tusk are currently on a State Visit to India from September 6 to 8, 2010.

On the morning of 7th September, the Prime Minister of Poland was received ceremonially by the Prime Minister of India in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. In the evening, the Prime Minister and the visiting dignitary held delegation level talks in which they reviewed bilateral relations including enhancement of bilateral economic engagement. It was agreed that both sides would endeavour to enhance trade and investments in both directions with the target of doubling the value of bilateral trade by 2014. The Prime Minister and his Polish counterpart also discussed global issues like reform of the UN Security Council and climate change. They agreed to expand cooperation in the

field of clean coal technology. They also exchanged views on regional issues of common concern, including Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Tusk reaffirmed the support of Poland for India's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2011-12 as well as for a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council.

The Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2010-13 was signed after the talks and is expected to give a further boost to exchanges in this field.

Prime Minister Tusk was received by the President and the Vice President. Earlier in the day, Minister of State for External Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition called on the Prime Minister of Poland.

Prime Minister Tusk's delegation includes the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office and a number of senior officials including , among others, the Under Secretaries in charge of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Defence and the President of Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency. Representatives from the Polish media and from a number of Polish companies are also part of the accompanying delegation.

The Prime Minister and his delegation arrived in Bangalore yesterday. After a meeting with the Governor of Karnataka, Prime Minister Tusk inaugurated the Polish-Indian Investment Forum, in which more than 100 participants were present.

In his keynote remarks on the occasion as well in his meetings with Indian leaders, the Polish Prime Minister recalled the inspiration that Poland's Solidarity movement had drawn from the non-violent struggle of India's independence movement.

On 8th September 2010, Prime Minister Tusk and Madame Malgorzata Tusk would be travelling to Agra, before departing for Vietnam in the afternoon.

Agreement signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Poland

New Delhi, September 7, 2010.

Name of the Agreement	Polish Signatory	Indian Signatory
Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Culture & National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India for the Year 2010-13	H.E. Mr. Jacek Najder Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Shri Jawhar Sircar Secretary, Ministry of Culture



521. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Culture on the signing of a Cultural Cooperation Programme with Poland.

New Delhi, September 8, 2010.

India and Poland have signed a cooperation programme in the field of culture for the years 2010-2013. The signing ceremony was held in New Delhi yesterday after the delegation level talks between the two countries led by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister of Poland Shri Donald Tusk. The programme envisages among other things cooperation in the domain of disseminating information concerning cultural heritage of both countries. Both the countries shall support cooperation in the field of protection and conservation of monuments between institutions and organizations. Each of the parties shall organize a two-week internship stay one expert from the other party's country. According to the programme both the countries shall encourage cooperation in the scope of conservation of Stefan Norblin's works remaining on the territory of the Republic of India.

Both the countries shall cooperate in order to prevent the illicit import, export and transport of ownership of cultural property constituting their cultural heritage, pursuant to legal regulations in force and to relevant international conventions signed by both countries.

Both the countries shall encourage direct cooperation between International Cultural Centre in Krakow and INTACH in New Delhi.

Both the countries shall support direct cooperation between museums on terms and conditions determined by relevant museums.

Both the countries shall support development of cooperation between National Archives of India and Poland, pursuant to direct agreements between them, in particular in the scope of organizing visits of archivists, implementation of common projects, exchange of information, publications and copies of archive documents constituting objects of interest to each of the Parties.

Both the countries shall support cooperation between National Libraries, in particular in the area of exchange of information and publications.

In the field of cinematography, both the countries shall support direct cooperation between institutions, organizations and other entities in the domain of film production, providing film services, exchange of films on commercial and non-commercial terms, organization of film presentation and participation in international festivals organized in the other party's country. Both the countries shall support cooperation between association of filmmakers and National Film Archive of India and Poland.

Both the countries shall support mutual cooperation in the field of visual and fine arts, including direct contacts between relevant institutions, in order to exchange exhibitions and organize visits of artists and curators.

Both the countries shall organize a two-week internship stay for one expert from the other party's country in the domain of fashion design.

Both the countries shall support cooperation in the field of dance, theatre, music, folklore with a view to present the most valuable elements in cultural heritage of India and Poland.

Both the countries shall support presentation of musical pieces of composers origination from the other party's country.

Both the countries shall support translation of literary works of their authors into a language or languages of the other party.

Both the countries shall support direct cooperation between art schools from both countries, in particular fine arts and theatre schools. All details pertaining to the cooperation shall be agreed upon by relevant schools and universities.



RUSSIA**522 Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) on the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.****New Delhi, March 11, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. My colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), who inter alia looks after affairs pertaining to Russia, is here today along with me to brief you about the very important visit of Prime Minister Putin which commences later this evening.

A warm welcome awaits Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, an old and very special friend of India, who is also the co-architect of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership. He is coming on a working visit at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India.

Let me take you through his programme. Tomorrow he will be calling on the President of India. He would be having a meeting with Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Then he has talks with the Prime Minister who would also be hosting a dinner in honour of the distinguished guest. Both sides will be signing a number of agreements.

Prime Minister Putin is leading a high-powered delegation comprising of several Ministers and senior officials including Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Sobyenin, the Minister for Economic Development Mrs. Elvira Nabiullina, Minister of Energy Mr. Sergei Shmatko, the Ambassador of Russian Federation to India, and a number of senior officials from various Ministries, Departments and agencies including space and atomic energy agency.

Prime Minister of India will be assisted by Defence Minister Mr. A.K. Anthony, the Minister of External Affairs Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Murli Deora, Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Anand Sharma, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, National Security Advisor, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy, Secretary of Department of Space and other

officials including Joint Secretary (ERS) who is present here. That broadly is the composition of the delegation. In addition, a 15-member Business Delegation will be accompanying the Russian Prime Minister which has interests varying from diamonds to aviation.

Russia, as you know, is a valued partner and friend of India. Our ties with the Russian Federation are time-tested, based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. We are both democratic and pluralistic societies having a similarity of outlook, a similarity of views on a host of regional and international issues. There is national consensus in both countries on the need to preserve and strengthen the fundamentals of India-Russia relations.

Both sides are engaged in further consolidating the strategic partnership which was announced during the landmark visit of the then President Putin to India in the year 2000. You would recall that during the very successful visit of our Prime Minister to Russia last year in December, the sides adopted a 'Joint Declaration on Deepening the Strategic Partnership to meet Global Challenges'. Our PM's visit had taken place within the framework of the mechanism of annual summits agreed upon in the year 2000. Since then there have been regular summit visit level meetings. Many of you would remember that President Putin last visited India on 25 and 26 January 2007, when he was also the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day Celebrations.

President Medvedev paid a state visit to India on 4 and 5 December 2008 when he participated in the Closing Ceremony of the Year of Russia in India along with the President of India. A number of important documents were signed including the agreement on construction of additional nuclear power plants at Kudankulam site and construction of Russian designed nuclear power plants at new sites in India. I may add that recently it was decided to offer an additional site to Russia at Haripur in West Bengal. Furthermore a Memorandum of Understanding between ISRO and Russian Federal Space Agency on joint activities in the field of human space flight programme was also concluded.

In fact, I am happy to note that high-level visits and exchanges have become a hallmark of our relations, and the year 2009 saw a further intensification of these high-level exchanges. You would recall that Rashtrapatiji, President

of India, paid a state visit to Russia in September last year. The External Affairs Minister was in Moscow for the 15th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Sobyanin, who is the co-chair of the Commission, was in India in November 2009 and again in February this year. He would be accompanying Prime Minister Putin. Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Anand Sharma visited Russia in September. We have also institutionalized a defence cooperation mechanism between the two countries at Defence Minister level which took our Defence Minister Mr. A.K. Anthony to Moscow in October for the 9th meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Technical Cooperation.

Our defence cooperation is no longer restricted to a buyer-seller relationship but includes joint design, research and development, joint production, training, and service-to-service contacts. We are also holding joint naval exercises and counter-terrorism exercises.

And finally we saw the very successful visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Moscow when again a number of agreements were signed, which are on the website and you may like to take a look. I would just refer to two of them. One is the agreement on military and technical cooperation for the period 2011 to 2020, and also the sides initialed an agreement of cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy.

PM held intensive discussions with President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin on taking our relationship to a higher level, and the outcome of that was the Joint Declaration on deepening strategic partnership, which I just referred to.

Following the talks between our Prime Minister and Prime Minister Mr. Putin, the two leaders addressed the India-Russia CEO Council's meeting which is an important mechanism for boosting private sector cooperation between the two countries. You know that Mr. Mukesh Ambani co-chairs the Council. I also mentioned that Prime Minister Putin is going to be accompanied by a 15-member Business Delegation. Efforts are under way to increase the trade turnover between the two sides which has already touched 7.5 billion dollars in 2009, which was an increase of eight per cent over the previous year despite a global slowdown.

I just wanted to give you a few snapshots of the ties for you to see that ours is truly a multifaceted strategic partnership spanning a whole range of areas including defence, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, science and technology, space, economic and trade aspects, culture - we have very old cultural ties with Russia - and parliamentary exchanges, etc.

This is the background in which the visit, a very important visit, of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is taking place. During the visit both the sides will review the entire range of bilateral ties and exchange views on how to nurture and further expand our strategic partnership. We are aiming to take forward our bilateral cooperation in strategic sectors like hydrocarbons, civil nuclear energy, space and defence. The two leaders will also be holding discussions on energizing our trade and investment ties. Our expectation is that the visit will set the tone for the bilateral exchanges for the rest of the year.

Several documents are likely to be concluded during the visit. Certainly we will share the details with you in due course. The two Prime Ministers are also likely to jointly address the media tomorrow upon conclusion of delegation-level talks. We will be happy now to take a few questions relating to the visit of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Question: How many agreements would be signed?

Official Spokesperson: We expect a number of agreements to be signed in areas like energy, fertilizers and so on. Discussions are ongoing on some. So, you will please bear with us. We will be more than happy to give you the details, as we always do, once the agreements are concluded tomorrow.

Question: When will the deal on the Gorshkov be finalized? Would you see that as the biggest takeaway from this visit in terms of deals? Secondly, what is happening to the NTPC project? Is a political clearance expected during this visit?

Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria): On Gorshkov, you have seen it and we have seen it, essentially the position in terms of background is that over today and tomorrow we expect to sign several supplementary agreements. These are supplementary to the basic contract of Gorshkov which was signed in 2004. This includes a range of issues like costing and

technical details. But the point in terms of background to remember is that Gorshkov is a big contract which has had its own impetus in terms of discussions which have been ongoing in Technical Committees and with technical visits being exchanged for a long period. What we expect to sign tomorrow are some supplementary agreements on a basic understanding that is already reached.

NTPC project has been an issue that has been under discussion for a while because it is a commercial dispute between two parties. This has been discussed in the past and will continue to be discussed. But we do not expect any clear resolution at this point.

Question: At one point of time the Russians used to give us 70 per cent of our defence needs. What is the percentage now? Has the so-called Rupee-Ruble arrangement, been sorted out for good? The businessmen from India have had problems getting visas to go to Russia. Has that also been sorted out?

Joint Secretary (ERS): Let me take those three questions one by one. On the percentage, I am not very sure but it hovers near 60 and 70. We are not very sure of the exact number because the calculations are based on different bases and so on.

On the issue of visas, yes this has been under discussion. We have had a number of delegations being exchanged. Our businessmen have complained of problems. We have discussed various ways of making the systems more efficient, for instance by allowing letters from Chambers of Commerce to serve as facilitating letters on issue of visas. But this is under discussion still and it all plays into domestic legislation which is very complex. So, there is no final decision on that as well.

On Rupee-Ruble trade, you would recall that this was the norm of trade till the 80s when we based our trade on Rupee-Ruble arrangements, based on annual protocols of goods which were canalized through state agencies. But that system ended in 1992 when we signed a new trade agreement for hard currency based trade. We did have residual issue of accumulated Rupee balances which were permitted to be used for exports of goods from India to Russia as well as later, with some amendments, for Russian investments in India. This system is nearing its end and the Rupee-Ruble balances are about to get over.

Official Spokesperson: I may just like add here that, as I mentioned, the very fact that trade is rising, the very fact that investments on both sides are increasing is indicative of the fact that we are on the right track.

Question: What is the status of the Haripur project? Has the land been acquired?

Joint Secretary (ERS): The status is that we have made an announcement of the decision to award Haripur as a site to the Russian side for creation of nuclear power plants. That is where it rests. It is very early days.

Question: Somebody said environmental clearance was given. Is that right?

Joint Secretary (ERS): I am not aware of that. I think it is a decision in principle at this point of time and there are no specifics yet.

Question: Russia has been seeking India's support for membership in WTO. What is India's stand now?

Joint Secretary (ERS): WTO accession of Russia is an issue. There are ongoing discussions on a series of issues related to this. There is no clear yes or no at this point.

Question: What will India discuss with Prime Minister Putin about Afghanistan? Is India at a stage where it wants to intensify dialogue with Russia, Iran and the Central Asian states about what the strategy should be after NATO pulls out of Afghanistan?

Official Spokesperson: During the visit of Prime Minister Putin, besides bilateral issues the two leaders are likely to discuss a range of regional and international issues of interest. What specifically they would discuss, I am not in a position to predict or to specify. But specifically in respect of Afghanistan, what I would like to say is that Russia and India have common concerns with regard to situation in Afghanistan, the Af-Pak region. We both agree on the need for strong international cooperation against terrorism and financing of terrorism, the need for sustained international efforts to effectively combat production and trafficking narcotics in the region. India and Russia would also like to see rapid economic development in Afghanistan, rapid reconstruction in Afghanistan, return to normalcy in

Afghanistan. We both agree that this has to be a concerted effort on the part of the international community. Russia has been appreciative of India's developmental efforts in Afghanistan. You are aware that we have already invested over 1.3 billion dollars in a range of infrastructure projects and small development projects in Afghanistan. Russia and India also have a similar outlook on the menace of terrorism which confronts both our countries and the international community. I would like to note here that Russia has been supportive of India's draft text at the UN on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Question: We have cooperation with Russia so far as the blocks of oil were concerned. What is exactly happening on this cooperation so far as the oil blocks are concerned?

Joint Secretary (ERS): As you mentioned rightly, one of India's most significant overseas investments was in Sakhalin-I in the year 2000. At its peak the investment was almost 2.8 billion dollars. Since then India has also invested more in that region through ONGC Videsh Limited - 2.1 billion dollars was the investment for buying a British company called Imperial Energy in the Tomsk region in Siberia. So, India has had energy strategy of investing in equity in that region and this continues to be the strategy. We have had ongoing discussions with the Russian side on several more investments where ONGC Videsh Limited is willing to go along with Russian oil and gas majors like Gazprom and Rosneft to invest in different regions of Siberia and even North Russia. In Siberia the regions are Sakhalin-III and there is a region on Timan Pechora, as also there is an interest on the Indian side in the Yamal peninsula which is a gas-rich area in Northern Russia. So, these talks are continuing. As you observed, the Energy Minister of Russia will be here and Mr. Murli Deora, the Minister for Petroleum will have a conversation on that issue.

Question: There was also talk on developing the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft. Is there a final agreement or just discussions?

Joint Secretary (ERS): I understand there are ongoing discussions on this subject. You would have seen at the Defexpo there were various exhibits on that subject. We have ongoing discussions on the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft.

Question: In Indian press there were reports about signing the agreement for more MiG-29Ks during the visit. What about this agreement?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, we will certainly let you know. We have already shared with you that a number of agreements are likely to be signed. That is why I also took you through the very important agreements that have been concluded in the past at different stages. I have also mentioned that we regard Prime Minister Putin's visit as a very significant visit. We are likely to have a number of agreements, some of which are still under finalization. Tomorrow, once the agreements are signed, we will be in a better position of course to share with you specifics. I will appreciate if you bear with us till then.

Thank you very much.



523. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

New Delhi, March 12, 2010.

His Excellency Prime Minister Vladimir Putin,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

We are delighted to have in our midst today a great friend of India, His Excellency Prime Minister Putin of Russia. We attach the highest importance to his visit.

Prime Minister Putin has been the architect of the strategic partnership between India and Russia, and we owe a deep sense of gratitude to him for bringing our two countries so close to each other.

We have just concluded very comprehensive and indepth discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues. I conveyed to Prime Minister Putin that relations with Russia are a key pillar of our foreign policy, and we regard Russia as a trusted and reliable strategic partner. Ours is a

relationship that not only stands independent of any other, but whose significance has grown over time. Our partnership covers areas such as defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment.

In the run-up to, and during Prime Minister Putin's visit, we have finalised several important and long pending defence cooperation projects which will deepen our longstanding partnership in this vital sector. We have signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in Atomic Energy and agreed upon a Roadmap for construction of nuclear power plants. A Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral cooperation in Russia's satellite navigation system has been agreed upon.

We have agreed to strengthen our cooperation in hydrocarbons through greater collaboration between our oil and gas companies. Agreements have been signed in the areas of fertilisers. We have identified information technology and telecommunications as focus areas for our future economic cooperation.

The outcomes of Prime Minister Putin's visit are therefore rich and very substantive.

We had a detailed discussion on regional and global issues. There is much that India and Russia can do together to advance global peace and stability and the process of global economic revival. We have agreed to intensify our consultations on Afghanistan and the challenges posed by terrorism and extremism in our region.

I am very happy to state that my discussions with Prime Minister Putin have reinforced the strong ties of friendship that bind our two countries together.

Thank you.



524. List of Agreement(s)/MOUs signed during the visit of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to India (March 11-12,2010)

New Delhi, March 12, 2010.

Sl No	Name of Agreements/MoU	Russian Signatory	Indian Signatory
1	Agreement Between the two Governments on Cooperation in the use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes	MR. SERGEY KIRIENKO Director General, State Corporation "ROSATOM"	DR. SREE KUMAR BANERJEE Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
2	Road Map for the Serial Construction of Russian Designed Nuclear Power Plants in the Republic of India	MR.SERGEY KIRIENKO Director General, State Corporation "ROSATOM"	DR. SREE KUMAR BANERJEE Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
3	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Space Research Organization and Federal Space Agency and JSC "Navigation-Information Systems" of the Russian Federation on their Joint Enterprise for production of Satellite Navigation Equipment and Services for Civilian Users	MR. ANATOLY SHILOV Deputy Head, Federal Space Agency	DR. K. RADHAKRISHNAN Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation
4	Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments on Cooperation in the Mineral Fertilizers sector	MR. DENIS MAN TUROV Deputy Minister of Industry & Trade	SHRI S. KRISHNAN Secretary, Department of Fertilizers
5	Framework Agreement between IFFCO and IPL from India and FOSAGRO from Russia on import of DAP Fertilize	MR. MAXIM VOLKOV Director General, OJSC, FOSAGRO	DR. UDAY SHANKER AWASTHI Managing Director, IFFCO



525. Press Statement issued by the Department of Atomic Energy on the India-Russia Agreement on construction of Reactors of Russian design in India.

Mumbai, March 13, 2010.

India & Russia yesterday (March 12, 2010) agreed on a Roadmap for construction of reactors of Russian design in India. The road map outlines the timelines for steps to be taken for the construction of Kudankulam units 3 & 4, provides for construction of two more reactors at Kudankulam (Units 5&6) and two reactors at Haripur, West Bengal during 12th Five Year Plan. Construction of more reactors of Russian design will be considered during formulation of the 13th Five Year Plan. Besides, the road map calls for progressive indigenisation of supplies for the reactors to be constructed in collaboration with Russia beyond the level already envisaged in Kudankulam Units 3 & 4.



526. Condolence Message from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Russian President on terrorist attack in Moscow.

New Delhi, March 29, 2010.

Your Excellency,

It is with great anguish that I have learnt of the bomb blasts in Moscow, which have led to the loss of so many innocent lives. This is a most tragic and horrific act of violence. At this difficult hour our thoughts are with you, the people of Russia and the families and friends of the victims of this terrible tragedy. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I convey our deepest condolences. I wish to assure you that India stands united with Russia in combating the forces of violence and terrorism.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**His Excellency Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev
President of the Russian Federation Moscow**

Manmohan Singh



On the same day the Ministry of External Affairs also issued a press release condemning the bomb blasts and expressing its "solidarity with the Government and the people of Russia". It also expressed the conviction that "only collective efforts by the international community can combat the scourge of terrorism that the world is facing today."

527. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the 10th meeting of the India - Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Technical Cooperation.

New Delhi, October 7, 2010.

The Tenth Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was held here today. The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and the Russian Defence Minister Mr. AE Serdyukov headed the respective delegations. The Indian delegation included Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri RK Singh, Shri VK Saraswat, Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The Russian delegation included representatives from the Russian Ministry of Defence and the Russian Defence Industry.

In his opening remarks at the IRIGC-MTC meeting, Shri Antony said that India values the strong and multifaceted friendship with Russia and noted that the defence relationship between both countries is based on convergent and complementary interests and has been mutually beneficial. He also observed that the bilateral defence cooperation with Russia is a comprehensive partnership, in which both countries have moved beyond the buyer-seller relationship and are collaborating in joint R&D and production of defence equipments and systems.

The Commission took note of the progress on several major projects since its last meeting, which was held in Moscow in October 2009. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the Shareholders Agreement for formation of a Joint Venture Company for the development and production of the Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA). Further, both sides agreed to expedite modalities for the proposed project for the joint design, development and production of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA).

"India hopes to get 45 MTA and also finalize the FGFA, ... all the issues we have discussed and solved between our two countries... now it is in the final stages of the Indian government, some technical formalities between the governments is needed and I am sure we will be able to complete very soon...within a few months," Shri Antony later told a joint

press conference. "As per this agreement India will receive approximately between 250-300 most modern FGFA. These two projects are the major achievements of this year and for the next ten years these two projects, MTA and FGFA, will be a shining example of India and Russian defence cooperation," he added.

"We have very good big plans and we have very serious projects and work before us. And this, as I said, will be a big challenge and we will try to do our best in order to prove that our bilateral cooperation can give us very good practical results," said Mr. Serdyukov.

The Joint Commission also reviewed the status of several other ongoing and proposed projects, including the licenced production of T-90 Tanks and the establishment of the repair and overhaul facilities for various Russian origin defence equipment in India.

The IRIGC-MTC was established in 2000, with a view to further bilateral defence cooperation between India and Russia. Russia is the only country with which India has such an institutionalized mechanism at the level of the Defence Ministers of both sides, which highlights the strength and importance of the bilateral defence relationship. The Commission is supported by two Working groups - on Military Technical Cooperation and Shipbuilding, Aviation and Land Systems respectively and seven sub-groups.

The scope for military technical cooperation between both countries is defined through an umbrella inter-Governmental agreement; and Agreement on a long term programme for military and technical cooperation for the period 2011-2020 was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russia in December last year.

Prior to the IRIGC meeting today, both Defence Ministers also held separate discussions on various issues of regional and global security. Both Ministers agreed on the need to enhance interactions between the Armed Forces of both countries. Noting that a joint exercise between the Armies of both sides is due to be held in India this month, both Ministers also decided that a joint exercise between the Armed Forces would be held in Russia in 2011. The Russian Defence Minister also stated that the Chief of Defence Forces of Russia would visit India in November this year and that the Russian Navy Chief would visit in January 2011.



528. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) Ajay Bisaria on India-Russia Joint Economic Commission Meeting.

New Delhi, November 16, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. My colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), who is responsible for our relations with Russia, and I would like to brief you on the 16th Inter-Governmental Joint Economic Commission meeting which is to take place on the 18th of November.

The Economic Commission which is formally called the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, had last met on 21st of October in Moscow. The Commission which guides the conduct of economic cooperation was set up in May 1992, and the first session was held in Moscow in September 1994. It is co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna and Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Ivanov of Russia.

Mr. Sergei Ivanov is an old friend of India. He has been to India on several occasions. He has met with senior Indian leaders. He is also one of the senior leaders in the Russian Government. He was Defence Minister for quite a few years, and in May 2008, was reappointed as the Deputy-Prime Minister of Russia. He is currently responsible for areas including industrial development, the defence industry complex, transport and communication, science and innovation, border issues, military reserves, and export control.

India and Russia are time-tested friends. It is easily one of the most important relationships for us. There is the broadest possible consensus in India for close, cooperative relations with Russia. Our ties are based on trust, continuity and mutual understanding.

During the visit of President Vladimir Putin in 2000, both sides decided to elevate the relationship to the level of strategic partnership. In fact, we are observing the tenth anniversary of our strategic partnership this year. During the last ten years we have witnessed steady growth in bilateral cooperation in all areas including political, economic, strategic, and other aspects of cooperation.

Later this year in December 2010 we are preparing to welcome President Dmitry Medvedev, who will be here on a state visit to India. The practice of annual summits between Indian Prime Minister and the Russian President also goes back to 2000. You would recall that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had visited Moscow last year in December. In March this year, we had also hosted and welcomed Prime Minister Putin who had visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. As I mentioned, he is a co-architect of India-Russia Strategic Partnership. During his visit a number of important agreements were signed between the two sides.

It is fair to say that our bilateral relationship has always received the highest level attention. You would also recall that Rashtrapatiji, had paid a state visit to Russia in September last year, which was a significant event for both sides.

It is our practice to very carefully prepare the groundwork before the annual summit meetings, and this is primarily done through the two Inter-Governmental Commissions - one on the Economic, Cultural, Scientific, side, which as I said will be meeting on the 18th of November; another Commission is the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation, which is led by the Defence Ministers. That Commission had met last month on the 7th and 8th of October. These two Commissions constitute a vital institutional mechanism to infuse greater momentum in our relationship, and oversee practically all aspects of our significant bilateral cooperation.

Ours is truly a multifaceted strategic cooperation spanning a wide spectrum of areas including defence, civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, science and technology, space, economic and trade matters, culture, parliamentary exchanges, people-to-people exchanges, and so on.

Energetic efforts are afoot on both sides to give a further boost to our bilateral trade. It is significant that in 2009 despite the global economic slowdown, bilateral trade grew to almost 7.5 billion dollars from less than \$ 7 billion in 2008. In the first seven months of this year, our trade has registered a robust growth of close to 24%, which is very encouraging. As such, a trade target of \$ 20 billion has been set for the year 2015.

Valuable Indian investments, especially in the hydrocarbons sector have been made by OVL and other companies in Russia, which are estimated at

\$ 4.25 billion, which include Indian investments in Sakhalin-I and Imperial Energy. Other investments are by Tata Motors, Tata Tea, and in the banking sector. In fact, one of the areas which needed attention was banking linkages and we are happy that now both countries have good banking links.

Russian investments are estimated at about \$ 1 billion, primarily in the telecom sector. There is clearly a lot of untapped potential which both countries are trying to bridge. Particularly efforts are underway to enhance direct business-to-business links in addition to Government-to-Government exchanges.

In that direction a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) recently with St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) for regular Indian participation in this important economic forum. CIM led the biggest ever Indian business delegation to participate in the Forum on 18th and 19th of June this year. This participation was preceded by the first ever India-Russia Business Dialogue, a very successful business dialogue, which took place in St. Petersburg on the 17th of June this year.

In the same vein, an India-Russia CEO's Forum was set up in 2008. It is led by Chairman of Reliance Group Mr. Mukesh Ambani, and the Chairman of Systema, Mr. Vladimir Yevtushenkov. In addition we also have the India-Russia Trade and Investment Forum which was established in 2007. It is led by the Commerce and Industry Minister from our side.

By way of background I may add that the India-Russia Joint Economic Commission integrates inputs from six important Joint Working Groups which meet regularly. These are the working groups on trade and economy, energy, modernization and industrial cooperation, science and technology, information and communications technology, culture and tourism. In addition to these six Joint Working Groups there is also a subgroup on banking and financial matters which met in June this year.

Both sides have identified a number of priority areas of cooperation having a lot of potential, which include energy including nuclear and hydrocarbons, information technology, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, metals and minerals, fertilizers - by the way fertilizers are emerging as a very important item of import from Russia into India and we are looking at further expanding

our cooperation in this important sector - food processing, construction and engineering services, financial services, telemedicine, and so on. We have also been witnessing good cooperation in the energy sector, both in the civil nuclear energy sector as well as in the hydrocarbons sector.

In sum, the Co-Chairs or the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission will review progress since the last meeting of the Joint Commission, and also take on board the recommendations of the Joint Working Groups for closer economic engagement between the two countries. The Commission will also prepare for the very important forthcoming state visit of President Dmitry Medvedev to India.

My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission.

Question: I would like to know which Ministers will be present for this Inter-Governmental Commission on Indian side, which new projects may be discussed, and whether the titanium project in Orissa would be discussed in this meeting.

Official Spokesperson: The programme of the visit is being finalized. Deputy Prime Minister is arriving on the 17th. Besides the Joint Commission meeting he would also be calling on the Prime Minister of India and meeting other dignitaries. As the name itself of the Joint Commission suggests, the canvas is very broad. I have already mentioned that there are six Joint Working Groups. So, representatives of Ministries from both sides in the said areas, will be participating in the Joint Commission meeting. We are in the process of finalizing the list of participation and we will be sharing that further. Would you like to add something?

Joint Secretary (Eurasia) (Shri Ajay Bisaria): Sure. This is a mechanism which comprehensively views the relationship. The Deputy Prime Minister would be calling on our Prime Minister and also meeting other senior leaders on a programme that is still being finalized. You mentioned one particular project of cooperation which is titanium dioxide.

Question: Will that be on the agenda?

Joint Secretary (Eurasia): Yes, certainly. There will be a comprehensive review of all ongoing projects, as well as a number of future projects are

likely to be identified. So, there would be a discussion on this as well as other issues.

Official Spokesperson: And the outcome you will see in the Joint Statement that will be put out.

Question: Sir, what is the state of play on the nuclear cooperation that we are working on with Russia? And are we expecting any agreements during the visit of President Medvedev?

Official Spokesperson: Civil Nuclear cooperation is not covered by this particular Joint Commission, but I will request my colleague to give you a perspective.

Joint Secretary (Eurasia): Nuclear cooperation is an ongoing issue between India and Russia. There was a very important Inter-Governmental agreement which was a framework agreement on nuclear cooperation which was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Putin in March. That provides the basis for ongoing discussions on this issue. We would expect some more agreements to be reached, or understandings to be reached before December. But this is all an ongoing process.

Question: Have we made any headway in investments in the oil sector after Sakhalin-I? Has there been any bidding process? What is the status on that? And if I could just ask one more thing, this is not really with reference with the Joint Commission meeting, the Russian position on the UN Security Council seat according to me seems to have taken a slight change. Earlier the thing was that they would sort of back us completely along with the veto power. It seems to have changed right now.

Official Spokesperson: When did you see the change? What are you referring to in particular?

Question: There was a reference to the fact I think in the RIC meeting or on the sidelines of that. There was a report which said that not a complete backing.

Joint Secretary (Eurasia): Your first question was on hydrocarbons cooperation. Again that is an ongoing sector of cooperation. As you mentioned, there was an important investment by India's OVL in Sakhalin-I when they got 20 per cent equity in Gazprom. After that a whole series of

developments have taken place. Notably, India invested more than two billion dollars in buying a company called Imperial Energy which was a British company. That is a significant investment. Even after that there continues to be a great deal of discussion on specific projects in Russia including specific oil fields which are becoming available in Siberia in Northern Russia, places like the Yamal Peninsula, there are blocks called the Trebs and Titov blocks in the Teman-Pechora region. So, this is an ongoing process. And there is discussion as well on signing or agreeing upon some kind of umbrella understanding in this sector. So, it continues and a discussion in this area is ongoing at the expert level.

On the Security Council seat, of course, you referred to the recent trilateral meeting where there was some discussion on this issue. As you are aware, Russia has welcomed India into the Security Council for the period 2011-12 when India takes on a position as non-permanent member. So, they have welcomed India's entry into the body and also look forward to constructive participation. And Russia's position, which they have enunciated several times, is very clear on India's case for a permanent membership of the Security Council and that basically is that Russia considers India a deserving and strong candidate for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. This is a position Russia has repeatedly expressed. But as we go along and discuss this issue at various bilateral fora, the discussion continues on various nuances of India's bid for a permanent seat as well.

Official Spokesperson: I may just add that the two sides have also decided to maintain close coordination, close consultation at New York between the two PRs and also certainly between the two countries.

Question: You mentioned Mr. Ivanov being in charge of export control also. Does this forum deal with export control? And is it true that Russia recently lifted some export controls imposed since 1965?

Official Spokesperson: This forum does not deal with that.

Question: Sir, Kashmir has been removed from the UN list of unresolved disputes, and Pakistan says this is an inadvertent omission. What is your reaction?

Official Spokesperson: Our position is very clear. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. We have and are prepared to have consultations, discussions on all bilateral issues with Pakistan. This position of India is widely accepted and appreciated by members of the international community.

Question: Are you confirming this report that we have taken off the list of unresolved disputes?

Official Spokesperson: I am just confirming what I just said.

Question: Will Kashmir being removed from the list help us in any way for the permanent seat in the UNSC?

Official Spokesperson: I have just articulated our position on the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.



529. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 16th Session of the India-Russia Economic Joint Commission meeting.

New Delhi, November 18, 2010.

The Sixteenth Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in New Delhi on 18 November 2010. The Indian side was led by the Minister of External Affairs and the Chairman of the Indian side of the Commission, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna. The Russian side was led by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the Russian side of the Commission, H.E. Mr. S. B. Ivanov.

The entire spectrum of India-Russia trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation was reviewed during the meeting. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the recent increase in bilateral trade and investments while recognizing that the level of economic engagement

remained below its potential give the size of the two economies. In this context, both sides identified concrete steps to further develop economic relations in priority areas of cooperation. The main outcomes of the discussion are summarised in the enclosure. The next session of the IRIGC-TEC will be held in Moscow in 2011.

DPM Ivanov is on an official visit to India from 17 to 19 November 2010. He is accompanied by senior officials of the Russian Government and business representatives. During his visit, DPM Ivanov is scheduled to call on the Prime Minister and have bilateral meetings with other Indian dignitaries. The discussions will contribute to the preparations for the forthcoming visit of the President of the Russian Federation, H. E. Mr. D. A. Medvedev to India in December 2010 for the Indo-Russian Annual Summit.

Salient outcomes of the 16th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)

Bilateral Exchanges

- The Commission expressed satisfaction at the continuation in the momentum of high-level bilateral contacts in the past one year which have delivered concrete results in the further development of bilateral economic relations. Both Sides resolved to work in tandem to proactively follow up on these discussions with a view to finalising some key Agreements/ MOUs in the economic sphere to be signed during the forthcoming visit of the President of the Russian Federation, H. E. Mr. D. A. Medvedev to India in December 2010 for the Indo-Russian Annual Summit.
- Recognising the importance of establishing direct B2B contacts in achieving a quantum leap in bilateral trade and investment levels, the Commission underscored that the Indo-Russian Trade and Investment Forum (IRTIF) and the CEOs' Council have to play a lead role in this regard. The Sides noted with satisfaction the considerable interest of business circles of both countries in the Fourth Session of IRTIF, which will be held in December 2010 in

New Delhi. They also welcomed the holding of first-ever India-Russia Business Dialogue within the framework of the prestigious St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in June 2010 and expressed confidence that the MOU entered into by CII and SPIEF Foundation would pave the way for regular institutionalized B2B interactions and exchanges.

Review of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

- While reviewing the bilateral trade & economic cooperation, the Commission observed that trade and investment between India and Russia has been growing but is still modest compared to the sizes of the two economies and their potential. Both Sides agreed to make sustained and enhanced efforts to achieve the bilateral trade turnover target of USD 20 billion by 2015. The Commission called upon relevant Working Groups and agencies on both sides to identify new and innovative joint projects in priority areas of cooperation in order to increase the level of bilateral economic engagement and to speedily achieve the economic targets set by the two countries.
- The Commission agreed that with its proven competence in the fields of IT, financial services, pharmaceuticals and hydrocarbon processing, India can be a strong and reliable partner in Russia's pursuit of modernization of its economy. The Commission asked for the preparation of a forward-looking bilateral programme on cooperation in the areas of modernization and innovation.
- The Commission noted the strong interest of Indian companies to participate in the privatization programme of the Government of the Russian Federation and called for organizing B2B interactions in this regard inter alia within the framework of India-Russia Forum on Trade & Investment and CEOs Council.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

Energy

- The Commission expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation in the civilian nuclear energy sector. It welcomed the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on

Atomic Energy Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes and the Roadmap for Serial Construction of Russian-designed Nuclear Power Plants in India, during the March 2010 visit of the Russian Prime Minister to India.

- The Commission agreed on the need to enhance bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector which could be an excellent vehicle to achieve a quantum increase in bilateral trade and investment ties. While noting that India and Russia have made a good beginning in this direction with the collaboration in Sakhalin-I, and the acquisition of Imperial Energy by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), both Sides called for tangible steps to move forward on new project proposals.

Diamonds

- Recognizing the strong complementarity between Indian and Russia in the area of trade in rough diamonds, the Commission welcomed the signing of long-term contracts between Russian and select Indian companies and called for sustaining this positive momentum through conclusion of additional contracts.

Agriculture/ Food Products

- Recognising the large scope for export of food commodities and processed food products from India to Russia, both Sides resolved to work towards early finalisation of the agreement on mutual recognition/equivalence of standards and conformity assessment procedures for facilitating trade in goods between India and Russia.

Pharmaceuticals

- Both Sides welcomed the growth in bilateral trade in the pharmaceuticals sector and called for bilateral investments and establishment of JVs. The Commission noted the huge potential for participation by Indian companies in the realization of Pharma 2020 programme of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian side conveyed its interest in joint activities for developing new pharmaceutical products and technologies.

IT

- Recognising the huge potential for mutually-beneficial cooperation in the IT sector, the Commission emphasized the need to identify specific projects for collaboration between Indian and Russian companies in development of Techno Parks (including Skolkovo Innovation Centre), e-governance, BPO/KPO, IT learning and tele-medicines.

Fertilizers/ Chemicals/ Mining

- The Commission expressed satisfaction at the steady growth in the fertilizer trade between India and Russia amounting to a value of over USD 2.1 billion in the period April 2009 - March 2010. The Sides also welcomed the signing of the MOU between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India on cooperation in the field of mineral fertilizers, and also signing of the framework agreement on supply of fertilizers between Russian and Indian companies. The Commission identified specific steps to enhance cooperation in this sector including through establishment of JVs in Russia for setting up fertiliser manufacturing units and possible participation of Russian fertilizer entities in the revival of closed urea plants in India.

Mining & Metallurgy

- The Commission recognized the interest shown by Indian and Russian companies for collaboration in the area of mines and metallurgy including through conclusion of long-term supply contracts.

Banking and Finance

- The Commission welcomed the strengthening of banking linkages between India and Russia through opening of Representative Office/Branch by several Indian and Russian banks in each-other's countries. It called upon banks and financial organisations of the two countries to work towards providing appropriate banking services, which is critical for developing trade and economic cooperation.

Science & Technology

- Recognizing the large benefits that have accrued from scientific cooperation under the Integrated Long-term Program of Cooperation in Science and Technology (ILTP) so far, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the Agreement to extend the program for next 10 years had been finalized.

Tourism & Culture

- The Commission noted the considerable growth in the number of Russian tourists visiting India, and agreed to work towards creating an environment for two-way growth of tourist traffic, including favourable visa regimes. In this context, the Commission welcomed the finalization of bilateral visa-facilitation agreement.
- The Commission agreed to continue providing support for holding of exhibitions, conferences, lectures, film shows and artistic performances between the two countries. The Commission also agreed to finalise at earliest the programmes of the Festival of Indian Culture in Russia in 2011 and the Festival of Russian Culture in India in 2012.
- Both Sides noted the importance of large-scale celebrations planned by the Government of India to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in 2011. The Russian side confirmed their intention to organize commemorative events in different regions of Russia.
- Both Sides agreed to facilitate further development of cultural linkages through direct contact between cultural institutions of the states and regions and city authorities.

Next Session of the Commission

- The Seventeenth Session of the Commission shall take place in 2011 in Moscow.



530. Felicitations from External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Russian Foreign Minister on the 110th anniversary of Mumbai Consulate.

New Delhi, November 21, 2010.

In a letter to Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov of the Russian Federation the External Affairs Minister S M Krishna, conveyed warm wishes and felicitations to all personnel and staff of the Consulate, on the 110th Anniversary of the establishment of the Russian Consulate in Mumbai. He termed it as a 'momentous occasion' and a 'reminder that the India-Russia Strategic Partnership is rooted in a historical and diplomatic relationship spanning over more than a century'.

EAM noted that 'Mumbai serves as India's financial and business capital and will continue to play an important role in forging closer trade and investment ties between our two countries'. He expressed confidence that the Russian Consulate will continue to play an outstanding role in building bilateral ties



531. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) on visit of Russian President Medvedev.

New Delhi, December 19, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to all of you and nice to see you in numbers.

My colleague Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (ERS) and I would like to brief you about the most important official visit of President Medvedev who is arriving in the early hours on Tuesday, 21st of December.

New Delhi has played host to a number of high-level dignitaries in the course of this year, including from the P5 nations. But our ties with Russia have always stood apart. We now prepare to accord a very warm welcome to the Russian President who would be arriving on an official visit for the 11th India-Russia Summit meeting.

This would be President Medvedev's and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's third standalone summit meeting, and overall the eleventh annual summit meeting. As such, it acquires a historical significance since it also marks the completion of a decade of our strategic partnership which was announced in the year 2000 during the visit of President Putin to India. So, we are really saving the best for the last.

Let me take you through the programme. On Tuesday, EAM Shri S.M. Krishna will call on the President. It be followed by a restricted meeting between President Medvedev and the Prime Minister of India. Next would be delegation-level talks, followed by signing of a number of agreements and a joint press interaction.

Prime Minister would be hosting a private lunch in the honour of the visiting dignitary. There will be calls on him by Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the Vice-President of India, Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. In the evening President Medvedev will call on Rashtrapati who would be hosting a banquet in his honour.

On Wednesday the 22nd, President Medvedev departs for Agra and then flies into Mumbai where he would visit IIT Powai, and also the Film City. In the evening of Wednesday the 22nd he emplanes for Moscow.

President Medvedev will be accompanied by a very important delegation that includes Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov who is also the co-chair of the India-Russia Joint Economic Commission; Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov; Minister of Education and Science Andrei Fursenko; Minister of Energy Sergei Shmatko; Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Russia Vladimir Churov; Governor of St. Petersburg Ms. Valentina Matvienko; the Ambassador of Russia to India; Members of the Duma or Parliamentarians; Deputy Ministers; senior officials and a large business delegation.

We have a very special strategic partnership with Russia which has stood the test of time over the last half a century. In the preceding decade, our multifaceted bilateral cooperation and our political coordination at the international level have grown and deepened significantly. As such it has in a large measure fulfilled the vision of the declaration of strategic partnership in 2000, to raise ties to a higher and

qualitatively new level. I would like to underline that our ties are founded on mutual trust, understanding and continuity.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had paid a visit to Moscow for the tenth India-Russia Summit in December 2009. At his invitation, Prime Minister Putin had visited India in March this year. Prime Minister Putin, then as the President, is the co-architect of India-Russia Strategic Partnership. Year 2010 has also seen a number of other high-level exchanges from both sides which have given a qualitative boost to our ties. We have always had extensive defence cooperation limited not just to a buyer-seller relationship but extending to joint development and research in advanced defence systems. As importantly, we have several ongoing cooperation projects in the area of civil nuclear cooperation and space sectors, which will also be discussed during the visit of President Medvedev.

Both sides are exploring ways to expand cooperation in the important hydrocarbons sector. We are working on developing a roadmap for such cooperation. The energy security interests of India and Russia are very well matched. India is a large consumer of hydrocarbons and Russia is a large producer. Russia is looking for a assured market, and we for a stable supplier. Therefore, there is a natural synergy in this area between the two sides. Both sides see hydrocarbons as well as civil nuclear energy cooperation as the twin pillars for a long-term strategic energy partnership.

Our cooperation in the field of science and technology covers the full range of activities from basic scientific research to developing frontline technologies including industrial technologies in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology and bioinformatics. We are currently working on a new integrated long-term cooperation that will outline our collective vision for cooperation in this field in the next decade. The new mandate is for establishing an innovation-based technology partnership.

We are also focusing very strongly on further expansion of trade and economic ties which have yet to attain their potential. Bilateral trade was close to US\$ 7.5 billion in 2009 and has registered a growth rate of 24 per cent in the first seven months of this year. We have a trade target of US\$ 20 billion for the year 2015.

Investment cooperation is another area that will be discussed between the two leaders. Russia's economic modernization and privatization programme offers unique opportunities to world-class Indian companies with frontline technologies and capacities. Similarly, India's own economic transformation and our ambitious plans to expand our infrastructure offer very good opportunities for the Russian entrepreneurs. These matters will be discussed during the Indo-Russian Trade and Investment Forum which is likely to be held tomorrow at New Delhi. This Forum, established in 2007, is led by the Commerce Ministers from both sides. Hundreds of Indian and Russian businessmen are expected deliberate on specific projects at the Forum.

Already some US\$ 4.25 billion of Indian investments have been made in Russia. More are in the pipeline. We have received about US\$ 1 billion of Russian investments. Recent noteworthy investment agreements include a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation signed on the 10th of December this year between NMDC and Severstal to establish a joint venture for setting up an integrated steel plant in Karnataka. We also expect a number of agreements to be signed by the private sector in the next few days including in the pharmaceuticals sector.

Prime Minister and President Medvedev will also focus on strengthening coordination on a number of regional and global issues. The issue of terrorism and the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, amongst others, are likely to figure in the discussions. India and Russia have a similar perspective on the problem of terrorism as both countries have enunciated on several occasions, including through the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism, during the November, 2001 Summit.

India and Russia are both members of G20. We work closely bilaterally as well as through BRIC to push for reforms of the international financial system. Thus the canvas is large. I have only shared with you some facets of our cooperation but would like to add that adequate groundwork, as is the practice, has already been done for this very important visit. We have, as you are aware, two high-level Inter-Governmental Commissions which basically provide the framework for the entire range of cooperative endeavours - (i) The Sixteenth India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural

Cooperation met on the 18th of November in New Delhi. This is co-chaired by EAM and Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov who is a member of President's delegation. (ii) The Tenth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was also held in New Delhi on the 7th and 8th of October this year. It is chaired the Defence Ministers of both countries.

As such we are quite satisfied that the first decade of our strategic partnership has imparted a qualitatively new character to our bilateral ties and has deepened cooperation in a vast number of areas which are vital to our relationship. The Eleventh Summit meeting will be a step towards developing a blueprint for the next decade. Several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding in diverse areas, are likely to be concluded during the visit both between the Governments as well as the private sectors.

The two leaders will review all facets of our bilateral cooperation and also have an exchange of views on regional and international matters of interest. Thank you. We will be happy to take your questions.

Question: The Russian Ambassador in a press conference the other day talking about the nuclear liability Bill said that while Russia awaits an explanation note from India as to how it would be applied for future projects, but he also expressed his view that the home laws in India should be married to international obligations in a way that international commitments dominate. Could you react to that? Also, could we know just some of the Bollywood celebrities that he is expected to interact with when he visits Film City?

Joint Secretary (Eurasia) (Shri Ajay Bisaria): On the nuclear issue, as is being talked about in the media, there is a discussion ongoing for the technical and commercial deal for Kudankulam-3 and 4. As you know, the nuclear cooperation has extended for the last ten years. Very soon Kudankulam-1 will go critical in the next few months. Soon after that, within a few more months, Kudankulam-2 will go critical. Both these nuclear power plants were based upon technical commercial agreements that were signed before they went on steam. Similarly, during the visit of Prime Minister Putin we have signed a framework agreement which determines nuclear cooperation across a whole range of sectors including the setting up of

nuclear power plants and exchange of technologies. So, we see the current conversation on technical, commercial terms for Kudankulam-3 and 4 as part of a process. This is purely a technical discussion that takes place between experts on both sides, is currently taking place. It includes a whole range of areas which includes cost and liability issues among them. I am sure we would reach a resolution to all the issues that are on the table.

Question: Sir, this is a follow-up on the liability issue. Do the Russians also have the same problems like the Americans or France or is it any different? Could you throw some light on if their problem also arises out of the supplier liability clause and Article 46?

Official Spokesperson: My colleague has already answered this question in great detail. Let me reiterate what I mentioned in my opening remarks that our cooperation in the energy sector, especially hydrocarbons and civil nuclear cooperation, are two important pillars of our cooperation. The civil nuclear cooperation is a very important pillar. My colleague has already enumerated a number of steps that have been taken. We have the inter-governmental agreement which was concluded during the visit of Prime Minister Putin in March 2010, which provides a framework for active cooperation in this regard. We are two partners, we work together, and we are actively looking at all aspects to take this process of cooperation in this very important sector further.

Question: Sir, can you throw some light on the likely agreements on defence sector? The Russian Ambassador mentioned the fifth generation strike aircraft.

Joint Secretary (ERS): We are not right now speaking of outcomes naturally because this is a process of discussion. But overall in the defence relationship, you know that it is a continuous process and it is not really structured around the annual summit. There was a Military Technical Commission that met recently and a number of issues were discussed including agreements that had to be finalized. Even in the last annual summit where there was a very important agreement on after-sales services that was signed. There were a couple of agreements signed close to the visit of Prime Minister Putin, but agreements are signed even without the summit. You mentioned the talk of the fifth generation fighter aircraft. There is a discussion ongoing on that issue. But again that is a very long-term project

for manufacture of advanced defence systems in India. It will have a number of milestones along the way and we do not know whether one or two of them will be achieved right now.

Question: We are not signing the agreement?

Joint Secretary (Eurasia): We are not saying that.

Official Spokesperson: We are saying precisely this that it is a very important sector and we are constantly discussing different facets of it, and it does not hinge on having a summit meeting. It is an ongoing process. We have had the meeting of the Military Technical Commission in October. We are actively looking at different facets.

Question: Do you expect some declaration or announcement on the next site for reactors for the Russians?

Joint Secretary (ERS): Again this is one of the nuclear issues that is being talked about and has been talked about for a while. But this is a very complex issue, the whole issue of sites for a nuclear power plant. As you know, after Kudankulam Russia has been offered the site at Haripur. Various technical issues related to this continue to be discussed at the technical level. So, that is the situation. As of this moment there is no change in that.

Question: I would like to ask about the very important agreement on people-to-people contacts regarding the students. There are problems of the medical specialists ... (Inaudible)... their diplomas from Russia are not being acknowledged in India. Can we expect that these discussions would result in any documents? Secondly, on the migration issues can we anticipate anything to be signed? And on the visa facilitation also.

Joint Secretary (ERS): On all the three very important areas you have mentioned there has been substantial progress. As you recall, this issue was discussed between Prime Minister Putin and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of mutual recognition of degrees for higher educational degrees and for medical degrees. These are complex issues. They continue to be discussed and will be perhaps discussed at the summit as well. But we are not expecting any specific documents on these issues to be signed because

particularly on medical issues there are complex issues of exchange of standards and exchange of details that are involved before we get down to signing a document. On other degrees, non-medical degrees, we already have a 1987 agreement with the USSR, and as you know Russia as the continuity state honours that agreement. So, we do have some legal framework in place. But we are continuing a conversation on this issue. On visa issues we have moved ahead and we are hopeful we will reach an understanding during the summit. On the issue illegal migration or the issue of migration in general there has been a lot of discussion and we are hoping to reach some understandings during the summit.

Question: In the year 2008 when our President made his first visit to India it was agreed that by the year 2013, the first Indian astronaut will go to the space from the Russian facilities in Kazakhstan ... (Inaudible)... by Russia; and in the year 2015 with the help of Russian specialists the first Indian astronaut will be launched from the Indian space launch platform. At what stage is this project right now? Has there been any progress? Is any such kind of project going to be discussed in this summit?

Joint Secretary (ERS): On space, as you know, it is a continuing collaboration of many years. We signed an agreement on GLONASS, as you may recall, in 2004. And we have a whole range of follow-up agreements on that. The two projects you have mentioned are extremely important - (i) the Lunar Exploration as we call it and (ii) the Human Space Flight. I am not sure about the timelines of when specific subprojects would be executed. But these are extremely important projects. There would be a substantive discussion on cooperation in the space sector. We are very satisfied with the kind of progress that we have achieved in cooperation in the space sector.

Question: How many agreements are you going to sign and what are they? Also, could you tell us a little bit about the economic side of the summit? The figures that you have given us sound very low. What is the reason for that?

Joint Secretary (ERS): On the agreements, as we said a number of them are going to be signed, but as we speak some are being discussed. So, we can naturally not predict how many of them will finally be signed. For

that you would have to wait for the outcome briefing of the summit. But a number of agreements are expected in a whole range of areas including space, defence, and economic sectors. Coming back to economic issues, we do recognize that among all the strategic sectors in which this relationship spreads, the economic relationship continues to be somewhat weak. We have a strategic focus on trying to improve the level of trade and investment. That is the reason why a very ambitious target has been fixed of US\$ 20 billion by 2015. The current statistics do show, the ones we have from the Russian side, that there has been a healthy increase in the trade levels over this year, 2010, as well of almost 20 per cent. But the short point here is that both sides recognize that trade is not commensurate to potential and we need to do a lot more to get the trade to a higher level. Two sectors which we have identified specifically are cooperation in IT and cooperation in pharmaceuticals and we expect some discussion to take place on both these sectors. In the IT sector there is huge opportunity also particularly in the Skolkova project that Russia has identified in Moscow, as well as in outsourcing, in telemedicine, and various identified sectors in Russia. Pharmaceuticals is also seen as a large US\$ 15-16 billion market in Russia. That is again a huge opportunity. So, we have identified a number of sectors. Tomorrow the Trade and Investment Forum will meet. The primary purpose of that Forum is to develop more business-to-business contracts which we hope will be signed, and new directions to this particular aspect of the relationship.

Question: But why, what is the problem that it is so low?

Official Spokesperson: We have the figures for you for the last few years and I can take you through the figures. If you look at the graph, it points upwards. We find that there is an accelerating trend now. For example, this year the 24 per cent growth that we are seeing should take the bilateral trade close to US\$ 10 billion. I think it marks a significant increase. And it is not a onetime thing; we expect this trend to continue. New areas are being identified, for example fertilizers. We are importing now large quantities of fertilizers from Russia. We are looking at taking this relationship even further. Not a buyer-seller relationship but we are even looking at joint ventures. We are looking at joint investments. The point that Ajay made was very significant. We are in fact now focusing very big time on

B2B links. Hitherto it was more G2G. But through the Forum that is going to meet tomorrow, basically business people from both sides are coming together and looking at specific projects. Simultaneously a conducive environment is being created through facilitating or easing the visa process which has been a bit of a damper. Hopefully this should be behind us. The banking links, which were not very strong between the two countries, have been strengthened. I think we should look at the systematic manner in which we are addressing this aspect. Look at the Russian privatization programme for example. It is believed that something like US\$ 32 billion worth of privatization opportunities would be available. There are business opportunities in India's infrastructure development. So, you have a whole range of areas in which you can work together to try and develop synergies.

Question: Sir, two questions. One is this Nepa class boat which is supposed to be transferred from Russia to India. Can you tell us when it is likely to be coming in and if there will be discussions on the transfer during this visit? The other does not relate to Russia but if you can just give us an idea of why there is a discrepancy between the Chinese version of the LAC and the Indian, of 1500 kilometres, if it relates to the 1963 agreement between China and Pakistan?

Official Spokesperson: We will be very happy to take questions pertaining to the visit of President Medvedev. On the first about cooperation in the defence sector, again we have taken you through various facets of it to the extent that we could. Obviously, the timelines and details, when they are being discussed, can not be shared with the media, which you can very well appreciate. But suffice it to say that we have robust cooperation. It is not just a buyer-seller relationship but we are looking at joint development, R&D and so on. As and when the initiatives fructify we will bring it into the public domain.

Thank you very much.



532. Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Russian News Agencies.

New Delhi, December 20, 2010.

Q 1. This year, we mark the 10th anniversary of signing the historic and ground-breaking in terms of international diplomatic practice Declaration of Russia - India Strategic Partnership. India has established strategic partnership with a number of other major countries ever since. Do you think there is difference in the understanding of the concept "strategic partnership" as applied to Russia? And in this context - what does New Delhi expect from the forthcoming visit of President Dmitry Medvedev?

Ans. The Annual Summit that will take place in New Delhi will mark the first decade of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership. Over the last ten years, there has been a significant expansion, and deepening, in our bilateral cooperation. There is confidence on both sides that neither country will seek to develop ties with third countries at the expense of the other's vital interest. Overall, therefore, I feel we are in a position to chart an even more ambitious path for the India-Russia Strategic Partnership in the coming decades, and this will raise our bilateral ties to an even higher level.

The discussions on international issues will include the situation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region that impacts the security of both India and Russia. We need to understand why terrorist infrastructure in the region has continued to survive despite the best efforts of the international community. We will discuss the expansion of the UNSC, in both permanent and non-permanent categories, which we feel is an important item in the ongoing discussions taking place on reforms of global governance structures that were created in the 20th Century, so that they are capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

We have intensive cooperation programmes in the space, nuclear and defence sectors that will also be discussed. India is also keen to establish a strategic energy partnership with Russia, based on nuclear energy and oil and gas, that will further the energy security interests of both countries. Economic modernization in Russia and the economic transformation in India have thrown up tremendous opportunities for both countries that must be explored. We have tremendous scientific talent in both countries that

can help forge an innovation-based technology partnership between the two countries.

These are broadly some of the important areas that the Prime Minister will cover in his discussions with President Medvedev.

Q 2. Russia is geared up for modernization and innovatively higher level of the country's industrial, scientific and technical basis. This programme draws in razor-edge international experience including that from India. How do you assess the opportunities for broader India-Russia collaboration in the innovative field?

Ans. All the ingredients for a dynamic economic partnership, based on technology and innovation, are already in place.

Russia and India have both launched ambitious economic modernization programmes. Russia seeks outside capital and technology, and there are many Indian companies that have acquired good financial and technological capacities and want to expand their global operations. In the hydrocarbon sector, our energy security interests are perfectly matched; India is a large and growing consumer of oil and gas; Russia, as one of the world's largest producers of oil and gas, seeks long term and reliable customers in this area. We have an extensive programme of S&T cooperation in place, which ensures continuous interaction and collaboration among our scientific communities; a new Integrated Long Term Technology Programme (ILTP) for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology is likely to be signed at this Summit. We also have the CEO's Council and the India-Russia Trade and Investment Forum that are functioning well, and providing platforms for our business communities to interact with each other.

In the coming decades, we, therefore, need to ensure that these elements come together, and create the conditions required for a substantial growth in our economic ties so that they begin to reflect, not just the size of our respective economies, but also the special closeness of our bilateral ties.

Q 3. For many years, international terrorism and drug trafficking have remained serious factors of instability in South Asia and the neighbouring region. Russia and India have the first-hand knowledge of the danger that international terrorism poses to the world and we are well aware where it has built its nest. What initiatives including those based on Russian and

Indian approaches could contribute to faster elimination of the existing hotbeds of tension?

Ans. Both India and Russia share common concerns about the threat posed by terrorism emanating from our shared neighbourhood, i.e. Afghanistan and Pakistan radiating into the region, including Central Asia, as also to Russia. We are also aware of the nexus between drug trafficking and terrorist financing. We have an ongoing multi-layered dialogue mechanism with Russia through which we seek to exchange views and information on these issues.

Q 4. Russia and India are on the threshold of another remarkable date; August 2011 will see the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation which laid a sound foundation for comprehensive development of our relationship. You are among the statesmen who have built these ties. What kind of personal associations our country has for you? What emotions and thoughts occur to you at the mention of Russia?

Ans. I welcome particularly this question. Though we often refer to the India-Russia Strategic Partnership as being ten years old, we must never forget the rich heritage and history of our ties spanning over half a century. The Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Soviet Union signed by External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh and Minister of Foreign Affairs A.A. Gromyko in August 1971, is a landmark event in the historical strategic partnership that has existed between the two countries.

I belong to a generation of Indians that has not forgotten your country's direct contribution to India's quest for security and self-sustained economic development. President Medvedev is meeting students from the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai. This is an institute that was built with the assistance of the Soviet Union, and has trained thousands of young engineers and researchers that are today contributing to the Indian economy. There are many other such temples of development throughout our country, covering different sectors that were built with the assistance of your country.

For me, it has always been a great privilege and honour to be associated with the India-Russia relationship.

Q 5. You were a close friend of famous artist and public figure of India and Russia Svyatoslav Roerich and his wife Devika Rani and personally contributed to immortalizing the memory of him in Bangalore. Now as Co-chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission, you perform the honorary patronage of the International Roerich Memorial Trust and the Roerich museum estate in the Himalayas. How do you view the prospects for cooperation in preserving the Roerichs' spiritual, scientific and cultural heritage in India which is unique not only for our peoples, but the civilization as a whole?

Ans. Roerich heritage has a very special meaning for both India and Russia. Nikolai Roerich was an intellectual giant of his age and a multifaceted personality. He was a great painter, philosopher, writer, educationist and thinker. His inner urge led him to embark on his celebrated Central Asian expedition of 1920s and finally it was India, in the surroundings of Kullu where he chose to live. Svyatoslav Roerich, his son, followed in the footsteps of his father and was a genius in his own right, and a world-renowned painter. Married to screen idol Devika Rani, the couple were famous and much adored in India. The Roerich family's heritage is a great symbol of friendship between peoples of India and Russia.

Along with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov, I co-chair the International Roerich Memorial Trust. The Trust is doing great work in propagating the memory of the Roerichs and furthering their works. Both India and Russia attach great importance to the work of the Trust and we hope to impart renewed vigour to its activities.



533. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting of the Fourth India - Russia Forum on Trade and Investment and signing of India-Russia Protocol on Trade and Investment.

New Delhi, December 20, 2010.

The Fourth India-Russia Forum on Trade & Investment was organized by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, held here today. Mr. Sergei Ivanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India, participated in the meeting of the Forum.

During the Forum, the following was agreed and a Protocol was signed by Shri R.P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Mr. S.S. Voskresensky, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Russian Federation.

1. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growth of bilateral trade and investments while recognizing that the level of economic relations still remained modest compared to the sizes of the two economies and their potential. In this context, both Sides noted the positive contribution of the Forum in strengthening bilateral economic engagement through establishment of direct B2B contacts.
2. Both sides agreed that enhancement of bilateral investment and trade cooperation is one of the main ways to widen the ambit of and further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
3. Both sides noted with satisfaction the signing during the Forum of agreements between Russian and Indian companies in different sectors.
4. Both sides also welcomed the decisions taken during the 16th session of the IRIGC-TEC held in New Delhi on 18 November 2010.
5. During the Forum, presentations on bilateral investment opportunities and prospects for cooperation in the IT sector as well as sectoral business round tables were organized. Salient points of the discussions are given below.

Chemicals and Fertilizers

6. Both sides recognized the complementarity between the resources in Russia and the growing demand for fertilizers in India. Both sides also agreed that they must pursue possibility of joint investment in the fertilizers sector in two countries as well as in other resource-rich countries with the possibility of buy-back arrangement. There are sufficient opportunities for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilizers using natural gas feedstock from Russia. Steps should also be taken for setting up of the joint venture for mining of potash and phosphate and production of phosphatic fertilizers for consumption in India.

7. In line with this Forum's desire during its last Session, it was noted with satisfaction that an inter-governmental MoU was concluded on cooperation in the mineral, fertilizers sector during the visit of Russian Prime Minister to India in March 2010, and that fertilizer had become one of the largest items of trade between India and Russia.

8. Indian side proposed to the Russian business entities that they should leverage the conducive investment atmosphere in India and invest in the Indian chemical industry. Indian Government is setting up the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR) in Vishakhapatnam, Dahej in Gujarat and Haldia in West Bengal. Russian companies may consider investing in these regions.

Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences

9. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made in cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, called for investment in the joint ventures in two countries and agreed that there exists huge potential for participation by Indian companies in the Pharma 2020 program of the Government of the Russian Federation.

IT & Communication

10. Both sides agreed that there is enormous potential for cooperation in the IT Sector for mutual benefit. The Forum also recognized the need to identify specific projects for collaboration between Indian and Russian companies in areas such as, establishment of techno-parks, BPO, KPO, IT Skills and telemedicine. Both sides also felt that finalization of the

framework inter-governmental MoU on Cooperation in the area of IT would lead to increased interaction between the two countries in IT Sector.

11. The Russian side invited Indian companies to participate in the Skolkovo Innovation Center.

12. Both sides expressed satisfaction on increasing cooperation between two countries in the area of telecommunication. Indian Telecom industry is one of the fastest growing in the world and this sector offers consideration potential for investment by Russian companies. Further, there is also scope for Indian companies in Russia in the area of E-governance, since Russia is targeting to provide all State services electronically by 2015. Other potential areas for cooperation include, telemedicine, IT training and education.

Industrial Co-operation

13. Both sides noted that India and Russia have been long-standing partners in steel sector and this partnership has yielded excellent results over the period. There is considerable scope for participation in modernization and establishments of steel manufacturing facilities in two countries, which needs to be explored.

14. Indian companies like SAIL and MMTC have expressed interest in procuring coking and thermal coal from Russia. Indian companies can also participate in development of coal projects in Russia to meet the demand for coking coal for India's increasing steel production.

15. Both sides noted the important role played by Russian companies in setting up industrial units in core sectors in India during the post-Independence era. This was largely in the Government sector. In the current environment, while this process will continue, the private sector in the two countries has to assume a greater key role in promoting industrial cooperation.

16. Both sides expressed satisfaction over conclusion of long-term contracts between Indian and Russian companies for direct trade of rough diamonds. Indian side requested that in view of the potential of the Indian market, signing of such long-term agreements with MMTC Limited, Hindustan Diamond Company Private Limited (HDCPL) and

Surat Rough Diamond Sourcing India Limited would greatly promote cooperation in this sector.

17. Both sides emphasized the need for identification of mutually agreed areas of cooperation in the mining sector. It was also proposed that both sides identify respective partner organizations from the two countries and work out a mechanism for contact and information.

Energy

18. Both sides outlined the prospects for enhanced cooperation between Indian and Russian companies in the Oil and Gas Sector in the following areas:

- (i) upstream - oil and gas field
- (ii) downstream - construction of refinery
- (iii) joint projects in third countries both in upstream and downstream projects
- (iv) participation of Russian companies in such projects in India.

19. Both sides agreed to contribute to cooperation in the trade and investment area at the regional level, especially in the area of energy efficiency, new technologies.

Banking and Finance

20. Both sides urged financial organizations including banks of the two sides to work towards providing banking services to further trade and investment relations between the two countries. Both sides also welcomed the opening of representative office of Gazprombank in India.

Trade & Investment relations

21. Both sides agreed on the need for proactively enhancing the investment climate, as well as furthering mutual trade in accordance with their respective relevant legislations.

22. Indian business representatives in the Forum urged that the proposed agreement on mutual recognition/ equivalence of standards and conformity assessment procedures for facilitating trade of goods especially agriculture

and animal products between India and Russia be expedited. They also called for necessary measures to be taken to enable export of meat products from India to Russia including through recognition of the Indian certification mechanism.

23. Both sides intend to continue the useful and regular dialogue, placing special emphasis on the further development of bilateral cooperation on issues regarding modernization.

24. The two sides agreed that strengthening the contacts of businesses between India and Russia is very critical and underlined that all existing mechanisms should be utilized effectively for this purpose. Both sides re-expressed that India Russia CEO Council is an important mechanism available for B2B contract between two countries and it has an important role to play in identifying specific areas of cooperation and impediments faced by the businesses of the two countries.

25. Both sides agreed to expand cooperation to implement the decisions made in this Forum for furthering of bilateral investment & trade relations..

26. Noting the success of "Russia-India Business-dialogue" held within the framework of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2010, the Russian side invited participation of Indian companies in the 15th session of SPIEF in June 2011.

27. The next meeting of the India-Russia Forum on Trade & Investment would be held in 2011 in Russia on a mutually agreed date.



534. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the speech of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma to the India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment.

New Delhi, December 20, 2010.

Addressing the Plenary Session "Prospects of Russian-Indian Trade and Investment Relations Development" of 4th India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investments, here today, Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, said that the target of US \$ 20 billion trade by 2015 is achievable provided all stakeholders put in concerted high efforts to meet it and added that "let us work together for a renewed thrust on bilateral trade and investment". Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sharma said that there is need to expand the trade basket to include value added items in areas of applied technologies, information technology, telecommunications, automobile components, gems and jewellery and energy. There are ample opportunities for investment in two countries and both have us to exploit in our mutual benefit, he added. The session was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Ivanov; Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation Ms. Elvira Nabiullina; Shri R.P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, apex chambers and senior officials from both sides.

During the interaction, Shri Sharma stressed that "we need to make concerted efforts to reinvigorate our economic cooperation and integrate it with market forces. While the political responsibility for expanding ties with other countries is the primary task of governments, business to business relations have become a critical element in the overall architecture of interaction between countries in this age of increasingly de-regulated economies, private sector dynamism and globalization".

Shri Sharma stated that Indian and Russian economies have natural areas of synergy and India is ready to share its experience and expertise in setting up Information Technology parks. "We need to focus the possibilities of cooperation in the IT sector as the scope is immense. Now it is up to the business communities to seize the initiative", he added.

Regarding infrastructure, Shri Sharma underlined that India's quest for new facilities in power, transportation, urban development, communication, etc has truly taken off. In the next seven years, India will be spending \$ 1.7 trillion to meet its infrastructure requirements. The government has instituted friendly policies for inviting FDI in these sectors and has addressed many areas to promote public private partnership as a plank of infrastructure development.

"Both countries should make available to each other the investment regulations and ways of doing business. At the same time, I would urge industry associations to increase their presence in each other's countries", Shri Sharma said.

The India Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation has been a dedicated facilitator of promoting bilateral economic ties. The 16th meeting held in November this year, addressed a number of roadblocks to increasing trade and it was stressed that the trade level of less than \$ 5 billion in 2009-10 was substantially below the potential that can be attained by two large and rapidly growing economies such as India and Russia.



535. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the signing of the Contract to Design and Develop the Fifth generation Fighter Aircraft.

New Delhi, December 21, 2010.

A Contract for Preliminary Design of the Indo-Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft was signed between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Rosoboronexport and Sukhoi here today. The Project involves design and development of a Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft that will have advanced features such as stealth, supercruise, ultra-maneuvrability, highly integrated avionics suite, enhanced situational awareness, internal carriage of weapons and Network Centric Warfare capabilities.

The aircraft to be jointly developed is termed Perspective Multi-role Fighter (PMF). PMF draws upon the basic structural and system design of the Russian FGFA Technology Demonstrator with modifications to meet IAF specifications which are much more stringent. The broad scope of bilateral cooperation during the joint project covers the design & development of the PMF, its productionization and joint marketing to the third countries. Programme options include the design & development of a twin seater variant and the integration of an advanced engine with higher thrust at a later stage.

Today's contract is only the first in a series of such contracts which will cover different stages of this complex programme. The total cost including options and the value of production aircraft will make this the biggest Defence programme ever in the history of India involving production of over 200-250 aircraft.

The Contract was signed by Mr. A Isaykin, General Director, Rosoboronexport and Mr. M Pogosyan, General Director RAC MiG & Sukhoi from the Russian side and Mr. Ashok Nayak, Chairman, HAL and Mr. NC Agarwal, Director (D&D), HAL from the Indian side at Delhi.



536. Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev: 'Celebrating a Decade of the India- Russian Federation Strategic Partnership and Looking Ahead'.

New Delhi, December 21, 2010.

1. The President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Dmitry Medvedev paid an official visit to India on 21-22 December 2010 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh for the 10th Annual Summit meeting under the India Russia Strategic Partnership. The sides noted that the decade which passed since signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on 3 October 2000 in New Delhi had proved the historical significance of this document. Reviewing the breadth and depth of India - Russia relations, the sides observed that in the last 10 years the relationship between the two countries had been built up to the level of a special and privileged strategic partnership. They stressed that this partnership had been marked by close coordination of foreign policy approaches to a wide range of international and regional issues; large-scale trade and economic interaction involving modernization and deployment of high-technology; greater military and technical cooperation, including in the joint manufacture of modern armaments and the transfer of technologies; and a warm traditional friendship between the peoples of the two countries, particularly manifested in cultural and people-to-people bonds.

2. During their discussions in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation reviewed the rapid progress that had been achieved in all principal areas of bilateral cooperation, including in the military-technical, energy, and high technology sectors of space and tele-communications. The sides also noted the strong congruence of their views on regional and international issues of importance to the security of both countries.

Intensifying Trade and Investments

3. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation noted the substantial progress that had been made in bilateral

trade in recent years despite the considerable potential of our trade and economic cooperation which is still to be fulfilled. The sides agreed to continue their efforts to achieve the strategic target of bilateral trade volume of US \$ 20 billion by 2015. The sides recognized that considerable potential exists for mutually beneficial investments by the Russian Federation and India in the privatization programmes and programmes aimed at fostering technological innovation in their respective economies. They emphasised the important role that the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation and its Co-Chairs play. They also noted that the conclusion of the agreement on simplification of visa procedures for nationals of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation, at the Summit, would help enhance contacts between the business communities of the two countries. Both sides agreed to consider the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement taking into account the implementation of the agreements on constituting the Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, after due consultation with all parties involved.

Deepening the Energy Partnership

4. The sides noted that the Russian Federation as a major energy producing country and India as a major energy consuming country viewed bilateral energy cooperation as an important pillar of the Strategic Partnership. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress in bilateral cooperation in the nuclear energy sector and looked forward to further broadening and strengthening ties in this area. They reviewed the progress that has been made for the commissioning of Units 1&2 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and the discussions for setting up additional units at Kudankulam including Units 3&4. India and the Russian Federation also agreed on the need for collaboration in scientific research in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Russian side welcomed India's decision to set up a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership and agreed to discuss future cooperation with this Centre. The sides also agreed to consider cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with third countries.

5. The sides also reviewed the ongoing efforts to establish joint cooperation ventures between Indian and Russian companies in the oil and gas sectors. It was agreed that the inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector signed during the Summit, must

serve as an effective enabling legal mechanism to expedite governmental clearances on both sides to facilitate the creation and operation of such joint ventures. The sides agreed to promote specific projects to encourage direct business-to-business dialogue between Indian and Russian oil and gas companies, to ensure that the contacts result in concrete and mutually beneficial commercial agreements between the companies including joint ventures in upstream and downstream activities in India, Russia, and third countries.

Innovation as the Driver of S&T Cooperation

6. The sides reviewed progress made in bilateral scientific and technological cooperation. They expressed satisfaction at the extension of the Integrated Long Term Program (ILTP) for scientific and technical cooperation for another decade and its focus on identifying innovation-led technology programs. The creation of new and innovative technologies would be at the heart of the respective economic modernization programs in the two countries. Continuous efforts would be made to identify programmes that would be built on the existing linkages between the Indian and Russian scientific establishments. The new Indian-Russian S&T Centre would facilitate such programs.

New Prospects in Space

7. The sides agreed to intensify cooperation in a broad range of flagship cooperation projects in the space sector, including the lunar exploration, human space flight and Youth Sat projects. They also appreciated the progress being made in India's utilisation of Russia's Global Navigation Satellite System, GLONASS.

Stepping Up Military Technical Cooperation

8. Both sides acknowledged that the traditionally close cooperation between the two countries in the military-technical field is a major pillar of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership, and a reflection of the trust and confidence that has built up between the two countries over the last half century. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation reviewed the outcomes of the Tenth Meeting of the India- Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation held in October 2010 in New Delhi, and shared the assessment that the

Agreement on a Long Term Program for Military and Technical Cooperation for the period 2011-2020 signed in December last year would further accelerate progress of our interaction transforming it from a buyer-seller format to a more substantive engagement that includes joint research and development, manufacturing and marketing activities. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation also expressed satisfaction at the regular service-to-service interactions, and joint exercises that have taken place between the defence forces of the two countries. They noted with satisfaction that the third India - Russia Joint Military Exercises held in India on October 13-23, 2010 focused on counter terrorism operations and had concluded successfully. The sides agreed to make efforts to continuously upgrade joint military exercises in all forms including in the field of counter terrorism.

Coordination of Approaches to International and Regional Issues

9. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation observed that coordination of approaches of India and the Russian Federation to various international and regional issues was an effective way of raising contribution of both the countries to strengthening global peace, security and stability and to building a just and democratic world order. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation agreed that the changes taking place in the international system provide an opportunity to build an international order that is inclusive and democratic, based on the supremacy of international law, and adhering to the goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. They reiterated the view that by further intensifying the bilateral India -Russia strategic partnership both countries would be able to better respond to the challenges thrown up by these changes.

Strengthening the Central Coordinating Role of the United Nations

10. Both sides noted that an important element of the India - Russia Strategic Partnership is their joint activities that are aimed at strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations Security Council in the maintenance of global peace and security as well as to increase the efficiency and authority of the United Nations in other areas of global governance. In this context the sides agree to further strengthen their cooperation on issues related to the reform of the UN and its Security

Council. The reform of the UN Security Council should be carried out in a manner that reflects contemporary realities and makes this body more representative and effective in dealing with both present-day and emerging challenges. The Russian Federation supports India as a deserving and strong candidate for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. The two sides also decided to work closely in the UN Security Council during the 2011-12 period when India occupies a non-permanent seat in the Council.

Promoting Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Efforts

11. India and the Russian Federation, as responsible states, possessing advanced nuclear technologies, share the objective of preventing 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. India welcomed the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. India and the Russian Federation are interested in strengthening multilateral export control regimes as an important component of the global non-proliferation regime. In this regard, the Russian side expressed 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. Russia also took into positive consideration India's interest in full membership in MTCR and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

While recognizing the inherent right of states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, India and the Russian Federation stress 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.

Strengthening Security Cooperation in Asia and the Indian and Pacific Ocean Regions

12. The sides noted that there were already several examples of successful regional economic and security cooperation formats operating in Asia and the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions. In this context the sides noted the successful interaction between India, Russia and China in the IRC format and the importance of this regional format in fostering dialogue and cooperation on global and regional issues between these three major states and great civilizations of the region in accordance with the Joint declaration of the 10th IRC Ministerial meeting held on 15 November 2010 in Wuhan.

13. The sides noted that South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member states have moved forward to a stage of successful implementation of regional economic integration projects, bringing development benefits to the entire region. Russia will consider the possibility of establishing cooperation with SAARC.

14. The sides noted that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) had emerged as an important factor for regional security and cooperation in the Eurasian region. The President of the Russian Federation welcomed India's intention to join the organisation as a full member, which he said would significantly increase the SCO's political weight and give a new quality and dimension to cooperation in this association. The Russian Federation agreed to make efforts along with other SCO members to accelerate the process of India's entry into the organisation.

15. In their discussions on Asia, the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions, the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation noted that the economies in the regions were increasingly becoming the main drivers of global economic growth and prosperity and that it was important for India and Russia to work towards the creation of a transparent, open, inclusive and balanced security and cooperation architecture in the Asia Pacific region based upon universally agreed

principles of international law and giving due consideration to the legitimate interests of all states. In this regard, the sides agreed to consult further with each other. The sides stressed the need for international cooperative measures to counter both traditional and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, extremism and weapons of mass destruction proliferation, drug trafficking, organized crime as well as the need for strengthening maritime security and freedom of navigation in accordance with the universally accepted principles of international law, including combating piracy at sea, and to address the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters. The sides resolve to enhance confidence-building amongst all States of the region with a view to promoting regional peace and stability.

16. The sides noted that the mechanism of the East Asia Summits (EAS) provides new opportunities for strategic dialogue on all aspects of security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Prime Minister of India welcomed Russia's joining the EAS, which is now encompassing all key States of the region.

17. Russia affirmed that India joining the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) would enhance the APEC potential and effectiveness and expand trade and investment cooperation in the region. Russia supports India's application to join the APEC and intends to work in this direction when the moratorium on the new membership is lifted.

18. The sides noted the importance of the mechanism of Defence Ministers of ASEAN and ASEAN dialogue partners (ADMM-Plus) as a key component of a robust, effective, open and inclusive regional security architecture that would enable the ADMM to cooperate with the eight "Plus" countries to address our common security challenges.

Promoting Cooperation among Emerging Economies

19. The sides noted that BRIC plays an important role in promoting a multi-polar world order as also a more harmonious international system based on international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making. BRIC has also played

an important role in promoting international economic and financial stability. The sides observed that meetings of BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have been useful. The sides welcomed the proposed inclusion of South Africa into the BRIC process in 2011.

Combating the Scourge of Terrorism

20. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation recalled the bilateral Moscow Declaration between India and Russia on International Terrorism signed on 6 November 2001 in Moscow. 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 agreed that there is no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism, and that multi-ethnic democratic countries like India and Russia were especially vulnerable to acts of terrorism which are attacks against the values and freedoms enshrined in their societies. The sides strongly condemned those who support terrorism noting that States that aid, abet or shelter terrorists are as guilty of acts of terrorism as their actual perpetrators. Both sides reaffirmed the need for all States to combine efforts to vanquish this evil. India and the Russian Federation reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the combat against international terrorism and in this context called for an early completion of the negotiations on the UN's draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The sides agreed that all terrorist networks must be defeated. They called upon Pakistan to expeditiously bring all the perpetrators, authors and accomplices of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice. India expressed sympathy for the victims of the terrorist attacks in the Moscow metro stations in March 2010, and expressed support for the Government of the Russian Federation's efforts to eliminate terrorism from Russian soil.

Stabilising the Afghan Situation

21. The sides expressed concern at the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, where successful stabilization will be possible only after the elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism that are present in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In this context the two sides also underscored the importance of stepped up action by

the International Security Assistance Force in combating production and trafficking of illegal narcotics in Afghanistan. The sides welcomed the Afghan Government's policy of reintegrating those individuals who agree to give up violence, adhere to the Afghan constitution and do not have ties with al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Both sides highlighted the need for strict observance of the sanctions regime against persons and entities listed by the UNSCR 1267 Sanctions Committee.

Iran's Nuclear Energy Program

22. India and Russia reiterated that all possible efforts should be made to address the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations and agreed that Iran has the right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its international obligations. The sides call on Iran to comply with the provisions of the respective UN Security Council resolutions and extend full cooperation with the IAEA.

Recovery and Strengthening of Global Economy, Reforming the International Financial Architecture

23. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation agreed that while a global economic recovery was discernible, it remained fragile, and characterized by wide disparities in the experiences of individual countries. To progress towards the shared goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth it is essential for G20 countries to fully implement the Seoul Action Plan adopted at the recent G20 summit. The sides welcomed the reform of the World Bank and reiterated their commitment to the successful completion of the reform of the International Monetary Fund as agreed to at the G-20 Seoul Summit which will be a significant achievement in the general reform of the international financial architecture.

Countering Climate Change

24. The sides stressed the importance of enhancing international efforts to combat climate change under the aegis of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Cancun Climate Conference and agreed that the post

Cancun negotiations should be part of a comprehensive package covering all the pillars of the Bali Action Plan.

25. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation expressed satisfaction with the deepening engagement between the two countries, which they agreed was in keeping with the vision enunciated in the "Declaration of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation" signed on 3 October 2000. They resolved to continue their efforts to shape and advance the India -Russia Privileged Strategic Partnership to an even higher qualitative level. The President of the Russian Federation extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Russia for the next Summit; the invitation was accepted with pleasure.



537. Fact sheet on Indo-Russian documents concluded during the Annual Summit 2010.

New Delhi, December 21, 2010

List of Documents signed on 21 December 2010 in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Russian President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev

S. No.	Name of the Agreement/MOU	Scope of the Agreement/MOU	Russian Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Elections between the Election Commission of India and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation	The MOU envisages exchange of information and expertise on best practices in the field of elections.	Mr. Vladimir Churov, Chairman, Central Election Commission	Shri S.Y. Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of	The Agreement envisages exchange of information and expertise, and capacity building in	Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister	Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister

- | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|--|
| | emergency management | the fields of disaster forecasting and disaster management. | | |
| 3. | 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 Republic of India and the Russian Federation | The MOU envisages establishment of simplified procedures for expeditious issuance of visas to citizens holding non-diplomatic/non-official passports travelling to and transiting through each other's countries for purposes of business, tourism, conferences and seminars. | Mr. Sergey Lavrov,
Foreign Minister | Shri S. M. Krishna,
External Affairs Minister |
| 4. | Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for Enhancement of Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector | The Agreement is expected to provide an administrative framework for joint undertaking of projects in the oil and gas sector in India, Russia and third countries by the oil and gas companies from both countries. | Mr. Sergey Shmatko,
Minister of Energy | Shri Murli Deora,
Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas |
| 5. | Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation | The document will guide innovation-led R&D collaboration in the field of science & technology during the period 2011-2020. | Mr. Andrey Fursenko,
Minister of Education & Science | Shri Kapil Sibal,
Minister of S&T |
| 6. | Joint Work Document for Establishing of the Indian - Russian Scientific and Technological Centre Between Department of Science & Technology, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation | The document lays down the legal and administrative framework for the establishment of Joint R&D Centers in New Delhi and Moscow that will pioneer commercialisation of joint research outcomes. | Mr. Andrey Fursenko,
Minister of Education & Science | Shri Kapil Sibal,
Minister of S&T |

EUROPE

1775

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|---|---|
| 7. | Memorandum of Mutual Understanding on Combating Irregular Migration between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation | The MOU will provide a framework for checking irregular migration. | Mr. Kosntantin Romodanovsky, Director, Federal Migration Service | Shri G. K. Pillai, Home Secretary |
| 8. | Memorandum of Understanding between the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India Concerning Broader Scientific and Technical Cooperation | The MOU envisages joint research and development in reactor technology and related fields for peaceful uses of atomic energy by nuclear research institutes on both sides. | Mr. Sergey Kirienko, Director General, State Corporation on Atomic Energy "ROSATOM" | Shri Srikumar Banerjee, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission |
| 9. | MOU between Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Information Technology | The MOU envisages enhanced cooperation in the area of IT and IT-Enabled Services. | Mr. Iliya Massukh, Deputy Minister, Telecom and Mass Communications | Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, Secretary, Information Technology |
| 10. | Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the Pharmaceutical Sector between the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers of the Government of India and the Ministry of Trade & Industry of the Government of Russian Federation | The MOU envisages enhanced cooperation in the area of pharmaceuticals and bio-pharmaceuticals, inter alia through establishment of JVs, joint research and exchange of know-how. | Mr. Denis Manturov, Deputy Minister of Industry & Trade | Shri Mukul Joshi, Secretary, Pharmaceuticals |
| 11. | Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and JSFC Sistema | The Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the two companies for undertaking joint projects in the hydrocarbon sector | Mr. Vladimir Evtushenkov, Chairman, Sistema | Mr. R. S. Butola, Managing Director, OVL |

List of G2G/B2B documents, being concluded on the margins of the Annual Summit

Political

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Joint Statement: Celebrating a Decade of the India-Russian Federation Strategic Partnership and Looking Ahead | The Joint Statement is the principal political outcome document of the Summit. It summarises the Summit discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues. |
|--|---|

Defence

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. Preliminary Design Contract (PDC) for Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) | The contract envisages joint design and development of Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft with the involvement of HAL on the Indian side and Sukhoi Design Bureau and Rosoboronexport on the Russian side. |
|---|---|

Trade/Banking

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. MOU between Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and Federal Customs Service on Exchange of Information on Foreign Trade | The MOU will strengthen the regulatory framework for monitoring bilateral trade. |
| 4. MOU between SBI and Vnesheconombank on banking sector cooperation | The MOU will contribute to further strengthening of banking linkages between the two countries. |
| 5. MOU between EXIM Bank and Vnesheconombank to operationalise the USD 100 million LOC signed during December 2009 Summit. | The MOU will facilitate the utilisation of the USD 100 million LOC extended by EXIM Bank through Vnesheconombank in December 2009. The LOC is to be utilised for enhancing exports from India to Russia, especially by SMEs. |
| 6. Opening of Official Representative Office of OJSC "Gazprombank" in India | This will contribute to the ongoing efforts to strengthen banking linkages between India and Russia |

Power

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7. MOU between NMDC Ltd. and OJSC Severstal for setting up a 50:50 joint venture for an integrated steel plant in Karnataka | The MOU, signed on 10 December 2010, envisages setting up of a JV to build an integrated steel plant in Karnataka with a captive coal mining concession in Russia and iron ore mining concession in India. |
|---|--|

Pharmaceuticals and Biopharmaceuticals

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 8. | Agreement between JSC "R-Pharm" and "Dr.Reddy's Laboratories Ltd." | The MOU envisages cooperation between the two companies in the areas of licensing, technology transfer, manufacturing and marketing of pharma products. |
| 9. | Memorandum of Understanding between JSC "Pharmasyntez" and "Naprod Life Science Private Ltd." | The MOU envisages joint production of modern oncological medicine in the Russian Federation and / or purchase of raw materials |
| 10. | Agreement on scientific and technical co-operation between JSC "Arkhin" and "Biopharm" | This Agreement will enable S&T cooperation between the two companies in the area of pharmaceuticals/biopharmaceuticals |

Communications and IT

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 11. | Agreement on scientific co-operation between "Pereslavskij Technopark" and Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology | This Agreement envisages scientific cooperation between the two institutes in the area of IT |
| 12. | Memorandum of Understanding between JSC "Sitronics" and Shyam Telecom on joint promotion of telecom products in various markets | This MOU envisages joint promotion of telecom products by the two companies in India, Russia and third countries |
| 13. | Agreement between Federal network operator JSC "Navigation - Information Systems" and GLONIS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LTD | This Agreement envisages introduction of GLONASS related services in India |
| 14. | MoU between JSC Navigation-Information Systems and Kerla State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. | This MOU envisages collaboration between the two organizations for undertaking joint projects in India. |
| 15. | Agreement on GLONASS High Precision signal access to India | This Agreement envisages Russia providing access to the GLONASS High Precision Navigation signals to India. |
| 16. | MOU between TATA SONS and Skolkovo Foundation | The MOU envisages joint R&D in high-tech innovations. |

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 17. | JV Agreement between Reliance and Sibur (a subsidiary of Gazprom) for setting up a butyl rubber manufacturing facility in India | The Agreement is for setting up a JV for manufacturing butyl rubber in Jamnagar. The project envisages Russian technology capabilities for India in this important sector. |
| 18. | Memorandum of Understanding between "Pereslavskij Technopark" and Swastik Polymers" | This MOU envisages joint production of Master Batches for polymers |



538. Opening statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Interaction with Russian President.

New Delhi, December 21, 2010.

Your Excellency Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation,

Distinguished Representatives of the Media.

I am delighted to welcome His Excellency President Medvedev to India for the 11th India - Russia Annual Summit. Our Summit this year marks the completion of ten years of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership. This is also the third Annual Summit meeting that I have held with President Medvedev. We deeply value the role that President Medvedev has played in taking forward our relationship.

The tradition of Annual Summits with Russia symbolizes the richness of our ties with Russia. Russia is a time tested friend of India that has stood by us in our times of need in the past. Ours is a special and privileged strategic partnership. It is a partnership that has and will continue to develop independent of our relations with other countries.

Our talks have been comprehensive and result oriented. We have signed several important agreements covering a large number of sectors. This reflects our mutual desire to bring our cooperation in other areas at par with our traditionally strong cooperation in the defence and nuclear fields.

I am particularly glad that we have concluded an inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in the oil and gas sector. This is the result of a lot of hard work put in by both sides, and reflects the complementarities between our two economies. We will work towards its implementation through a mutually agreed roadmap.

We welcome the increasing role being played by the India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment and the CEOs Council. We have signed agreements in the pharmaceuticals and information technology sectors. These are areas which have immense possibilities for expansion. The

agreement on visa simplification that has been signed will help in ease of travel of citizens of our countries. We have also decided to enhance cultural exchanges.

Long before other countries it was Russia which helped us in the development of our scientific and industrial base. I am therefore happy that we have renewed the Integrated Long Term Technology Programme with a mandate to establish an innovation based technology partnership.

In the field of defence cooperation, we reviewed the ongoing projects, including those relating to joint design, development and production.

Discussions have progressed on the construction of additional Russian designed nuclear reactors at Kudankulam, and we have signed an agreement to broaden scientific and technical cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

We also reviewed the situation in our region and ways and means to further strengthen our coordination on international issues. We have agreed to intensify our consultations on Afghanistan. We look forward to working with Russia in the United Nations Security Council during our term over the next two years. We will work closely within the BRIC and G20 framework.

Our relations with Russia are a factor of peace and stability in the region and the world. This Summit has added even more substance to our cooperation, for which I once again thank President Medvedev and the government and people of Russia.

Thank you.



SLOVENIA**539. Remarks by Minister of State Shrimati Preeti Kaur at the Bled Strategic Forum on 'Global Outlook for the Next Decade'.****Bled (Slovenia), August 29, 2010.**

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I feel privileged to be here with you today for the Bled Strategic Forum 2010. I am thankful to the organizers, particularly the Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr. Samuel •bogar for having invited me. India attaches great importance to the Bled Strategic Forum and that explains why I am here for the second consecutive year. I look forward to being enriched by the discussions of this year's Forum.

If the global outlook for the next decade had to be summarized in one word, it would be 'Challenging' and among the major challenges which call for global collaboration, the most immediate which would need to be tackled within the next decade are sustainable development, energy security, the water challenge and last, but not the least, international terrorism. Furthermore, these challenges impact on global development, prosperity and security.

There is an old Indian saying: "The World is one Family" - (Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam). Indeed the world is linked today and the inter-dependence leaves us no choice but to find common solutions for the benefit of mankind. Our natural resources are finite and are depleting fast. It is imperative that they not only be utilized judiciously but we also reduce our reliance on them. Decades ago, the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had said: "The earth has enough resources to meet peoples' needs, but will never have enough to satisfy peoples' greed".

Energy is necessary for the development process and developing countries require reliable access to competitively priced energy supplies to plan their economic growth to uplift their citizens out of poverty. Given their effect on pollution and the dwindling supply of fossil fuels, it has become imperative for both the developed and the developing countries to seriously pursue renewable sources of energy. Simultaneously, efforts should be made to enhance the efficiency of existing energy systems.

In India, we adopted a National Action Plan to combat Climate Change which is based on a multi-pronged approach. Our vision is to make India's economic development energy-efficient. Over a period of time, we want to pioneer a graduated shift from economic activity based on fossil fuels to one based on non-fossil fuels and from reliance on non-renewable and depleting sources of energy to renewable sources of energy. In this strategy, the sun occupies centre-stage, as it should, being literally the original source of all energy. India plans to pool its scientific, technical and managerial talents, with sufficient financial resources, to develop solar energy as the principal source of abundant energy to power our economy and to transform the lives of our people. Our success in this endeavour will change the face of India. We hope that it would also enable India to help change the destinies of people around the world. We have launched an ambitious Solar mission in January this year and the aim is to deploy 20,000 MW of solar power by 2022.

While exploring new technologies, we should simultaneously focus on existing energy technologies also. This focus should be on efficiency of operations at the plant level, reducing transmission and distribution losses and use of fuel efficient delivery and consumption systems.

The challenge of Water is obviously important. Our focus therefore is to increase the efficiency of water use, exploring efficient operations to augment water supply and ensure more efficient management of water resource. The challenge is to ensure optimum water utilization in both agriculture and industry.

Notwithstanding the fact that India has large river systems, ground water accounts for nearly 70% of our total available water resource. Nearly 55% of our irrigation requirements and 50% of urban and industrial requirements are taken care of by ground water. To optimize the use of ground water, various measures have been put in place. In urban areas, mandatory water harvesting and artificial recharge is in place. Sewage treatment plants are now mandatory for all industrial and commercial buildings and residential apartments. These measures have helped in bridging the gap between availability and requirement and more importantly on recharging the ground water table.

Climate Change is another major global challenge. India is prepared to play its role as a responsible member of the international community and

make a contribution to mitigate its impact. India has engaged actively in multilateral negotiations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in a positive, constructive and forward-looking manner. Our common objective should be to establish an effective, cooperative and equitable global approach based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, enshrined in the UNFCCC.

On our part we are doing all that is possible within the limits of our resources. Our recent announcement to take a voluntary target of reducing the emissions intensity of India's GDP by 20-25% by 2020 together with our commitment that our per capita emissions would never exceed those of the Developed countries is a manifestation of the seriousness with which we seek to address the Climate Change issue.

Terrorism poses a serious danger to any civilized society. It subverts the economic and financial environment for growth and deprives ordinary men and women of their basic needs, livelihood and even their lives. It also necessitates enhanced military and security expenditure which under more conditions could have been devoted to tackling the problems of poverty, ignorance and disease.

Having large financial and material resources at their disposal, terrorist groups are today able to use modern communication systems and state-of-the-art technology to pursue their agenda. They have become far more sophisticated, better networked and are also highly motivated in carrying out their nefarious designs. A matter of extreme concern is also their linkage with organized crime, like drug trafficking, gun running, counterfeit currency, and money-laundering.

Terrorists have no religion or faith. They do not belong to any community. No community or religion can and should be blamed for irresponsible and violent acts of a few individuals. Terrorists break the Law of the land and deprive innocent persons of their Fundamental Right to live. No cause or grievance can justify terrorism. The scourge of terrorism must be resolutely opposed, and measures to combat terrorism have to be comprehensive and sustained. In this regard there is an urgent need to seek the expeditious conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, which has been pending in the UN since

1996. Terrorism knows no borders; hence its solution also has to transcend boundaries.

It is only the strength of our resolve and the ever expanding frontiers of our knowledge, supported by science and technology that can help us meet these challenges. Sharing experiences and best practices holds the key to addressing them. We may not find all the solutions, but nevertheless, we should not be found wanting in spirit of cooperation and sincerity of our purpose. And these are two of the qualities that the Bled conference has come to be associated with.

Thank you.



SWEDEN

540. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the establishment of ICCR Chair at Lund University, Sweden.

New Delhi, July 13, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lund University, Sweden for establishment of a Chair of Contemporary Indian History/ Indian Social Sciences at the Lund University. Ambassador of India in Sweden, Shri Balakrishna Shetty and Vice Chancellor of the Lund University, Mr. Per Erikson signed the MoU on June 22nd, 2010.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the university, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of nine months. During this 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 1st, 2010. The MoU would remain valid for four years from 2010.

Lund University; one of the oldest Universities in Sweden founded in 1666, has a distinguished position in the highest ranking Universities of the world

for its research. Besides this, having a good number of international students every year makes it a suitable place to establish an India Chair. The establishment of this Chair is expected to be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening educational and cultural bonds and towards enhancing academic knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



SWITZERLAND

541. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Telephonic conversation between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

New Delhi, March 31, 2010.

External Affairs Minister received a telephone call from H.E. Ms. Micheline Calmy-Ray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland on the afternoon of Wednesday, 31st March.

The Ministers reiterated their resolve to further strengthen the excellent bilateral ties which exist between the two countries, particularly in the areas of economy and commerce and allied fields.

External Affairs Minister extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister of Switzerland to visit India at a mutually convenient time, to be decided through diplomatic channels. The visit would help both sides review the areas of cooperation and identify new sectors for enlarging the engagement between the two countries.



TURKEY**542. Joint Declaration between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of India during the visit of the Turkish President on Terrorism.****New Delhi, February 9, 2010.**

On the occasion of the visit of the President of the Republic of Turkey to India, both sides:

Recognising that terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and security;

Noting that the forces of terrorism are nourished by extremist ideologies;

Stressing that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;

Recognising further that terrorism seeks to weaken, in particular, democratic societies and polities that are based on the rule of law and committed to inclusive growth;

Denouncing those who sponsor, abet and instigate terrorism and provide them safe havens;

Affirming their common commitment to fight terrorism and recognising that their counter-terrorism efforts constitute an important part of the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism;

Calling upon the international community to comply with all the provisions of international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as well as other related international instruments and strengthen international cooperation in this regard;

Recognising the need for the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as a vital component of the international legal framework in the global struggle against terrorism; calling on the international community to conclude the Convention without further delay;

Decided to enhance their cooperation in this field;

To this end, their officials have been tasked to work towards developing an action plan with timelines and specific measures. For this purpose, the officials will take into account the existing structures of cooperation such as the Joint Working Group against Terrorism;

Agreed to work together and with other like-minded States for the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the earliest.



543. Joint Declaration on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of India.

New Delhi, February 9, 2010.

On the occasion of the visit of the President of the Republic of Turkey to India, both sides:

Considering the importance of science and technology for the economic and social development of our countries,

Desiring to develop and expand cooperation in the field of science and technology in areas of common interest,

Noting that, together with economic and commercial relations, cooperation in science and technology offer great potential as a driver of bilateral relations,

Recognizing that cooperation in science and technology will not only advance the state of science and technology to the benefit of both countries but also strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between our peoples,

Reaffirming the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of India signed on 17 September 2003.

Declare that, the two countries, hereby launch an Advanced Science and Technology Dialogue which:

Will strive to promote the maximum use of the opportunities that have risen for mutually beneficial interaction in the field of science and technology which would add to the strength of the two national economies, and to the welfare and prosperity of the two peoples,

Will strengthen this interaction with special emphasis on high-technology and frontier areas of research and application,

Will encourage and support broadened and expanded relations between the scientific and technological communities in both countries by creating favorable conditions for cooperation,

Will encourage cooperation through exchange of ideas, information, skills and technologies; exchange of scientists and technical experts; the convening of joint seminars, scientific conferences, and meetings; training and enhancing the skills of scientists and technical experts; the conduct of joint research projects and studies and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon,

Will actively study the possibilities of working together in mutually identified projects in areas such as telecommunication, computerisation, information technology, space research, biotechnology and environmental technology.

Will actively explore the possibilities for joint research and development activities making use of best practices in this field,

Will encourage, facilitate and support the development of direct contacts and cooperation between government agencies and organizations, universities, science and research centers, institutes and institutions, private sector firms and other entities of the two countries.

We also agree, therefore, that Turkey and India convene a joint workshop in 2010 among designated representatives to elaborate and bring into being the Advanced Science and Technology Dialogue in accordance with this Joint Declaration.



544. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Turkish President Abdullah Gul.

New Delhi, February 9, 2010.

Your Excellency, Your Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey,

Madame Hayrunnisa Gul,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to welcome you on your first official visit to India, which we are confident, will cement and deepen our bilateral relations.

Our countries have deep and rich historical connections. The influence of the Turkic civilization on Indian art and architecture is well known. The exchange of embassies between the Mughal and the Ottoman courts in the 15th and 16th Centuries, and the enthusiasm of the people of India in supporting the foundation of the Turkish Republic, testify to the longstanding links between our two countries. The Sufi tradition of Islam represented by Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi has always had a deep resonance in our country. Both our countries draw inspiration from his mystical poetry on universal love and brotherhood, and his cosmopolitan outlook, at a time of strife and upheavals. Rumi said and I quote:

"Come, come, whoever you are.

Wanderer, worshiper, lover of living,

It doesn't matter.

Ours is not a caravan of despair."

Both India and Turkey are modern democracies based on ethnic, religious and linguistic plurality. We believe that it is time to translate these historical assets and contemporary synergy, to work together to enhance bilateral cooperation, and address contemporary global challenges.

Excellency,

Economic and commercial ties between India and Turkey have gained momentum in recent years. However, the volume of bilateral trade and investment remains much below the potential of our two economies. To some extent, this is due to the impact of the recent global financial crisis. As members of the G-20, India and Turkey worked together for a coordinated response to the global downturn, and are contributing to a new architecture for international economic and financial interaction.

As the world comes out of this financial crisis, we are confident that India-Turkey trade will once again begin to flourish. India and Turkey have started exploring the possibility of negotiating a free trade agreement. We hope that this process will be expeditious and smooth. We should increase investment levels. There are great opportunities for Turkish business and industry in India in sectors like infrastructure development, energy and services. Indian companies are investing in mining, steel, irrigation equipment, tractors and automobiles in Turkey.

Both India and Turkey have developed centres of excellence in Science and Technology, as well as in higher education. We are happy that recently a first-ever micro satellite from Turkey was launched by an Indian space vehicle. We look forward to more such cooperation in the future and also welcome the exchange of students, scholars and scientists.

The foundation of India-Turkey bilateral relations can be consolidated by institutional linkages such as between Parliaments and political parties of both countries. I am happy that a multi-party delegation from the Indian Parliament led by the Indian Minister of Parliamentary Affairs visited Turkey recently and was warmly received by you.

As victims of international terrorism, both India and Turkey, have a vital stake in eradicating this menace and threat to our democracies. We both firmly believe that terrorism is a crime against humanity and it should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Our bilateral mechanism in this regard could be further enhanced and updated by developing an Action Plan with timelines and specific

measures. Fighting terrorism at various levels requires active international co-ordination amongst like-minded countries. I am happy that India and Turkey will work together in convincing others to come on board for the early finalization in the UN of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would request you to join me in raising a toast:-

- to the continued health and well being of His Excellency President Abdullah Gul and Madame Hayrunnisa Gul;
- to enhanced cooperation between India and Turkey, and;
- to the further strengthening of friendship between our peoples.



U.K.

545. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the newly elected British Prime Minister David Cameron congratulating him on his assumption of Office.

New Delhi, May 12, 2010.

"Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Please accept my heartiest felicitations and congratulations on your assumption of the office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The elections in the United Kingdom and your stewardship of the Conservative Party reflect the best traditions of parliamentary democracy. I wish you the very best in your leadership of the United Kingdom in the years ahead.

I recall with great pleasure our meeting in New Delhi in September 2006. Over the years, our bilateral relations have diversified into a vibrant and multi-faceted strategic partnership encompassing almost all areas of human endeavour.

We are today well-placed to build upon this strong edifice not just for the welfare and benefit of our two peoples, but also to work together to address the pressing global challenges that we face today, and to harness the growing inter-dependence among nations for the good of humankind. I look forward to working with you to further advance and strengthen our bonds of friendship, to which India attaches the highest importance.

It gives me great pleasure to extend a most cordial invitation to you to visit India at your convenience."



546. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meetings with British Prime Minister and French President on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

Toronto, June 26, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good evening. I know that you have had a long day; I know you are tired and sleepy. But I thought that I will quickly give you some details about two very important bilateral meetings that the Prime Minister has had today with British and French leaders.

First, there was a meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the newly-elected British Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron. Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Cameron on his electoral victory. An invitation has already been extended to Prime Minister Cameron to visit India in July, next month. Prime Minister said that he looked forward to the visit of Right Hon'ble David Cameron to India.

As the Leader of the Opposition, Prime Minister Cameron had visited India in 2006 and he fondly recalled his visit.. The two leaders went on to review the status of bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction, their happiness at the trajectory of our ties. India and UK had elevated the relationship to the level of a strategic partnership in the year 2004. The

British Prime Minister underscored his party's and his country's deep commitment to further strengthening and deepening ties with India.

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Cameron noted that there was tremendous potential for cooperation in areas like trade and economic relations, human resource development, and so on. Many of you know that trade with UK is over 13 billion dollars. The trade between India and UK is by and large balanced. UK is also the fourth largest investor in India and similarly Indian investments in UK have been sizeable and growing.

The Indian Prime Minister said that he would welcome more British investments in India. The British Prime Minister noted that Indian students were the second largest among foreign students studying in the UK, and said that he would like to see more Indian students to studying in the United Kingdom.

The two Prime Ministers briefly exchanged views on G20. You would recall that in April 2009 UK had hosted the G20 Summit. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh observed that India would like to see continued concerted efforts by all countries to ensure that global recovery gets further consolidated, as the process was still somewhat tentative. Also that slack in private demand could be compensated by fiscal measures and stimulus packages.

They went on to exchange views on the regional situation including that in Afghanistan, and agreed to remain in touch. The British Prime Minister reaffirmed the desirability, the need for reforms in the international financial institutions including the UN. He reiterated UK's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

Next, Prime Minister had a very warm meeting with President Nicholas Sarkozy of France. We have been strategic partners since 1998. The two leaders, as I said, had a very warm meeting as old friends. Prime Minister recalled the visit of President Sarkozy to India in January 2008 as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Celebrations in India. An invitation has already been extended to President Sarkozy and Madame Carla Brunei. Prime Minister said that he looked forward to their visit later this year and that a very warm welcome awaited the French President and his spouse. They went on to discuss outcomes of the visit of President Sarkozy to

India. President Sarkozy recalled Prime Minister's own visit to France for the French National Day on the 14th of July 2009 when Prime Minister Dr. Singh was the Guest of Honour. It would be recalled that President Sarkozy had also made a special gesture of inviting a four hundred strong Indian Armed Forces contingent on that occasion which had led the military parade in Paris.

President Sarkozy said that France regarded India as a most important partner of France in the world and saw India as a country that plays a critical role in world affairs. He added that India should play a bigger role not just in G20, but in all institutions of global governance. He reiterated France's full support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. He also was fully supportive of India's efforts on counter-terrorism.

The two leaders then exchanged views on G20. You know that after the Seoul G20 Summit in November this year, France will assume Presidency of G20. President Sarkozy shared with the Prime Minister some of the major priorities of France, and French vision of G20 once it assumes the Presidency. He pointedly said that he would like to consult closely with India in crafting his vision for G20. They discussed bilateral issues and reiterated the importance of cooperation in areas like technology, defence cooperation, science and technology and so on. I would like to note that France is India's fifth largest trading partner among the EU countries.

This was briefly what was discussed during the two meetings that Prime Minister had today.

Question: So, there was no meeting of the BRIC nations as has been expected.

Official Spokesperson: You are aware that because of domestic situation in Brazil, particularly the floods that have taken place, President Lula could not visit. Accordingly it was decided not to have the BRIC meeting that was envisaged.

Question: Would it be correct to assume, from what we have been told about the Indian Prime Minister's comments about global recovery and the slack in private demand, that India is in fact urging the developed world to not cut back sharply and, therefore, impact growth? Can that be taken

as one of the key messages that the Indian Prime Minister gave his counterparts?

Official Spokesperson: What the Indian Prime Minister told today, I have shared with you. You will also see his intervention tomorrow which spells out Prime Minister's vision, his thinking on the matter.

Question: Did he say anything on the bank tax?

Official Spokesperson: With these two leaders what he discussed, I have already given you a flavor of. On the issue of bank tax, you already have a perspective.

Question: Prime Minister was to discuss issues with the Chinese President in case that BRIC meeting would have taken place. Is there any meeting of Prime Minister scheduled tomorrow?

Official Spokesperson: As far as I knew there was no structured meeting as such with President Hu Jintao of China. Prime Minister has had a bilateral meeting with President Hu Jintao in April this year in Brasilia on the sidelines of the BRIC Summit. Today what had been envisaged was a meeting of the BRIC leaders in the context of the G20 Summit.

Question: Thank you for the late evening briefing. I just wanted to ask two questions. One is, in the past I believe in several bilateral meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper Prime Minister Singh has raised the questions of Sikh militancy in Canada and asked for Canada to crackdown on that. Is this likely to be a topic of discussion amongst other topics tomorrow when he meets Prime Minister Harper? And also, with regard to the whole question of not cutting back on spending in order to keep the economies invigorated, Britain believes in cutting back on some amount of spending. They were actually putting forth some cut backs. So, was this discussed in any way between Prime Minister Cameron and Dr. Singh?

Official Spokesperson: Thank you. Both very valid questions.

On the second question, the reading that I have, I have shared with you. I was not physically present at the bilateral meeting. So, at this juncture I cannot add more to what I have already told you.

As far as your first question is concerned, there is going to be the meeting tomorrow - as you know that is the bilateral component - between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Canada. What I understand is that the leaders will discuss all issues of bilateral interest as well as regional and international issues. We will certainly give you a flavor of what has been discussed tomorrow. But on the issue that you mentioned, I think you were present in Washington in April when I briefed you on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit. There was a meeting between Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper, and I had given you a perspective on that meeting. It is on the website and you may want to take a look. At that time Prime Minister Singh had drawn the attention of Prime Minister Harper to this issue. We have been in touch with each other on this and other issues of common interest and concern. Thank you very much.



547. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Prime Minister of U. K. David Cameron.

New Delhi, July 28, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good morning to all of you. My colleague Joint Secretary (Europe West) Mr. Seetharam and I will endeavour to give you a perspective on the very important state visit of the Rt Hon. David Cameron, the Prime Minister of UK, who is currently visiting India.

He arrived last night at Bangalore and today in the evening he would be reaching New Delhi. He leads a very high-level delegation. In fact, in recent memory, a delegation at this scale from UK has not been to India. His delegation includes a number of his Cabinet colleagues including British Foreign Minister; Chancellor of the Exchequer; Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; Minister of State for Universities and Science; National Security Advisor; Vice-Chancellors of a number of key universities; a number of CEOs of leading business houses in UK; senior officials; and others.

Let me quickly take you through the programme. As I said, he arrived last evening. Today he would be meeting with the Governor of Karnataka; visiting Infosys and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Later in the evening he would be arriving at New Delhi. Tomorrow there would be a ceremonial welcome by Prime Minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There would be a call on him by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna; a meeting with Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. He would be calling on Rashtrapatiji and Hon'ble Vice-President and meeting with the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

In the afternoon tomorrow there will be a business luncheon which will be organized by the three apex business chambers in India for the delegation including the CEOs that are accompanying the Prime Minister. Tomorrow evening he holds delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister. There would also be a joint media interaction that is slated around 1930 hours. The two Prime Ministers would have an interaction with the UK business delegation that is accompanying the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be assisted by our External Affairs Minister in the talks; Commerce and Industry Minister; Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Minister for Human Resource Development; Minister of State for External Affairs Shrimati Preneet Kaur; Principal Secretary to Prime Minister; National Security Advisor; Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, a number of other senior officials and of course our High Commissioner to London.

Prime Minister Cameron visited India in October 2006 as the Leader of Opposition, when he had a number of very useful interactions including a meeting with the Prime Minister of India. It is indeed significant that within weeks of assuming office he is paying a state visit to India which is reflective of the importance that both sides attach to this vital relationship. The two Prime Ministers also had a very good meeting at Toronto on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on the 26th of June.

India enjoys multifaceted relations with UK which have intensified in the recent years. During the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to UK in 2004 it was decided to elevate our relations to the level of a strategic partnership. There has been no looking back. Regular high-level exchanges have become a hallmark of our ties. To just give an example, last year in

2009 the two Prime Ministers had four meetings and had a number of telephonic conversations.

President of India paid a state visit to UK in October 2009 which gave a very useful momentum to our bilateral ties. The series of meetings that she had also included a call on her by present Prime Minister David Cameron, who was then the Leader of Opposition. I would like to say that our vibrant ties encompass a variety of sectors of mutual interest including trade and investment, human resource development, energy, high technology, science and technology, tourism, culture, defence, counterterrorism and the others.

UK is one of our major trading partners. Our bilateral trade, which was about 3.6 billion dollars equivalent in 2003-04, has since surged to over \$ 12.8 billion last year in 2008-09. UK is also the fourth largest investor in India. According to my figures, the cumulative FDI equity inflows have been of the order of close to six billion dollars. By the same token, recognizing that UK is an attractive investment destination, Indian companies have been actively investing in UK. In fact, Indian companies have become the second largest investor in London. And close to 600 Indian companies are already based in UK of which close to half are in London.

In recognition of the tremendous potential, an India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was set up at the level of Commerce Ministers, in 2005. It has since emerged as a very useful mechanism to impart more content and depth to our economic and trade ties. The sixth JETCO meeting was held in London in February this year.

UK also plays host to over 30,000 Indian students who go to UK for higher education. This is the second biggest foreign student body in UK. Again to give our cooperation in the HRD sector, which is a very vital area of cooperation, a boost an India-UK Education Forum at a Ministerial level has been established. The second meeting of the Forum, which was co-chaired by our Minister of HRD from the Indian side, was held in London earlier this year in January. The interaction has thrown up a number of useful ideas and initiatives which the two sides are actively working on.

Similarly, tourism has now emerged as an important area of cooperation. We have close to 130 weekly flights connecting cities between the two

countries and ferrying more than a million tourists in both directions. Defence sector is also an important area of cooperation, with regular bilateral visits, training courses and other contacts.

We have a sizeable Indian community of close to two million in the UK, which comprises of almost three per cent of the population of UK. The community is doing well economically, politically and is well assimilated. Presently there are eight Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, and 22 Peers in the House of Lords.

I would like to note that UK has been steadfast in its support for India's candidature of permanent membership of the UN Security Council. It has also been a valuable interlocutor for us at a number of international fora including the G20, EU, Climate Change talks, and so on.

The two Prime Ministers are expected to hold wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral matters of common interest. The visit is expected to give a further fillip, further boost to our robust and multifaceted bilateral relations.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the visit of the Rt Hon. David Cameron.

Question: We saw in January at the Kabul Conference where India's position was not taken as seriously by Britain regarding its role in Afghanistan. Now with this visit will you take the opportunity to raise the issue of Afghanistan perhaps looking at a more meaningful role for India?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, UK is a very valuable interlocutor of India. I did mention that during the visit, especially the delegation-level talks between the two Prime Ministers, we expect a whole range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest to be discussed. What actually would be discussed, I do not know and I cannot speculate.

Question: I just wanted to know what are the agreements - I know most of them might be in discussion stage at this point - that are expected, in what areas.

Joint Secretary (Europe West) (Shri T.P. Seetharam): In Delhi the only agreement, or rather the Memorandum of Understanding that is to be signed is on culture. You will be surprised to know that after all these years we do

not have a cultural agreement with UK. So, for the first time we will have a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in areas of culture that will be signed in New Delhi after the talks.

Question: Would it be possible for you to give a little more detail about what the MoU on culture might actually involve. I understand that you are going to have one. What would that mean? Secondly, I understand that you do not want to go into details or speculate but there is a very wide divergence between the Indian position on Taliban and the UK, US and other European states' position. Similarly there is a wide gap in US and Indian positions. Can you tell us whether both positions will converge perhaps during the talks today?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): On culture, I believe immediately after the signing of the agreement there will be a joint press interaction. So, details of the agreement would be shared with the media as soon as it is signed. But as you know, it is in the nature of these agreements that there will be sharing of information, organizing events in each other's countries, exchange of scholars, organizing seminars, exhibitions, performing events. So, it is in that nature a broad cultural cooperation agreement. The specifics will be made available as soon as it is signed.

Official Spokesperson: I can spell out for you the Indian position and thinking on this issue. Government of India is supportive of the initiative of the elected Government of Afghanistan to integrate such elements into the national mainstream which abjure violence, abide by the Constitution of Afghanistan, and are respectful of the economic and political gains that Afghanistan has made in the past several years. We also are of the view that any such initiative should be Afghan-led and Afghan-driven. That is our position on Afghanistan, on this issue in particular which is well-documented and which has been unequivocally put across to our interlocutors. Just a word on our role in Afghanistan - which you are aware of perhaps, but let me briefly touch upon that - we are actively engaged in the reconstruction, development and providing economic assistance to our friends in Afghanistan in keeping with the wishes of the friendly people of Afghanistan, of the Government of Afghanistan. And till this date India's assistance has been of the order of about 1.3 billion dollars. So, that is our position on this issue.

Question: Visas have been a huge issue. You said that you have got 30,000 Indian students in UK, and a lot of Indian business leaders have raised the issue when they were in London. What is the position now? Does the Government intend to discuss it?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): As you would be aware, there have been reports that the Government of the United Kingdom proposes to restrict non-EU emigration to UK. So, naturally this is an issue related to movement of people and it is possible that such an issue would be among the various items that could come up. Exactly how it would be taken up or what would be discussed, I am not able to comment on.

Question: Britain is giving millions of dollars in aid to Pakistan. The recent intelligence leaks have revealed for the first time the stunning scale of ISI's involvement in Pakistan. Are we going to ask the British Prime Minister ... (Inaudible)... allegation about the need for some sort of monitoring mechanism of their aid to Pakistan? Secondly, Britain has been tom-tomming this visit as forging a special relationship. What is there in it for us? From India's point of view what is so special about this visit apart from the huge delegation?

Official Spokesperson: As to your first question, we have always maintained and we believe that a stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest. We have no difficulty, obviously stemming from that, with economic assistance or cooperation being extended to Pakistan by any country. As far as the issue of WikiLeaks is concerned, my response is already on the website and I am sure you have seen that.

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Yes, we have naturally seen reports and are aware of the intention of the Government of UK to have a 'new special relationship' with India. This was actually a term used when Mr. David Cameron had come to India earlier. Subsequently this also became part of the coalition document in UK. There has also been talk of 'enhanced partnership' with India. I guess the discussions will naturally throw light on what these terms mean. So, we will have to wait till tomorrow for the joint press interaction by the two Prime Ministers. Some of you would have already seen perhaps an article written by the Rt

Hon. David Cameron in one of the Indian newspapers today which also gives some idea of his views on these aspects.

Question: I want to share with you the case of the passenger plane crash in Islamabad and would like to know if there are any Indians on the flight, if the High Commission is aware of it, and if the manifest and the names of passengers can be given to us. That is one thing. The second thing is, Sir, you would have seen what Keith Vaz had to say about the Kohinoor. Is that something either country is looking at?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): On the Kohinoor, I think it is something which has been going on for a long time. I believe the ASI is in the process of compiling a large number of cultural items of a similar nature. This is a process that is ongoing and not necessarily specific to this particular visit.

Official Spokesperson: As to your first question, we will ascertain the facts and will come back to you.

Question: You mentioned that India and UK are looking to broaden their defence cooperation. Is there any defence deal going to be signed? There have been reports of the deal being signed when the Prime Minister is here? Can you give us some details on that?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Yes, there are discussions on for an additional 57 Hawk Jet Trainer aircraft. I believe it is all ready to be signed and may be signed this afternoon in Bangalore. Since the Prime Minister of UK is visiting HAL it is quite possible that it would be signed there.

Question: There is one question on educational links. We have also been hearing reports of several Memoranda of Understanding being signed between British Universities and the Ministry of HRD here. Any elaboration on that? Can we expect some MoUs?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Yes, education is a very important area of cooperation. As was mentioned, our Minister of Education had gone to London earlier this year. There is already an ongoing programme called the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) which

was started in 2008. The first phase is ending in 2011. So, there is some discussion on both sides about extending this for another five years. This will include a large number of projects, research awards, scholarships, and interactions between say about 300 schools in India with an equal number of schools in UK, collaborative research projects between universities, and a massive interaction at all levels in education. This is something that is being looked at. There could be other projects also in the education field.

Question: A follow-up question on the foreign university campuses. We know that Imperial College, Oxford, Cambridge are also coming with Mr. Cameron's delegation. Any concrete MoUs between them and the Government of India?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): I think a law relating to this aspect of permitting foreign universities to open campus etc., is still to be adopted in Parliament. So, I do not think there will be specific concrete agreements at this stage. But these are ideas that will be explored and we are happy to see that reputed universities in UK are represented in this direction.

Official Spokesperson: All that I would like add, as I said, is that this is a very important sector of collaboration to which both sides attach the highest importance. That is precisely why you have a high-level mechanism led by the Ministers of Education, and we would very much want to see rapid progress in cooperation in this vital sector.

Thank you very much.



548. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at his meeting with the UK Business Delegation.

New Delhi, July 29, 2010.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you here today. I am delighted that Prime Minister Cameron has brought with him a truly distinguished business delegation, which represents the best of British industry, including companies which are household names in India.

Economic and commercial ties are a major driver of any strategic partnership between nations. I hope your visit will be a forerunner of a greatly strengthened business relationship between India and Britain.

The United Kingdom is one of our important trading partners and the fourth largest investor in India. I am happy to say that Indian investors have also taken a keen interest in investing in the UK. More than 600 Indian companies are based in the United Kingdom, and around 70 are listed on the London Stock Exchange. Indian investors also see the United Kingdom as the gateway to the European Union and beyond. Our bilateral trade has increased from 6 billion US dollars in 2003-04 to over 12 billion dollars last year.

While these figures are encouraging, they also indicate that the levels of both trade and investment are lower than they could be. Prime Minister Cameron and I have decided that we should aim at the doubling of our bilateral trade turnover in the next five years.

We have also decided to establish an India-UK CEOs Forum. We hope that the Forum will look at the practical aspects of barriers to trade and investment, and explore innovative ways to leverage partnership and collaboration.

I hope your visit will give you a direct feel of economic developments and prospects in India. India offers a large market, a young and creative population and a stable investment climate. It also offers the prospect of a steadily expanding market. Despite the global economic downturn, we are poised to return to a growth trajectory of 8 to 9% per annum. Our economic growth agenda is complemented by a firm commitment to inclusive social policies that will make our growth sustainable and broad based.

Our infrastructure has lagged behind the acceleration in growth and presents a major challenge. We need much more investment in Infrastructure sectors such as power, roads, railways, ports and aviation. We have outlined an ambitious programme of investment in these areas to meet the deficit. This is based on a combination of public investment and public private partnership.

The public private partnership route should offer attractive opportunities for British investors and financiers. Of course, the rest of the Indian economy is also open for investment by British Investors and we welcome you in a wide range of activities. Collaboration in the areas of industrial innovation, R&D, vocational training, bio-technology, green-technology, design and quality are other major areas of mutual interest.

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bangalore industrial clusters offer new avenues for foreign investors wishing to participate in the India story.

Over the years, we have progressively relaxed our guidelines for foreign direct investment to encourage and facilitate foreign direct investment. I can assure you that we will do all that is necessary to make doing business in India easy and hassle free. We are determined to create a stable, transparent and predictable investment environment in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen

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. I invite you to join us in our socio-economic transformation as investors, financiers and traders.

Our Government, in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom, will continue to encourage close business ties between our two countries.

I thank you.



549. Joint Press Statement issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron.

New Delhi, July 29, 2010.

India and the UK: An Enhanced Partnership for the Future

UK-India Summit talks were held on 29 July 2010 in New Delhi, during the State visit to India of the British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. David Cameron, MP.

2. The British Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for the warmth of the welcome which had been extended to him and his colleagues on his visit to India, and set out his hope to achieve a transformation of the relationship between the two countries over the coming years.

3. The two Prime Ministers and their colleagues had a detailed and fruitful discussion. They agreed that the India-UK relationship had great potential for growth, to the benefit of both countries, and that both Governments should invest further effort in working to take it to a new level in the future.

Trade, Investment and Energy

4. The two sides agreed that we should be ambitious in seeking to substantially increase trade and significantly increase investment between the UK and India.

5. They agreed to establish a new India-UK CEOs Forum to help achieve this. This will be a small, high-level body, co-chaired by Peter Sands (CEO of Standard Chartered Bank) and Ratan Tata (Chairman of Tata Group). It will meet alternately in India and the UK and will make recommendations to the two Governments on how to increase levels of trade and investment in each others' economies.

6. Both sides also agreed to review the mandate, composition and structure of relevant existing bilateral bodies in the area of trade, investment and economic cooperation, in order to re-energize our joint efforts.

7. Both sides discussed India's particular interest in attracting international as well as domestic investment in infrastructure over the next

decade, and how best the two Governments could enable and encourage this. They agreed to establish an India-UK Infrastructure Group, led by the two Governments and drawing on the expertise of the private sector, which would help identify barriers to investment and potential solutions.

8. Discussions were also held on a Memorandum of Understanding between Government of India and UK Trade and Investment to enhance investment in the Roads sector, and the two sides looked forward to its early finalisation.

9. Both sides agreed to explore initiatives that will create resources and incentives to help businesses deploy renewable energy, particularly for the poor.

10. They also welcomed the new opportunities that had opened up for co-operation in the civil nuclear power sector, following the signature earlier this year of the UK-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Declaration. This has created opportunities for wide ranging cooperation between the countries in the nuclear field including with regard to nuclear trade and exchanges between scientific institutions.

11. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of international trade in supporting recovery in the global economy. They expressed their strong support for the conclusion of a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement between India and the European Union by the end of 2010. They also agreed on the importance of pressing for a conclusion of the Doha Round at the earliest opportunity.

Education Science and Research

12. Both sides agreed that India and the UK had much to gain from co-operation in Education, Science and Research, and a new emphasis on jointly funded collaborative research programmes. The two Governments had agreed to launch a new phase of the successful UK-India Education and Research Initiative. The first phase of this jointly-funded initiative had helped establish over 400 collaborative ventures between Indian and British universities and schools between 2006 and 2011. The new phase will run for a further five years, from 2011 to 2015, and as before, both Governments will contribute to it.

13. Both sides welcomed the initiative of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India and the Wellcome Trust, London to come together in a new collaboration to support the development of innovative healthcare products at affordable costs.

Defence and Security

14. The two sides welcomed the development of broad-based UK-Indian co-operation in the Defence sector. They noted the joint Army exercise, Shamsheer Bugle, which took place in India in June, and the joint Naval exercise, Konkan, which is presently underway in India. They looked forward to the joint Air exercise, Indra Dhanush, which would take place in India in October.

15. The two sides noted the threats both our countries faced from terrorism, and welcomed the strong growth in our co-operation in countering it. They noted the excellent co-operation between the Delhi Police and Metropolitan Police in preparing for the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and looked forward to a safe and successful Games in October. They resolved to continue this relationship in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics and 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

16. The two Prime Ministers had a detailed discussion of global security challenges. They agreed on the importance of achieving stability in Afghanistan, so that it did not again become a source of security threats to the region and the world. Both Prime Ministers agreed on the importance of reforming the UN Security Council, with the aim of a permanent seat for India. Similarly, the two sides discussed the need to work together in international economic fora, including the G20. They agreed to work together to strengthen the Commonwealth.

People To People Contacts

17. The two Governments agreed on the need to boost dialogue and exchanges between our two national Parliaments, and warmly welcomed the planned visit by the Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha and a delegation of Members of the Indian Parliament to the UK this autumn.

18. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the creation of the UK-India Future Leaders Network, which will help create and sustain links between some of the most dynamic young leaders in our societies.

19. The two sides announced the signature of an India-UK Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation, which will provide a framework for a significant expansion of the rich cultural exchange between India and the UK. This expanded activity will include the first-ever exhibition in India of the Indian-born sculptor Anish Kapoor, in Delhi and Mumbai. Complicit Theatre will bring its acclaimed production of 'A Disappearing Number', inspired by the life of the Indian-born mathematical genius Ramanujan, to Mumbai and Hyderabad. And the first edition of the Hay Literary Festival in India will take place in Thiruvananthapuram in November. The UK-India Museums and Galleries Partnership Agreement, signed in June, will see closer collaboration between museums in India and the UK in knowledge sharing, exhibitions, education and conservation; a joint initiative by all of Edinburgh's Festivals to develop India-focused programming from 2012 to 2014; and 'Shard', a new programme to support the digitization of records of common interest to both India and the UK.

20. Both sides welcomed plans by the concerned Indian agencies for the manifestation of the year long celebration in the UK of Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary, commencing in May 2011.



550. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during Press Conference with UK Prime Minister.

New Delhi, July 29, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister David Cameron

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media

It is my great privilege to welcome the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom His Excellency David Cameron on his first visit to India.

Prime Minister Cameron has a distinguished political career. He brings with him the finest qualities of leadership and a bold vision for Britain and a better and safer world. His presence here, so soon after his election victory in May this year, indicates the strength of the bonds that tie India and the United Kingdom. It also demonstrates the Prime Minister's strong personal commitment to take our partnership to an even higher level of understanding and purpose.

Our discussions, this afternoon, were wide ranging, warm and extremely productive. We share the same vision for a renewed and enhanced partnership between our two countries. To this end we have agreed on specific initiatives in the areas of economy and trade, science and technology, energy, education, defence, culture and people to people contacts.

We have decided to constitute an India-UK CEOs Forum and an India-UK Infrastructure Group. We will work towards doubling our trade in the next five years. Building upon past experience, we have also agreed to launch a new phase of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative. We will intensify bilateral exchanges at all levels.

India and the United Kingdom are natural partners to shape a better world. If we join hands together, we can make a meaningful contribution to addressing the challenges of global poverty and development, reform of global institutions, terrorism and climate change.

We also reviewed the regional security situation and developments in Afghanistan. There was agreement between us that today terrorism constitutes the single biggest threat to the region and to open and pluralistic

societies like ours. We have agreed to further intensify our cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism.

Finally, I have conveyed to the Prime Minister that the people of India look forward to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi which we hope will further strengthen the spirit of the Commonwealth.

With Prime Minister David Cameron's visit we have set, ladies and gentlemen, in place a new momentum to drive our strategic partnership forward. I have no doubt that this will be good for both our countries, and it responds to the wishes and aspiration of both our peoples.

I thank you.



551. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the banquet hosted by him in honour of the UK Prime Minister David Cameron.

New Delhi, July 29, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Cameron

Distinguished Guests

I am delighted to welcome Prime Minister David Cameron and his distinguished delegation to India. We are truly honoured by their presence here today.

I wish to thank you for paying a visit to India so soon after becoming Prime Minister. This reflects your deep personal interest in building a special relationship between India and the United Kingdom, on the strong foundations of our strategic partnership.

We fully and warmly reciprocate your friendship and your commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Prime Minister Cameron's meteoric rise in political life is testimony to the faith of the British people in the values he upholds in public life, his endearing qualities of head and heart and his inspiring vision of a new Britain.

His voice articulates the hopes and ideals of the next generation that is taking leadership of global politics, business and society. It is a generation that will carry forward the legacy of our ties that are rooted in our history, culture and consciousness.

After our discussions today, I am convinced that there is a genuine mutual desire to renew, revitalize and recharge the bilateral relationship. A strong and diversified economic partnership is the key to a mutually beneficial special relationship. But there is much we can do in other areas such as education, scientific research, counter-terrorism, clean energy and culture. We need to work to increase the depth and mutual understanding in our strategic and security partnership.

Nearly two million people of Indian origin have made Britain their home. Their achievements are a tribute to the vibrant and inclusive cultural ethos of modern day Britain and a source of strength for our relationship.

We applaud the United Kingdom's leadership role in global affairs. It is an indispensable factor for promoting a stable and prosperous international order.

Our two countries can play an important role in strengthening global governance. We could do more, working together, to respond to challenges such as hunger, disease, terror and climate change.

In a few months from now, we will celebrate the spirit and fellowship of the Commonwealth family during the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

It will be an occasion to recall the shared values of freedom, pluralism and tolerance that bind us.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am convinced that a strong partnership between India and the United Kingdom is a force for global good.

Prime Minister, the best wishes of the people of India are with you as you lead Britain to an even brighter future.

Distinguished Guests,

May I now request you to join me in a toast to:

- The good health and happiness of the Rt. Hon. David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and members of his distinguished delegation;
- The continued well being and prosperity of our peoples; and
- Closer friendship between India and the United Kingdom.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - IX

AMERICAS

- (i) NORTH AMERICA**
- (ii) SOUTH AMERICA**

(i) NORTH AMERICA

CANADA**552. Press Release on the Establishment of India Chair at the University of Toronto.****New Delhi, January 8, 2010.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, Canada, have signed a Protocol of Intentions and an Implementation Agreement for establishment of an Indian Chair at the University, to foster international cooperation and research between India and Canada.

Under the terms of the Agreement, ICCR, in consultation with Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, shall appoint an ICCR Visiting Professor* in the South Asian Studies Programme at the University. Further, there is a commitment to explore other areas of cooperation including establishment of post doctoral fellowships and faculty exchange. The Protocol of Intention will remain in force for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2010.

A Joint Statement issued during the visit of Mr. Stephen Harper to India in November 2009, recognized education as an area of new momentum in the bilateral relationship, the need to facilitate mutually beneficial linkages in science, technology and innovation, and build synergies between institutions of higher learning in Canada and India.

On November 30, 2009, the Canadian government announced the Pan-Canadian Framework for Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Credentials which will enable by the end of 2012 a fast-track system of foreign-credential recognition for 15 occupations.

There are 7300 Indian students studying in Canada presently.



* Under this programme, Prof. Ms. Nonica Datta of the University of Delhi was given the honour of inaugural appointment.

553. Excerpts relevant to Canada from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's bilateral meetings in Washington on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Conference.

Washington (D. C), April 12, 2010.

* * * *

Today at about 6 p.m., Prime Minister had a very pleasant and fruitful exchange of views with his Canadian counterpart. You would recall that Prime Minister Harper had paid an official visit to India in November 2009 and the two Prime Ministers met within a couple of weeks thereafter again, at Port of Spain on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Summit. They discussed a number of bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest. They reviewed our cooperation in the trade and economic area. During the visit of Prime Minister Harper last year a target of 15 billion dollars in bilateral trade had been established. This is a target that we would like to achieve within a period of five years.

You would also recall that an MoU was signed on setting up a Joint Study Group to explore the possibilities of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada. The two Prime Ministers today expressed a hope that the report of the Joint Working Group would be available by May this year. During the visit of Prime Minister Harper to India in November 2009, an MoU of cooperation in the area of energy had also been concluded. Today the two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the discussions on an intergovernmental agreement on civil nuclear cooperation had been concluded and hoped that the agreement could be finalized and signed soon.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also noted that the 25th anniversary of the Kanishka bombing and crash fell in June this year. He remarked that there were continued concerns about the activities of extremist groups and hoped that their activities would be monitored by the Canadian side. Prime Minister Harper assured that they will do their best. The sides agreed that the officials would remain in touch.

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper also exchanged views on the important issue of climate change and the prognosis of the next conference which would be held in Mexico towards the end of this year.

They had a substantive exchange of views on the forthcoming G20 summit which would take place in Toronto in June this year. Our Prime Minister is expected to attend the summit.

Prime Minister Harper sought our Prime Minister's views on the agenda of the forthcoming summit and what could be its focus. Prime Minister Singh observed that the G20 framework or mechanism had helped overcome the immediate financial crisis, but had now to move ahead to deal with the larger issue of global imbalances and reforms of the international financial institutions.

Prime Minister also outlined a need for a stable and predictable regime of capital flows especially for the developing countries. He spoke about the nature of the Indian economy, its strong fundamentals, the growth path that we have charted out for ourselves, the expectation that within a couple of years we will re-attain a growth rate of nine per cent or even get into a double-digit growth rate for which we needed a conducive and enabling international environment. Prime Minister particularly underlined that India was not contributing to global imbalances as we were not a mercantile economy.

Prime Minister Harper spoke about Canadian interest in using G20 to develop a framework to encourage balanced and sustainable growth internationally. Their meeting lasted more than half an hour. This was as far as the exchange of views between Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Canada is concerned.

(For full text of the briefing please see Document No.057.)



554. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna reacting to letters written by the Canadian High Commission in India to some retired/serving officers of the Indian security forces while denying them a Visa to visit Canada.

Bengaluru, May 27, 2010.

We have conveyed to the Canadian Government that the letters issued by the Canadian High Commission to serving or retired officers of our security forces and agencies, who had applied for Canadian visa, are entirely unacceptable. India is a democracy. All institutions function under our Constitution. We are proud of our security forces and agencies and the services rendered by them to the nation. We expect the Canadian authorities to address the situation appropriately.

When first reports of this nature came to the Government's notice the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs had said on May 21 that the matter had been taken up with the appropriately with the Canadian side.

As a result of the Indian demarche the Canadian Government regretted the issue of the letter on this account. Subsequently a question on the subject was raised with Secretary (West) by a journalist at the media briefing on June 26 on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Canada:

Question: This question is for Secretary (West). As you know, the Canadian Government has denied visas to a large number of senior Government officials from India. While they have apologized, even after the apology no visas have been granted. Is the Prime Minister going to take that up in the bilateral meeting? And the issue of the pro-Khalistan elements and their activities in Canada even now?

Secretary (West): We are cognizant of the activities of what you term as pro-Khalistani elements. We have drawn the attention of our Canadian interlocutors to such activities, and the fact that they are undesirable

and do not contribute to the relationship. As far as the visas issue is concerned, we have taken up this matter. As you have rightly recalled, the Canadian authorities regretted the letter that has been issued by their officials. And the External Affairs Minister thereafter said that the matter is closed.

The issue of Canadian visa also figured in the media briefing of the Foreign Secretary for President's visit to China on May 25, 2010 and following questions and answers took place;

Question: I have a little different question. The Canadian Embassy (high commission) has refused visa to two police officer - ADG (Crime) Rajan Gupta and SSP Patiala, R.S. Hatta-on the pretext that they were involved in terrorist related activities. What is the Indian Government thinking about it? (Original question was asked in Hindi)

Question: If I may add to this, this is not the first time, Madam, this has happened. This has happened with serving officers of the Indian Government earlier as well.

Foreign Secretary: I will reply in English because the second question is in English.

The matter, when it was brought to the attention of the Ministry of External Affairs, was taken up immediately and appropriately with the Canadian High Commission and, of course, the Canadian Government. We take this matter very seriously. That is what I wanted to say. Of course, the Canadian Foreign Minister has, in a public statement, stated that Canada has the highest regard for India's democratic institutions and processes, and also respect for India's armed forces and related institutions. But let me once again say that we did take up the matter, we expressed our serious concern, and we continue to take this matter very seriously.



555. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao and Secretary (West) Vivek Katju on Prime Minister's visit to Canada.

New Delhi, June 22, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon and good to see you all in numbers. As you are aware, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh would be leaving shortly for Toronto to participate in the G20 Summit and also to have a bilateral Summit meeting with his Canadian counterpart. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao, and Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju are here to brief you about the G20 Summit and also about the bilateral component. Let me also introduce Mrs. Vani Rao, Director (AMS), who has joined us, and is to the right of Secretary (West). Foreign Secretary and Secretary (West) would be making their opening remarks and thereafter would be happy to take a few questions. May I request Foreign Secretary to kindly make her opening remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you, Vishnu. Good afternoon to all of you. The Fourth G20 Summit is being held on June 26th and 27th 2007 in Toronto, Canada. This is the fourth Summit of the international grouping within a span of 20 months, starting with the Washington Summit in November of 2008, the London Summit in April 2009, and the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009. We believe this is indicative of the dynamism and importance of this grouping which since Pittsburgh has been designated as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

As the host, the Prime Minister of Canada will preside over this Summit. Leaders of the G20 member countries are expected to attend. Canada has also invited Spain, Netherlands, Malawi (as Chair of the African Union), Ethiopia (which holds the Chair of NEPAD), and Vietnam (as the Chair country of ASEAN), to the Summit. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the IMF, the Director-General of the WTO, heads of the ILO, the Financial Stability Board, etc., are likely to be present.

Our Prime Minister will participate in the G20 Toronto Summit. PM's delegation will include the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who is the G20 Sherpa from India. In addition, there will be other senior officials attending as part of Prime Minister's delegation including the National Security Advisor.

Prime Minister will arrive in Toronto on June 26th and has a very busy schedule. The G20 Summit starts with an Official Welcome and Reception followed by Working Dinner by the Prime Minister of Canada and the day's programme concludes with a cultural event. On June 27, the programme includes the Summit Opening Plenary followed by other plenary sessions, a G20 Family Photograph, a leaders' working lunch, and finally the concluding Final Plenary in the afternoon.

After the Summit, Prime Minister will attend to the bilateral component of his visit to Canada on which my colleague Mr. Vivek Katju will brief you immediately following my opening statement.

Prime Minister will interact with leaders of participating countries in the G20 Summit on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. Some bilateral meetings are envisaged on the sidelines of the Summit and we will keep you informed of them.

The host country Canada is organizing some side events in conjunction with the G20 Summit. There is firstly a G20 Business Summit, or B20, as it has been called, which will be held on June 25th and 26th 2010, to which each country has been invited to send two business persons. India will be represented at the B20 by CII and FICCI and its event is being organised at the invitation of the Canadian Finance Minister.

The other event is the G20 Youth Summit called 'MY Summit' for which each country will be sending up to seven persons. India will be represented by a youth group selected by our Department of Youth Affairs. Select participants from the Youth Summit will also interact briefly with the G20 leaders on June 27 afternoon.

The forthcoming Toronto Summit's theme is, "Recovery and New Beginnings". The Summit's main focus will be on implementation of the previous Summit decisions. Therefore, the leaders are expected to take stock of where we are and to chart the future direction. They can be expected

to review the current status of the global economic recovery, as well as, the progress of implementation regarding the past G20 Summit decisions.

In the light of the above, the leaders will decide on the mandate and direction of the G20's future course of action. Without trying to prejudge the deliberations of the Summit, broadly speaking some of the areas the leaders can be expected to address are: global recovery, its prospects and challenges; the framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth; international financial institutions (IFI) reform; financial regulatory reform; protectionism; and looking ahead to Seoul the venue of the Fifth G20 Summit in November 2010.

As in the past, a Toronto Summit Declaration or Communiqué is expected to be issued, although I would refrain from speculating on the outcome of the Summit or the contents of the Communiqué. I am sure all of you are aware of the background of the G20, the previous G20 Summits, the discussions that have taken place at the previous Summits. So, I am not going to go into those details. But what the G20 has sought to focus on in its previous Summit meetings and the meetings of the Finance Ministers is to evolve a common understanding on the causes of the global financial and economic crisis, a reaffirmation of commitment to financial and economic stability and growth, to evolve common principles for reforming the financial markets, and launching of the national plans for information.

As you know, the Pittsburgh Summit, which is the last Summit held before the Toronto Summit, had designated the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation and had noted the success achieved in tackling the international financial and economic crisis by prompt and effective measures. It had mandated a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the 21st century through sound macro-economic policies; emphasised the need for sustained strong policy responses to growth until a durable recovery was secured; and to avoid any premature withdrawal of stimulus while preparing for coordinated exit strategies. It had called for implementing regulatory measures governing banks, financial institutions, capital markets, compensation standards, risk taking, over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, credit rating agencies, hedge funds, non-cooperative jurisdictions, as well as, reiterated the fight against

protectionism and all its forms. It was also decided to hold a Summit at Toronto and thereafter at Seoul, and to have Annual Summits thereafter starting with France in 2011.

As you also know, the G20 comprises the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK and the United States. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: May I now invite Secretary (West) to make his opening remarks?

Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju): Thank you, Vishnu. The Prime Minister's visit to Canada for the G-20 Summit provides an opportunity for a substantive bilateral engagement between the Prime Minister and his Canadian counterpart, Mr. Stephen Harper. The interaction between the two Prime Ministers is scheduled for the evening of June 27 in Toronto.

India and Canada share a commitment to democratic and constitutional governance and to the values which are associated with such governance: the rule of law, the protection and promotion of civil liberties and personal freedom, inclusive growth and pluralism. These form a firm foundation for the bilateral relationship. The two countries have been engaged, over the past few years, in enhancing the substance of the bilateral relationship in areas that can directly contribute to the welfare of the people. Thus, there has been a focus on economic and commercial cooperation and cooperation in the field of science, technology, innovation, education, health and agriculture among others. The visit of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in November, 2009 provided an opportunity to the two countries to impart momentum to their cooperation in these areas. Prime Minister's discussions with Prime Minister Harper in Toronto will give another impetus to our cooperation.

A number of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding are under discussion and negotiations with the Canadian side. Some of these have made substantial progress and if concluded before the visit in all respects, may be signed during the visit. These are the Agreement for Cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy, an MOU for Cooperation in Mining, an MOU for

Cooperation in Higher Education, an MOU for Cooperation in Culture and a Social Security Agreement.

Official Spokesperson: Foreign Secretary and Secretary (West) will be happy to take questions on PM's visit for G20 Summit and the Canadian bilateral component.

Question: My question is with regard to the likely stance that India is going to take on the proposal of a financial transaction tax. This has been spoken about in the past. What sort of stance could India take at the G20 Summit?

Foreign Secretary: The Finance Secretary has addressed this in a recent interview. This is really a question within the ambit of the Finance Ministry. I think suffice it to say that our banking sector is extremely healthy. While we have spoken in the G20 context about the importance of financial regulations, on the issue of the bank tax I think as far as India is concerned, the health of our banking sector speaks for itself.

Question: Madam, as Mr. Katju just pointed out, one of the agreements that are likely to be signed between India and Canada is the one on civil nuclear energy. Last week you began negotiations with South Korea. This week you are going to do something with Canada. How do you look at this expansion of India's nuclear energy portfolio?

Foreign Secretary: Positively. I think the universe has opened up for India as far as cooperation in nuclear energy is concerned. And as far as Canada is concerned, Vivek will answer your question.

Question: This is a supplement. In 1974 when India conducted its first nuclear test, Canada sort of went back on the agreement that it had with India. How do you see this now?

Secretary (West): We do not look back: we look to the future. Well, the agreement under consideration is on cooperation in civil nuclear energy. This covers the areas of research, of development of nuclear energy applications in the field of agriculture, healthcare industry and environment, in cooperation in the field of nuclear waste management, nuclear safety, radiation safety, and environmental protection, etc. It covers a large ambit in the area of peaceful nuclear issues.

Question: This question is for Secretary (West). As you know, the Canadian Government has denied visas to a large number of senior Government officials from India. While they have apologized, even after the apology no visas have been granted. Is the Prime Minister going to take that up in the bilateral meeting? And the issue of the pro-Khalistan elements and their activities in Canada even now?

Secretary (West): We are cognizant of the activities of what you term as pro-Khalistani elements. We have drawn the attention of our Canadian interlocutors to such activities, and the fact that they are undesirable and do not contribute to the relationship. As far as the visas issue is concerned, we have taken up this matter. As you have rightly recalled, the Canadian authorities regretted the letter that has been issued by their officials. And the External Affairs Minister thereafter said that the matter is closed.

Question: You have mentioned that we are going to have talks regarding cooperation in higher education, mining and agriculture. Why are we not going to tackle the important issue of terrorism which the whole world is facing today?

Secretary (West): India and Canada are cooperating in the field of counter-terrorism. There is a regular structured dialogue between the two countries and the discussions are held on a periodic basis. There is also continuing cooperation between the two sides in this regard.

Question: Just a clarification on the civil nuclear energy cooperation. Will this agreement pave way for Canadian nuclear companies setting up nuclear reactors in India or supplying nuclear fuel to India? Also, since Canada is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, will the Prime Minister raise the issue of Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation?

Secretary (West): As far as the Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation issue is concerned I think Foreign Secretary may like to say something. To answer the earlier part of your question, yes I think the agreement does cover the supplies of uranium and natural resources. As far as cooperation is concerned, I think that would be decided by the concerned authorities here which is the Department of Atomic Energy.

Foreign Secretary: I had anticipated that you would ask this question. As you are aware, we have been following reports about the supply of two additional nuclear power reactors by China to Pakistan. Now there are reports that all of us have seen, which mention also the issue of the supply of these reactors in the context of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines. As you know, India is not a member of the NSG. But we are monitoring the debate and the developments in this regard as they relate to this subject of supply of nuclear reactors by China to Pakistan.

Question: In view of the recent oil leak in the Gulf, is there going to be any discussion with Canada, apart from the nuclear energy, on cooperation in non-conventional energy sources like solar energy, for example?

Secretary (West): We have a bilateral Energy Panel and there was a meeting of the Energy Panel a few weeks ago in Canada. Within the ambit of this panel are all areas of energy including the areas that you have mentioned such as solar energy and other non-conventional energy. There are also discussions which are taking place on matters relating to energy efficiency.

Question: There was a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) that was being discussed. Has there been some progress on that? Is it likely to be signed or is there still some area to be covered?

Secretary (West): During the visit of Prime Minister of Canada a Joint Study Group was set up to look into this matter that you have mentioned, a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership Agreement. The officials who are responsible for the Joint Study Group have met and they submitted their report. And these are being studied by the two countries.

Question: What would India's stance be vis-à-vis the Yuan and its role in re-balancing the world economy, especially considering that the US is pressing for the Yuan to be revalued because that would reduce the deficits on one side and these excess of surpluses on the other side. What would India's stance be?

Foreign Secretary: Here again I will draw reference to what the Finance Secretary has also said on this issue, I think it was yesterday, that we will wait and we will watch the impact of China's move to de-peg the Yuan. We have to wait and watch and see what the impact will be on the economy of the region. China is, of course, an important trading partner of India. So, we would carefully assess the impact of these recent developments.

Question: The Indian Air Force has sought permission to pull out its helicopters from the UN Missions in Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. MEA being the nodal agency, has the MEA taken a decision on that? Has it written the UN on this issue?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, the Ministry of Defence has raised the issue with us. We are in touch with our Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. We are working with the Ministry of Defence on the one hand here in New Delhi and also with the UN authorities to organise a phased withdrawal.

Question: A few weeks back the Canadian Parliament accepted a motion to declare the 1984 Sikh riots as genocide. What is India's reaction to this? On Kanishka also, what are we doing about it?

Secretary (West): We are aware of this petition. We are also aware that the leader of the party to which the Member of the Canadian Parliament belongs, has disassociated himself from it. It is, of course, preposterous to make any such allegation. And, as far as the Kanishka matter is concerned, yes we have seen the report; we are studying its findings. We do note that the findings include the fact that extremism which led to this terrible tragedy, the terrorism that led to it, was not getting proper attention, both prior to the tragedy and later. That I think is part of the findings.

Question: Madam, on the issue of extradition for Warren Anderson, you said earlier that you would wait for the GoM's recommendations. Now since the Group of Ministers has signalled that fresh attempts would be made at his extradition, during the course of any of your bilateral meetings in this Summit would you be raising the issue? Or how soon would MEA set the ball rolling?

Foreign Secretary: The reconstituted Group of Ministers on the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster has submitted its report in a sealed cover yesterday to the Prime Minister, as stated by the Group of Ministers Chairman, Shri P. Chidambaram, our Home Minister, to the media yesterday. The Union Cabinet is expected to meet shortly to examine this report. We will await the decision of the Cabinet in this regard.

Question: Madam, you are going to Pakistan tomorrow. India and Pakistan have exchanged 19 dossiers so far after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks but the investigations there seem to be tardy. How hopeful are you that with the visit of the Home Minister things will move forward? Do you think that it is time for Pakistan to take some credible action to actually prosecute the 26/11 perpetrators?

Foreign Secretary: We have always emphasised the need for credible action on the part of Pakistan, in regard to the evidence that we have provided on the Mumbai terror attacks, the additional information that has been provided over the last few months. We have underlined the need for Pakistan to take this evidence seriously, to take it onboard and to take substantive action in response to what we have conveyed to them. Obviously, this issue will form a part of our discussions with the Pakistan Government during the forthcoming visit. I will be meeting with my Pakistani counterpart Mr. Salman Bashir in Islamabad day after tomorrow. Also, our Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, who is going to Islamabad for the SAARC Interior Ministers meeting, will have a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Rehman Malik. Obviously, our core concerns about this issue will be conveyed and will be discussed.

As far as the firing, it is extremely unfortunate. Over the last few months we have pointed and we have conveyed to Pakistan our concerns about the rise in infiltration, about the ceasefire violations, and the fact that such incidents which have been provoked for no reason at all do not contribute to a positive atmosphere between India and Pakistan.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



556. Press Release on the establishment of an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the York University in Canada.

New Delhi, June 23, 2010.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the York University, Toronto have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of a Chair of Indian Studies at the York University. Consul General of India in Toronto Ms. Preeti Saran and Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri, President and Vice Chancellor of the York University signed the MoU.

Under the terms of the Agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the York University, shall appoint a Professor who would be visiting the University for a period of 13 weeks during each academic year. The Indian Professor would contribute to the academic life of the York University by engaging in teaching and research in his/her respective specialization.

York University is Canada's third-largest university with a student population of approximately 51,000 and 2,00,000 alumni worldwide. This makes York University a suitable University to host a Chair of Indian Studies. The establishment of a Chair of Indian Studies would be an important step in furthering ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India, through exchange of academicians.



557. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media after his talks with the Canadian Prime Minister Harper.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Harper, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media

Thank you, Prime Minister Harper, for your very warm words of welcome, and for your generous hospitality and friendship.

I would also like to congratulate you for your most successful chairmanship of the G 20 Summit.

I am extremely satisfied with my bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Harper today. Our discussions have carried forward the momentum that has characterized our relations in the last few years. India fully reciprocates Canada's desire to intensify our bilateral relations in all areas. Prime Minister Harper's visit to India in November 2009 was a major step in this direction.

Today, we have added fresh vitality and content to our cooperation.

The Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement that we have signed breaks new ground in the history of our cooperation in this sector. It reflects the change in international realities and will open new doors for mutually beneficial cooperation in nuclear energy.

We have identified renewable energy, clean technologies and energy efficiency as other priority areas of cooperation. The newly constituted Canada-India Energy Forum has already begun its work and has our full support. We have also decided to focus on mining and agriculture as the other priority areas of cooperation.

We have reaffirmed our resolve to achieve the annual bilateral trade target of 15 billion dollars within the next five years, and to encourage two-way flow of investments. The submission of the report of the Joint Study Group to study the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic

Partnership Agreement marks an important step in bringing our two economies closer together. We have directed our officials to examine the report and expedite the next steps.

The strong people to people links between our countries are a unique asset for both of us. We have agreed to intensify exchanges in the fields of higher education, culture, science and technology and innovation, so that together we can build the knowledge economy of the future.

My visit to Canada coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Kanishka air crash. This terrible disaster and the suffering it has led to will forever remain a stark reminder of the need for all of us to work unitedly to eliminate the scourge of terrorism. The victims of this tragedy deserve full justice.

I am convinced that a strong India-Canada partnership will facilitate solutions to global challenges such as energy and food security, sustainable development, climate change and the fight against extremism and poverty. Towards this end, we have agreed to promote and maintain a high level dialogue between India and Canada.

I reaffirm India's commitment to strengthening this very important and key relationship.

Thank you.



558. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Sing to Canada.

Ottawa, June 27, 2010.

The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited Canada from June 26 to June 28 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper. During his visit, Prime Minister Singh participated in the G-20 Toronto Summit and held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Harper.

The two Prime Ministers, in reviewing the state of bilateral relations, welcomed the enhanced interaction in a broad range of areas, visits and other exchanges between the two countries. They expressed their desire to broaden and deepen economic, diplomatic, educational, scientific and cultural ties between India and Canada.

The two Prime Ministers also solemnly observed the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the bombing of Air India flight 182 "Kanishka" on June 23, 1985, in which 329 lives were tragically lost. They strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed to direct their respective Governments toward greater cooperation in counter-terrorism and security-related matters.

Reiterating the need for intensifying global cooperation in combating international terrorism, they called for an early conclusion and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.

Prime Ministers Singh and Harper welcomed the signature of the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which will help facilitate civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. They both committed to the ratification of the agreement and the completion of all remaining steps necessary to ensure its early implementation. They underscored the potential for mutually beneficial civil nuclear cooperation and trade.

The two leaders committed to expanding a range of activities and institutional frameworks that will contribute to the shared goal of increasing

bilateral trade to \$15 billion annually in the next five years. During Prime Minister Harper's visit to India in November 2009, both countries had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Joint Study Group to explore the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Canada. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of that report, in which the Joint Study Group identified substantial potential economic gains that both countries could achieve through such an agreement. The two Prime Ministers noted that the recommendations in the report will be examined by both countries and necessary processes for obtaining approvals will be initiated immediately and will aim to be completed by the end of October.

The Prime Ministers also announced their commitment to an annual dialogue* on trade and investment between Canada's Minister of International Trade and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry. They also welcomed the possibility of an India-Canada CEO Roundtable later this year.

The two Prime Ministers looked forward to the early signing followed by ratification and implementation of the Social Security Agreement. They noted that the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was under negotiation and looked forward to its early conclusion.

These two agreements will make a significant contribution to the commercial and economic interaction between the two countries.

The Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Earth Sciences and Mining and looked forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Transportation, noting the scope for bilateral collaboration, trade and investment in the natural resources and infrastructure sectors.

Agriculture and agri-food cooperation represent another area of enhanced exchange and both leaders looked forward to the progressive implementation of projects identified under the January 2009 MOU.

The Prime Ministers recognized some of the greatest strengths in the relationship lie in the vibrant and longstanding people-to-people ties. In

* Please see Document No.561.

that regard they encouraged the expansion of linkages in key areas including education, academic relations, arts, culture, sports and tourism.

To further enhance the considerable momentum achieved in exchanges and collaboration amongst a broad range of higher education institutions in both countries, the Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Higher Education Cooperation. This framework will facilitate academic exchanges, partnerships and mobility between higher educational institutions in the two countries.

The Prime Ministers also noted initiatives to link Canadian and Indian universities and colleges, including in curriculum development and the creation of Chairs and Centres for Indian studies at a number of Canadian universities, such as, for example, those in the process of being established at Carleton University and McGill University.

They also welcomed the initiative to organize the Festival of India in Canada in 2011, which would present a comprehensive range of Indian culture through performing arts, exhibitions, film festivals, food festivals, among others, as well as the upcoming exhibition of masterworks of Inuit Art from the National Gallery of Canada, which will be presented at the National Museum in New Delhi in the fall of 2010. They look forward to the Commonwealth Games in India in October 2010. To facilitate further co-operation in these areas, the Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of an MOU on Cultural Cooperation.

To achieve the goals set out in this joint statement, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to sustained political engagement and a structured exchange of high-level visits and regular dialogues between their officials. Building on the existing annual India-Canada Foreign Policy Consultations, Strategic Dialogues, Trade Policy Consultations, the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, the Agriculture Working Group, the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee, the Environment Forum and the Energy Forum, they agreed to promote further policy exchanges between ministries and departments of both Governments.



**558-A. Media Note issued by the Prime Minister's Office -
Agreement between India and Canada for Co-operation
in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and other areas.**

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

The India-Canada Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear-Energy which was signed today provides for cooperation in areas as design, construction, maintenance, sharing of operating experience and decommissioning of nuclear reactors, supply of uranium, projects in third countries, nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear waste management. The two countries may promote cooperation in the development and use of nuclear energy applications in the fields of agriculture, health care, industry and environment; and nuclear safety, radiation safety and environmental protection.

2. India and Canada are friendly States with comprehensive capabilities in advanced nuclear technologies. They recognize that nuclear energy is a safe, environment friendly and sustainable source of energy. Taking into account their respective strengths with regard to Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and CANDU Reactors, there is considerable scope for joint work between the two countries.

India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Mining

An India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed today will establish cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mining and earth sciences. The MoU envisages cooperation in the specific areas of:

- a. exploration geochemistry and geophysics;
- b. geo-hazards;
- c. geo-science information and related informatics;
- d. environmental geology;
- e. cooperation in improved dialogue on mining and related activities at various international fora;

- f. encouragement of improved market access and bilateral investment in relation to mining in both countries where appropriate; and
 - g. other areas of mutual interest to be decided upon by the participants.
2. Canada is a major mining nation with state-of-the-art technology, expertise in the mining sector. India will benefit from this MoU by way of education, training, and human resource development in geosciences as well as minerals and metals; transfer of technology in support of collaborative projects; and exchange of information on research and development.

India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Culture

The India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation signed today will strengthen and promote better mutual understanding in art, literature, history, sports and other cultural disciplines, and enhance protection and promotion of cultural diversity;

- 2. Encourage arts and cultural festivals, holding of exhibitions and special events and exchange programmes, particularly during major international events in both countries;
- 3. Encourage and facilitate exchanges of professionals/experts, knowledge, technical support and expertise in Archaeology, Museums, Cinematography, Arts, Libraries, Archives, Mass media, Tourism and exchanges of exhibitions of artistic, informative, historic and archaeological nature including fine arts, crafts, photography, new media arts, human and social history and heritage;
- 4. Share expertise on issues related to creation, production, distribution and dissemination of Indian and Canadian cultural goods and services, and facilitate participation in cultural and trade events to promote various cultural goods and services from both countries.
- 5. Canada will organise an exhibition on 'Inuit Art' in the National Museum, New Delhi in 2010. India will organise a Festival of India in Canada in 2011.

India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Higher Education

The India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Higher Education signed today provides for:

2. Exchanges of students at undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral level, and short-term awards for faculty and students for research and curriculum development including doctoral studies at Indian and Canadian universities;
3. Joint workshops, seminars, special technical programs and professional/academic development activities, exchange of research materials, publications, educational literature, teaching aids, demonstration material and information;
4. Twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning and promotion of teaching and research about India and Canada. It will bring together institutions of educational excellence in technical, vocational and higher education through education and training programmes;
5. Allows both countries to explore possibilities of mutual recognition of educational qualifications; and reciprocal internship programs in areas of mutual interest.



559. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Canadian Prime Minister.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

It is a singular honour for my wife and me to be here this evening. We are most grateful to Prime Minister Harper and Madame Harper for their gracious invitation to this magnificent dinner tonight.

We are indeed overwhelmed by the warmth of the hospitality accorded to us by the Government and people of this great country.

I convey to each and every one of you the greetings and good wishes of the people of India.

India and Canada share much in common. We are separated by distance but we are united in our values. We both cherish our freedom, our democratic way of life, our pluralism and our spirit of tolerance.

The beautiful city of Toronto, which I am aware is also the birth place of Prime Minister Harper, is a living embodiment of the vitality, energy and diversity that defines both our nations.

Addressing the Joint Session of the Canadian Parliament thirty seven years ago Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had observed that the greatest achievement of the Canadian people was not the high economic standards they have attained but, and I quote: "the fact that the international community regards Canada as a nation of friends and as a factor for international harmony and peace. Canadians stand for a broad liberal outlook on life. They have fought for peace and racial justice," unquote.

These words ring true even today, and I fully endorse them.

Over the years, Canada has reinforced these values, and become a beacon of hope for all those who believe in justice, equality and opportunity. Canada plays an influential role in global affairs - in the maintenance of international peace and stability, protection of the environment, and the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law.

I compliment Prime Minister Harper for his superb leadership in the G-20 Summit. The success of the Summit is a tribute to the outstanding intellectual and organizational skills of Prime Minister Harper and his team.

Despite the global economic crisis, the Indian economy has shown resilience and is well on its way to return to an annual growth rate of 8 to 9 percent. We wish to aim higher, and are confident that all the conditions are in place to achieve such an outcome.

The socio-economic transformation of a country of the size of India within a democratic framework will have enormous repercussions for the rest of the world. India today seeks an external environment that is peaceful and conducive for achieving our development goals. It is within this framework that we see new and exciting possibilities for India and Canada to work together to build a better future for ourselves.

In recent years, the Premiers of Quebec and Ontario have visited India. Other Canadian provinces like Manitoba and Saskatchewan have shown interest in expanding business ties with India. Canada has opened new Trade Offices in India.

A growing number of Canadian investors are coming to India in areas like telecommunications, environment, energy, financial services and transportation. Indian investment in Canada has increased ten-fold in the last decade. These are all very encouraging signs.

Prime Minister Harper and I have also identified education as an area of high priority. In India we have embarked upon a massive education and skill development programme. Canadian Universities and academic institutions are renowned for their excellence and world class education. We should aim to collaborate in the cutting edges of technology and build the knowledge economy of the 21st century.

One of the greatest strengths of Canada is its ability to welcome and assimilate peoples from across the world. The Indian origin community in Canada today numbers approximately 1.1 million. The community constitutes a bridge between our two countries that has remained strong and unshakeable even in the most difficult circumstances. We applaud the opportunities they have been given to contribute to their social and

economic advancement.

I would like to especially acknowledge their presence here today and wish them even greater success as citizens of Canada.

To foster closer cultural bonds between India and Canada, I am happy to announce that we will organize a year long Festival of India in Canada in 2011. This will showcase India's rich cultural and art heritage, and promote greater tourism and travel.

India will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in October this year. I take this opportunity to invite the people of Canada to celebrate the spirit of the Commonwealth with us.

Indians and Canadians enjoy a natural empathy with each other. Let us build upon this foundation to create a more just, fair and equitable world and one which upholds human dignity.

I once again thank the Prime Minister and Madame Harper for their hospitality, and all the distinguished guests for honouring us with their presence this evening.

I thank you.



560. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during interaction with Indo-Canadian Parliamentarians.

Toronto, June 28, 2010.

My dear friends,

I am very grateful to each one of you for having honoured me for being present here today. My first words are going to be words of gratitude, words which speak of the immense pride and joy we have in the achievements of the Indo-Canadians in this country. You are a community of 1.5 million people. The name and fame that you have earned through your hard work has helped to change the people's perspective in the Western world of what India has earned, what India stands for and what India can do and this alone I think entitles you to earn our gratitude. I am very happy that you have flourished in this land. That is the pride we have in your achievements. When I was Finance Minister what I learnt was that the people of India were very keen to prove that given the appropriate environment Indians were second to none. We have to ensure that people don't have to go out of India to Silicon Valley for this to happen. I would like to say that you have distinguished yourselves in all walks of life, whether it is politics, whether it is industry, whether it is trade and whether it is science and technology. In each of these areas people of Indian origin have done us proud.

I have only one word to say that we should not bring to this country some of the divisive elements of politics back at home. You would well know that it does not help to advance the cause of the community. It does not help by living in the past. We take pride in the fact that your roots make you feel emotional about various provinces, about various states but there is still a need to present a united image of the Indo-Canadian community. I have only this request to make.

There are several issues which you have raised and others might have similar issues. I promise you that when I get back home, I will set up some mechanism to deliberate on the issues that have been raised here or raised elsewhere in the Indo-Canadian community.

With regard to events of 1984, these were horrible and they should never have happened. I have on behalf of the Government of India apologized, on behalf of the nation apologized for what happened in 1984. There are concerns about those who perpetrated these crimes must be brought to book. There are possible weaknesses in the Indian legal system, as there may be in the Canadian system. We are trying to address these issues. Our Government, the UPA Government, has opened up all cases for compensation, we are open to provide relief, succor to victims, the relatives so they can once again lead a life of dignity. It is futile to stay in the past. We can't get away from our past but the challenge is to look ahead in a world increasingly globalised, integrated whether you are here or in India.

We are part and parcel of a united India, a country of great diversity where the Sikhs are an honoured part, where I am the Prime Minister of India. Two years back we had J J Singh as the Sikh Commander of the Indian Army, we have Sikhs as Ambassadors. Punjab is today run by Shiromani Akali Dal. Sikhs have made a name and achieved fame. Sikhs want to move ahead from 1984. Some times unwittingly we create an atmosphere which sets the unhappiness of the Sikh community. Therefore it is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to strengthen the bonds of India-Canada relations. You are vitally involved and must accept all the changes in a globalised world. Divisive elements have no place in an increasingly integrated world. I would urge all of you to remain united and respect each other. You are Indians, you have deep rooted links. You can use your unity to forge ahead and take advantage of the opportunities that India and Canada both offer. We are committed to offer the best relationships with both the countries. India is proud of your achievements and I would like to express my joy at your achievements. If you have any issues our High Commissioner is here and I ensure that these subjects are suitably addressed in India.



561. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the First Annual India - Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment.

New Delhi, September 25, 2010.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, co-chaired the First Annual India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment in Ottawa, Canada on 24th September, 2010 with the Canadian Minister of International Trade, Mr. Peter Van Loan. The Indian delegation for the Dialogue also comprised the Commerce Secretary, Dr. Rahul Khullar along with other senior government officials.

While reviewing Canada-India bilateral trade and investment relations, the Ministers encouraged the continued strengthening of economic ties between the two countries. The Ministers agreed that there is significant potential for sustained growth in trade and investment flows between the two countries, and reiterated their Prime Ministers' commitment to increasing trade from the current level of \$ 4.5 billion to \$ 15 billion annually in the next five years.

During the meeting, the Ministers released the Canada-India Joint Study Group Report that examined the feasibility of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA). They welcomed the Joint Study Group recommendation that negotiations be initiated towards a substantive and ambitious CEPA to the mutual benefit of each Party.

The Ministers looked forward to the early signing followed by ratification and implementation of the Social Security Agreement. They noted that the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was under negotiation and looked forward to its early conclusion. These two agreements will make a significant contribution to the commercial and economic interaction between the two countries. Under the umbrella of the Ministerial Dialogue, both sides agreed in principle to establish working groups on PPP model, focussing on infrastructure, Energy, Mining, Agro-processing, ICT and Education.

Both the Ministers also looked forward, signing Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Road Transportation later this year.

The Ministers also reviewed the current status of bilateral cooperation in critical sectors such as energy, environment, mining, information and communication technology, science and technology, education and training, tourism, financial and other services, agriculture, and infrastructure. They noted the opportunities for private sector to work together in these sectors in third markets.

The Ministers also underlined the importance of greater contact between Canadian and Indian businesses. In this regard, both sides agreed to expedite the establishment of a Canada-India CEO Forum, a high level representative body that would recommend policy initiatives and identify impediments to the enhancement of investment and trade between the two countries.

Shri Anand Sharma also met the Industry Ministry of Canada, Mr. Tony Clement, both the Ministers stressed upon the need to enhance investment and technological collaboration between businesses in the two countries.

Shri Anand Sharma, addressed the India Canada CEO Roundtable meeting, jointly organised by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and the Confederation of Indian Industry. He also had an interactive session with the Canada-India Centre of Excellence at Carleton University.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**562. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao at the India Initiative at the Centre for a New American Strategy and the ASPEN Institute 'The United States and India: Chartering the Future Course'.****New Delhi, January 12, 2010.****THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA : CHARTING THE FUTURE COURSE**

Mr. Richard Danzig, Chairman of the Board of the Governors of the Centre for New American Strategy

Mr. Nicholas Burns, member of the Board

It is indeed a pleasure to meet you all today and to address such a distinguished Group.

I want to thank you, Mr. Burns, for your kind remarks. I would like to acknowledge your personal contribution to the transformation of the India-US relationship in your capacity as the Under Secretary for Political Affairs in the State Department from 2005-2008.

The launch of the India Initiative by the Centre for a New American Security and the ASPEN Institute is a welcome development. I have always felt that the India-US dialogue and interaction is in need of more forums such as these that can provide the intellectual ferment that yields ideas on a regular basis that can add further value to the relationship as the two governments work to deepen and expand bilateral cooperation.

Before I go to the topic of today's discussion, allow me briefly dwell on our foreign policy objectives. These objectives involve both economic and security-related dimensions, dictated both by India's ongoing transformation into a globalized economy increasingly connected with the world, the compulsions of balanced and inclusive development within the country, and the environment on India's periphery. In the sixty years since India's independence, the national identity of the country which

finds expression in harmony and unity in diversity, as a billion people-strong democracy, a secular, non-sectarian republic, non-hegemonic in its regional aspirations, and a responsible global player, has in essence defined its foreign policy.

The task of transforming India so that we are able to eliminate poverty and want, through a sustained increase in the rate of growth of our economy is our paramount concern and focus. As our Prime Minister has noted on many occasions, the emergence of India as a major power house of the evolving global economy, is an idea whose time has come. Even as the world has faced an unprecedented global economic crisis and recession, India still happens to be the second fastest growing economy in the world after China. After a fall in the growth rate of our economy from 8-9% to around 6.5% last year, following the global economic crisis, there are signs of an economic revival with growth touching 7.9% in the third quarter of 2009 and provisional estimates suggesting growth around 7% in the last quarter of 2009. We must, however, regain a growth rate of 8-9% per annum so that our developmental goals and priorities are fully realized in the years to come. One of the goals of India's foreign policy is to create an external environment that promotes the fulfillment of our economic growth, targets and ambitions. And, these include the three dimensions - capital inflows, access to technology and innovation, as well as the promotion of a free, fair and open world trading system. Central to these tasks therefore is the need to shape a world order that helps the promotion of our developmental interests. It is, therefore, the overriding priority of ensuring India's economic transformation and development in an atmosphere of peace and security that dictates the basic premise of India's foreign policy today, and will continue to dictate our approach in the years to come.

India's land and sea borders present both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is security-related, as it involves addressing the clear and present danger of terrorism and religious extremism from across our borders, illegal immigration, smuggling of arms and fake currency, as also unsettled boundaries, the last being particularly the case with our largest neighbour, China. The opportunities present

themselves in the form of greater connectivity, increased prospects for freer trade in goods and services, cooperation on climate change, preservation of the environment in a regional cooperative framework such as SAARC, and the prospects for a common market and regional cooperation to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication. Our long sea borders position India uniquely in our region as the one country with the geographical orientation that is both East and West, equally contiguous to the Gulf and the Near East as it is to South East Asia and the Far East. This makes India a natural partner in any serious venture involving maritime cooperation and security, and a logical constituent in regional architectures designed to promote closer interaction on security issues.

Let me now turn to our bilateral relations and how we see them developing in the years ahead.

We have indeed come a long way. We are at a very important juncture in a transformed India-US relationship. If we look at the world today and our relations, it is clear that never before has there been such a convergence of interests or a need for a coordinated approach between India and the USA on some of the biggest challenges facing us: whether they are global, on economic revival, the challenge of terrorism, climate change, pandemics, etc. And this is also reflected in our strategic cooperation which today encompasses and provides for institutional dialogue mechanisms in several areas of convergence such as strategic issues; energy and climate change; education & development; economics, trade and agriculture and science, technology, health and innovation.

The transformation of India-US relations is best symbolized by the Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation that the two sides are pursuing. The bilateral 123 Agreement concluded in July 2007 and the September 2008 NSG decision for full international cooperation in this area were forward looking and momentous decisions. These decisions were not only long overdue recognition of India's standing as a country with advanced nuclear technology and our responsible behaviour in this regard, but also opened up significant opportunities for technical collaboration.

The new US Administration has, indeed, focused on continuity in the bilateral relationship. In this, is the inherent recognition of India's place in the world, our regional role, and our demonstrable economic strength and potential. There has been regular consultation on issues of mutual concern. In many ways, as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said, this is an essay in mutual comprehension. It is a partnership based both on principle and pragmatism that has become increasingly more durable and multi-faceted. There is a strong desire to work with each other on a number of issues of mutual concern and interest. During our Prime Minister's visit to Washington in November 2009, President Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed to provide added meaning and thrust to our relationship. Bipartisan support in the US Congress and Senate for a strong and durable relationship with India was evident throughout the visit. The discussions between President Obama and Prime Minister Singh on the regional situation, the problem and threat of terrorism in our region, Af-Pak issues, our respective relations with major regional players, the global financial situation, were all reflective of the trust, transparency and openness that increasingly marks our dialogue with each other.

An expanded, multi-faceted relationship between India and the United States would naturally entail a focus on military cooperation including joint visits and exercises, cooperation in the protection of sea lanes and the control of piracy - all areas which can work to our mutual advantage. We have been told by the U.S. Administration that they are engaged in efforts to bring significant reform to their export controls so as to free up opportunities for defence cooperation with India. We look forward to these outcomes. In our view, the removal of export controls on the supply of high technology and dual use items would inspire an even greater degree of confidence in our bilateral relationship and understanding.

On the regional situation, we appreciate the commitment of the United States to the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, to emphasise the need to grow Afghan capacity to deal with the problems in that country, to intensify efforts to eradicate terrorism so that the terrorist groups in both Afghanistan and Pakistan cannot have field days in the future. Our cooperation with the United States

in counter-terrorism is an important dimension of our bilateral relationship and it has come into sharper focus in the wake of the Mumbai terror attack of November 26, 2008.

Let me elaborate on this theme. There are several other security related issues where greater cooperation and more frequent consultations between our two countries are necessary. These include the threat of international terrorism, the evolving security architecture in Asia, etc.

Terrorism in our immediate neighbourhood and cross-border terrorism faced by India is a pivotal security challenge. There is a growing consensus that the increase in terrorist activities in Afghanistan is linked to the support and sanctuaries available in the contiguous areas of Pakistan. Increased terrorist violence in our neighbourhood is a cause for grave concern. That these forces operate across boundaries with impunity was evident in the November 2008 terrorist attack on the city of Mumbai.

The phenomenon of cross border terrorism has also illustrated the difficulties that we face in dealing with Pakistan. We face hostile forces across our border with Pakistan, although we have consistently stressed our support for the advancement of democracy, the growth of civil society, and economic development in an atmosphere of peace, in Pakistan - goals that the United States also identifies with. The groups, who direct such attacks against India, have received the patronage of powerful forces and institutions within that country. It is vital that this support must stop forthwith. Any viable process of normalization of our relations with Pakistan is essentially dependent on this requirement since it is unrealistic to think otherwise.

The initiation of a coordinated AF-Pak strategy by the new U.S. Administration in a sense, highlights a situation that India has witnessed, and been affected by, for over two decades now. It is equally critical for the United States and the international community to pay adequate attention to and realize that the situation both in Afghanistan-Pakistan and the cross-border terrorism that emanates from Pakistan against India are manifestations of the use of terrorist ideologies to promote unscrupulous political or institutional agendas.

Pakistan's concerns of the perceived threat in the East and on Indian activities in Afghanistan need to be unequivocally rebutted. It is also essential to ensure that the international aid that Pakistan receives including that from the United States is not diverted for anti-India purposes as had happened in the past. We have reiterated a number of times that we harbor no aggressive designs on Pakistan. With regard to Afghanistan, India is an important neighbour and our focus there is on development activity with the aim to build indigenous Afghan capacities and institutions for an effective state system to improve delivery of goods and services to Afghan people. We are clear in our determination to work with the world to devise strategies to control terrorism, and to sensitize our friends and partners to the challenges that we have faced in tackling terrorism.

Turning to another country in our region - Myanmar - to understand our policy on Myanmar, you will have to understand the context. Myanmar is a close neighbour with which we have a border of more than 1640 kms. Consequently, it is important for India to ensure a peaceful periphery with Myanmar given the fact that we have several Indian Insurgent Groups which will take advantage of any instability on the border. Any political reform process in Myanmar should, therefore, be peaceful and not cause instability either within Myanmar or on our borders.

We have, therefore, followed a policy of engagement with Myanmar while, at the same time, emphasising to the Government of Myanmar that the process of national reconciliation and political reform initiated by them should be taken forward expeditiously and should be broad-based to include all sections of the society, including various ethnic groups. It is in this context that we have fully supported the UN Secretary General Good Offices and the visits of his Senior Adviser Ibrahim Gambari to Myanmar - some of the visits we even helped facilitate.

Given the overall context of the situation, we believe that sanctions against Myanmar will not be useful and may well affect the very people they are designed to help and become counter-productive. It is therefore with interest that we have noted the recent review of Myanmar policy by the US Administration and the acknowledgement that US sanctions have not worked and that there is a need for the US to engage with the Government of Myanmar.

On the Iranian nuclear issue, India's position has been consistent. India supports the right of all states to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with the respective obligations that they have undertaken. As Iran is an NPT member, it has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, we also underline the importance of full and effective implementation of all safeguard obligations undertaken by Iran as member State of the IAEA.

While India has voted in favour of the recent IAEA resolution in end-November 2009, we do not believe that the adoption of this Resolution should divert the Parties away from dialogue. This Resolution should not be the basis for a renewed punitive approach or new sanctions. All concerned must expand the diplomatic space to satisfactorily address all outstanding issues.

Turning to Asia, it is clear that with the rapid rise of China and India, as two economic powerhouses in the region, there will be increasing opportunities for economic integration, as also a realignment of forces. With Japan we are developing the foundations of "strategic global partnership" with a strong economic and strategic content. Similarly with China, we have established a strategic and cooperative partnership. We have a multi-faceted relationship with China - it is now our largest trading partner, we consult with each other on global issues, and we share a common commitment to maintain peace and tranquility on our border. We have good working relations with all major countries in Asia. The key to ensuring long-term security and equilibrium in Asia will be best ensured by building mutual economic stakes in which people, goods, services and even, ideas, can travel with ease across borders. I believe that India's economic growth offers fresh opportunities for development and prosperity of the region. The rise of China is of course observed with close attention in our region. China's demonstrable economic strength and its growing military capabilities are a matter of fact and we must incorporate such factors into our calculus of the emerging 21st century scenario in the Asia Pacific. This is where a mature and evolving dialogue between India and the United States will be of considerable relevance in clarifying approaches to the regional situation and the policy approaches of roles of our two countries in these new circumstances.

On the security architecture for the region, there is need for Asian countries and major non-Asian players in Asian security to interact and cooperate. The United States has a major presence in the region. We need to work together to evolve a balanced, open and inclusive framework. The ASEAN Regional Forum has provided a useful model of such interaction and cooperation based on dialogue and consensus in such areas as counter-terrorism, transnational crime, maritime security, disaster relief, pandemics and non-proliferation and disarmament.

Our two countries are cooperating in myriad ways that directly contribute to our development agenda. For example, food and nutritional security is critical for our development. India has emerged as a surplus food producer, and our ability to manage food security both in terms of availability and price level is recognized. We, however, cannot afford to slacken our efforts on this front. We have agreed to bring our scientists to work together towards improving weather forecasting and risk management for agriculture production. Our ongoing cooperation also focuses on research to increase food productivity, prolong the shelf life of the agricultural produce, capacity building, etc.

Similarly, we are working together towards establishment of a regional Disease Detection Centre in India to deal with the problem of pandemics and provide an impetus to research, capacity building and connectivity in the region.

Over the past few years, we have successfully collaborated on specific second and third generation bio-fuels, wind and solar energy pilot projects. This process to create adaptable and affordable technology would not only be relevant to us but would find resonance in several other countries in the region, Asia and Africa.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh have launched the "Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative" to tap innovation and ideas of the two knowledge-based societies. Similarly the launch of the Women's Empowerment Forum will provide an opportunity to share ideas and best practices in promoting women's participation and equality in society.

On the issue of nuclear disarmament, we feel encouraged by some recent positive steps. President Obama's administration has signaled US willingness to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its nuclear strategy and to work towards a nuclear weapon free world. The renewed debate underway on this issue is in line with our long held positions on achieving a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

We are today also faced with the challenges of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security. India has been affected by the clandestine nuclear proliferation in its neighbourhood and given the challenges of terrorism in our region, we are naturally concerned about the possibility of nuclear terrorism. We welcome the initiative taken by the President Obama to host a summit on Nuclear Security in April 2010. India is working together with its international partners to ensure that this Summit would be an important milestone in our efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism.

Our civil nuclear energy cooperation is equally critical from the perspective of the twin challenges of meeting energy requirements of our rapidly growing economy and imperatives of dealing with climate change. From the latter perspective, nuclear energy is green energy.

We have been co-operating on the issue of climate change both bilaterally and multilaterally. India took an active part in the negotiation of the Copenhagen Accord in December 2009. The Copenhagen Accord reaffirmed the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Copenhagen Accord will undoubtedly serve as a significant input into the post-Copenhagen negotiating process leading upto CoP-16. It, however, cannot supplant the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

We need to uphold the multilateral process, the principle of consensus, even while we take forward the key elements of the Accord into the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations. We also need to take note of the fact that CoP-15 decided, by consensus, to continue multilateral negotiations on the two parallel tracks i.e. the Bali Action Plan and the Kyoto Protocol tracks, with no change in their mandates.

At the same time, irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, India stands by its voluntary domestic target of reducing the energy intensity of

its GDP growth by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the level achieved in 2005. This reflects India's readiness to address the issue of climate change with commitment and focus, even as it seeks to meet the challenges of economic and social development and poverty eradication.

Reverting back to the topic of my address - ours is a relationship with boundless possibilities for mutual benefit. There are no real irritants in our relations. All indicators point to a strong desire to work with each other, in both countries. Through the surge in trade, services and investment that we have witnessed in both directions, our entrepreneurs and corporate have already demonstrated that India-US ties are creating jobs and benefits in both countries. Our governments are working to put in place a better enabling environment to facilitate movement of capital and human resources. And the role of the Indian American community in promoting the positive transformation of our relations must be acknowledged fulsomely.

To conclude, in an increasingly complex world, neither India nor the United States can achieve their goals on their own; nor will our partnership exclusively suffice to address our problems. But, our collaboration and cooperation will be indispensable for shaping the character of the 21st century. It is also natural that we will not always agree on everything. But, increasingly, I believe there is the maturity and confidence in our relationship to address areas of divergence with openness, and also promote convergences in our approaches to global challenges. We share common values and common strategic interests.

I look forward to the discussions this afternoon. I am certain that they would provide a useful input for policy makers.

Thank you.



563. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of US Defence Secretary Robert N. Gates.

New Delhi, January 20, 2010.

The US Secretary of Defence Dr. Robert N Gates met the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony in New Delhi, today. Dr. Gates was accompanied by senior officials from the US Department of Defence. The Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar and other senior officials from the Ministry of Defence were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views and perspectives on a number of issues including the regional security situation and global security challenges. Shri Antony and Dr Gates both expressed satisfaction about the improvement in bilateral defence relations since the signing of the bilateral cooperation agreement in 2005. Both sides also expressed optimism about the prospects for enhancement of bilateral defence relations in all areas, including military to military interactions and in the area of defence trade. The two Ministers also discussed prospects for cooperation between both sides in the protection of the global commons and in the area of maritime security and counter-terrorism.

Shri Antony conveyed to Dr. Gates the Indian concerns regarding denial of export licenses for various defence related requirement of the Armed Forces and also regarding the inclusion of some Indian Defence PSUs and DRDO labs in the 'Entity List' of the US Government. Shri Antony expressed the view that such restrictions were anomalous in the context of the steady improvement in the bilateral defence relations between both countries. The US Secretary of Defence informed Shri Antony that President Obama has initiated a comprehensive reform of US export control regulations and assured that this would involve facilitation in the supply of defence technology and equipment to India.

Defence Minister Shri AK Antony conveyed the view that the bilateral defence trade relations between India and the USA should move from a purely buyer-seller relationship to a more comprehensive relationship

covering transfer of technology and co-production. Further referring to the US Government's proposal to conclude certain umbrella agreements like CISMOA, etc. Shri Antony expressed the view that the proposed agreements would need to be assessed from the view point of the benefits which would accrue to India.



564. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the telephone call by President Barack Obama to Prime Minister to condemn Pune blast.

New Delhi, February 18, 2010.

US President Barack Obama called the Prime Minister earlier this morning to condemn the blast that took place in Pune on Saturday and to condole the loss of lives. In a brief conversation, the two leaders took the opportunity to review developments in Indo-US relations.



565. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Woodrow Wilson Centre on "Two Democracies - Defining the Essence of India-US Partnership".

Washington (D. C), March 15, 2010.

Mr. Lee Hamilton,

Thank you for your kind words of introduction.

It is a particular privilege to be at the Woodrow Wilson Centre - amidst the distinguished men and women who are here today - many of whom have put in years of dedicated work and study in subjects that are of immense relevance to the India-US discourse. I am grateful for your interest and will, I am sure, be enriched by your thoughts and views in the course of this afternoon meeting.

I also want to recognize the role of the USIBC and the Indian federations and associations of business and industry that have reached out and worked successfully with partners across the United States to build the economic linkages and the people to people bonds - that are the bedrock of the India US relationship.

Strong Fundamentals

It was President Woodrow Wilson who said "I believe in...democracy...because it releases the energies of every human being." This is what democracies seek to do - in essence, to harness the energies, and enable the empowerment of all their citizens, regardless of colour or creed, ethnicity or economic status. Our two robust and vibrant democracies believe and act on the basis of such ideals. I am therefore, particularly enthused by the choice of theme for my address this afternoon. Particularly as we commence the second decade of this century, it is appropriate that we reflect on the essence and the potential of the unique partnership between two of the world's greatest democracies - the oldest and the largest.

Geographically, India and America are separated by almost ten thousand miles. Yet, we are nevertheless connected in a very direct and obvious way by the kind of similarities that we share - our respect for fundamental democratic freedoms, our strong and enduring democratic institutions, the rule of law, our culture of debate and discussion, the stress on accountability and transparency in governance, our autonomous institutions that are constitutionally empowered to safeguard fundamental rights and our shared commitment to preserve the pluralistic and secular nature of our diverse and open societies. It was therefore no accident that the Constitution that India adopted in 1950 was also inspired in great measure by the ideals of freedom, equality and justice that formed the bedrock of the United States Constitution. Yet, for several decades after our independence, relations between our two democracies failed to realize their potential because of estrangements derived from the atmosphere of the Cold War and its manifestations in our region.

We have come a long way, however, in the last decade and a half. Today, as India has grown to be one of the leading economies of the world, and a responsible nuclear power, we are cooperating at the global level on a range of issues. Bilaterally, our ties have become truly broad-based. The

conclusion of the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008 marked a major definitive milestone in our relationship. That our ties are marked by both popular and political support was underlined in 2009 by the reaffirmation by our newly elected governments that they would encourage the further positive transformation of our strategic partnership for mutual benefit. In July 2009, we launched a Strategic Dialogue process that covers a number of areas of convergence under the five pillars of: Strategic Cooperation, Energy and Climate Change, Education and Development, Economics, Trade and Agriculture and Science, Technology, Health and Innovation. This is the sentiment that was expressed by President Obama when he told Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last year that "obstacles once thought insurmountable are now well-springs of new cooperation" and that ours is "one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century".

The strong support in both countries for a robust bilateral relationship is, to quote our Prime Minister, based on both principle and pragmatism. Not only are we natural partners in addressing strategic issues of regional or global concern but there are very direct linkages on a day to day basis : the US is our largest trade partner - if we count goods and services - with a total bilateral trade of USD 65.9 billion last year; the United States is one of the leading sources of Foreign Direct Investment into India and recently, many US companies have announced major expansion plans in India. US businesses have increased their competitive advantages and innovation drive through their operations in India. Indian investment flows to the US were estimated at US \$ 13 billion in 2007 and continue to steadily increase. Statistics show that 70% of urban Indians believe relations between India and the US have improved in recent years, and of them, 91% consider this to be a good thing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is these fundamentals that are the essence of the partnership between our democracies.

Priorities and Convergences

And there is another key contributing factor today : the foreign policy priorities of the United States and India seem to converge now as never before - and both Governments recognize the validity of their cooperation in helping to craft solutions to the foremost challenges of our times- the threat of terrorism as it affects both our nations, the dangers of religious

extremism, promoting development in Afghanistan, the global financial and economic crisis that has given new content and meaning to the work of forums like the G-20, the common challenges of addressing the impact of global climate change or disaster relief , pandemics or piracy at sea : our partnership has increasing relevance and meaning.

Challenges and Opportunities

These convergences create the global strategic partnership in which India and the USA have launched a new phase of cooperation across a broad spectrum of human endeavor - based on our common ideals and complementary strengths - to address the global challenges of the 21st century. And in India, the United States must see an anchor for stability in our region, a nation that is wedded to the principles of responsible behaviour and mature restraint, is a powerful and rapidly growing economy, and that can, as one analyst noted recently, be "potentially America's most important partner in Asia". Our Prime Minister sees the India-US relationship as an "essay in mutual comprehension".

Today, the challenge is how we take our economic and political partnerships to a higher level of achievement and provide as it has been said, "more passion" to energize our relationship further. What are the constraints to our relationship? Often the question influential opinion makers in India ask is has the United States sufficiently visualized the importance of its relationship with India, and freeing it of the hyphenations that have somehow tied it down, and stunted its normal growth.

Why India? Today, when the world, and the United States look at our region, they are witness to the rise of India as a democratic nation with proven abilities to manage diverse developmental challenges within its territorial borders, that has increasing ability to promote economic development beyond its borders in its neighbouring countries and farther afield, in Africa, whose skills in the knowledge economy place it in the front ranks of global excellence, is an acknowledged nuclear power with a record of responsible behaviour and adherence to MTCR and NSG guidelines, and whose rapid economic growth place it in the trajectory of becoming the third largest economy in the world.

Our economic performance against the backdrop of the international economic and financial crisis serves as a useful illustration of the discipline and prudence with which India has managed its financial and economic policies. India's growth in the four years preceding the onset of the global financial crisis was around 9%. In late 2008, India's growth slowed down to 6.7% but recovered to a level of 7.2% in the last financial year. Projections indicate 8.2 % in the next financial year and in the next 4-5 years we anticipate a return to 9% based on a revival in exports, manufacturing, infrastructure investment and private consumption demand along with a favourable capital market. In a knowledge- and technology-driven world, India has demonstrated certain unique strengths - our IT exports for the current year are poised to touch the \$50 billion figure; India currently exports generic medicines worth USD 11 billion; our leading steel companies have posted double digit growth in sales volume; the December 2009 index of industrial production surged month-on-month by a record 16.8%. Cumulative industrial growth is pegged at around 9%. The most noticeable feature of India's economic growth is that it is driven primarily by domestic demand. In the recent budget, 46 percent of the total Plan allocation was earmarked for infrastructure development - which implies significant business and investment opportunities. Our youthful demography with a projected average age of 29 years in 2020, will drive economic expansion in our country, particularly the expansion of our urban sector well into the second half of this century.

To achieve an external environment that promotes the fulfillment of our economic growth, targets and ambitions, we have identified three key prerequisites- capital inflows, access to technology and innovation, as well as the promotion of a free, fair and open world trading system. Central to these tasks is a world order that helps the promotion of our development interests. And here again, the partnership between India and the United States can provide a creative impulse and momentum that builds a global environment that is conducive to the realization of these goals. Turning to India's immediate neighbourhood, I believe that there should be deeper awareness and understanding of India's objective to work for stability and peace in its neighbourhood. Just as the tackling of terrorism is a policy priority of the US Administration, India, too, is concerned at the terror infrastructure that has been allowed to be established, take root and be used as an instrument of state policy in our immediate neighbourhood.

Our heartland, our cities and our people, are exposed to the threat of terrorism in a constant and almost unremitting way in a manner that the United States well understands, given the similar threats that are directed against the American people.

Defining restraint

India's approach has been to deal with this challenge with restraint. Despite the brazen and malignant nature of the threats we face, India has made several genuine efforts to restore trust and confidence. Aggressive pronouncements by persons identified by the world as terrorists continue to be made openly against India. Distinctions made between the various terrorist outfits are now meaningless, since they are now in effect fused both operationally and ideologically. We have consistently emphasized the need for Governments concerned to act decisively to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and to effectively deal with groups that perpetrate it. However, our restraint should not be confused with weakness or unwillingness to act against those that seek to harm our people, create insecurity, and hamper our developmental goals. We are a strong country and we possess the capacity to deal effectively with those that pursue destructive agendas against India and its people.

We have, time and again, made genuine attempts to address outstanding issues, most importantly, the issue of terrorism through dialogue with Pakistan. My meeting with my Pakistan counterpart represented the latest such move. Despite the provocations we have faced constantly from terrorists whose linkages we have traced back to Pakistani soil, we have not abandoned the path of dialogue. And in our recent meeting, India's approach was to focus on our concerns regarding terrorism, pending humanitarian issues, and some bilateral visits that have been planned or spoken of, but have not taken place. But it continues to be our conviction that for this dialogue to really make progress, Pakistan should take meaningful steps to address our concerns on terrorism, and cease the encouragement of terrorism targeted against India. In January 2004, the then Pakistani leadership had made such an assurance on the basis of which we resumed our Composite Dialogue to discuss various outstanding issues in our relationship. Today, Pakistan claims that it is in no position to give us such a guarantee that terrorism can be controlled by its authorities. In such a situation, the people of India who are already bitterly affected by

the series of terrorist attacks directed against them, can hardly be expected to support the resumption of a full-blown Composite Dialogue with Pakistan. It is also important that there are strict accountability criteria that apply to defence assistance rendered to Pakistan for operations against terrorists and insurgents on the border with Afghanistan. Our past experience regarding such assistance has taught us to be vigilant to the possibility of it being used for purposes that generate tension and hostile actions against India. We do not have aggressive designs against Pakistan and we want it to be a stable and prosperous country. But we will be vigilant about our security. That is our sovereign right.

The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan is one of the foremost security related challenges faced by our region. We feel that it is vital for the international community to stay the course in Afghanistan. India has, at the request of that country, worked on infrastructure creation, and capacity building in key developmental sectors, with a total investment of 1.3 billion US dollars across several provinces and in very difficult terrain. Our assistance is provided in a transparent and fully accountable manner, and has underscored our commitment to Afghan democracy and inclusive development. At the recent London Conference, we have announced new initiatives in the agriculture sector and in institutional capacity building. In all these areas we have responded to the felt needs of the Afghan people.

We believe it is imperative for the international community, in its new initiatives on security, reintegration, and reconciliation in Afghanistan, to approach these issues carefully - and with caution. We believe that any reintegration process should include only those who abjure violence, give up armed struggle and terrorism and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights. There is every risk, otherwise, that the Taliban could resurrect themselves as they have done in the past even when we think they have been defeated or we are rid of their hardcore elements.

The barbaric attack against Indians engaged in humanitarian and development work in Afghanistan on February 26 was an attack by those who do not wish any other future for that country except one that suits their sinister ambitions. The international community should understand that such attempts, if unchecked, will only embolden the same forces that held sway in Afghanistan in the 1990s and caused the tragedy of 9/11. One

cannot stress enough the need to avoid compromises or differentiation between the so-called shades and hues of the Taliban. That would be disastrous for Afghanistan and for the world. In short, there is no quick solution to the Af-Pak situation. It is important for the international community, in its own interest, to stay the present course for as long as it is necessary.

New areas of partnership

Speaking in Washington last November, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said "our relationship will see a new emphasis on five Es - economy, energy, environment, education and empowerment - even as we further strengthen our ties in defence, security and counter-terrorism. We will also harness our natural synergies in science and technology, education and research to advance food security, improve healthcare, develop green technologies and create the human resources for the future".

Both our Governments are agreed that the India US partnership is important for addressing the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world - our cooperation could cover different fields - for example, the critical area of agriculture and food security, especially with regard to Africa. This Indo-US cooperation is envisaged by us as a net additionality over and above what India is doing bilaterally with Africa. One possibility is the mechanism of 'triangular cooperation' where India's experience and expertise as an emerging market economy, could be relevant to Africa.

In the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of our Prime Minister's visit to Washington, Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama announced their intention to develop a Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment to foster an environment conducive to technological innovation and collaboration, promote inclusive growth and job creation, and support opportunities for increased trade and investment - including for small and medium-sized enterprises. They also agreed to launch the US-India Financial and Economic Partnership to strengthen engagement on economic, financial and investment-related issues.

An important facet of our relations is our growing interaction in the defence sector. We hold a regular dialogue on defence issues, and joint exercises. Our defence trade is growing. There is potential for it to grow further as we look at diversified sources of defence systems as also allow private sector

participation in our defence production. It is our hope that the US Government will adjust its export control regulations to facilitate more efficient defence trade. This would be in line with growing mutual confidence and the long-term strategic partnership that we seek to build. The visit of Defence Secretary Gates in January 2010 enabled a sharing of perspectives on this crucial sector of our cooperation.

Both our democracies are committed to the protection of the global commons: maritime, space or the cyber high ways. The Indian navy plays a major role in facilitating maritime security across vital sea lanes of the Indian Ocean. They have been deployed in anti piracy escort operations in the Gulf of Aden. Co-operation between India and the United States for the security of sea lanes is now all the more relevant. Similarly, India has provided more than 100,000 troops, observers and police officers to 43 UN Peace keeping Missions over the last 60 years.

On countering terrorism we have bilaterally reaffirmed our shared determination to cooperate in unprecedented ways - from sharing intelligence and best practices to training and increased exchanges between our security agencies. This has been effectively demonstrated in the wake of the Mumbai terror attack.

The ongoing meeting of the High Technology Cooperation Group is demonstrative of our efforts to gradually reduce and eliminate the controls on export of high technology from the United States to India, and to liberalize export licensing requirements and whittle down entity lists that seem anachronistic in the vastly changed environment of India-US relations today.

Our strategic dialogue today has an important developmental focus covering areas such as agriculture, health, education, energy, women's empowerment. In health, our cooperation especially in promoting R&D to combat diseases like drug-resistant tuberculosis that continue to affect the poorer sections of the population in India and other developing countries is particularly important. Agriculture remains an important sector of the Indian economy accounting for almost 18 % of GDP and supporting around 60% of the workforce. In recent years, this sector has recorded an average growth of 2.5% annually compared to 8% in other sectors. Achieving rapid growth in agricultural productivity is therefore a national priority. The government has allocated substantial funds for improving infrastructure in

the agrarian sector and expanding irrigation. It is in this context that our ongoing cooperation in this sector is so vital. Through our partnership in this sector, we hope to strengthen our food processing capacities, improve farm-to-market linkages, provide better agricultural extension services, and weather forecasting with emphasis on monsoon modelling. Our cooperation is also focusing on research and capacity building to increase food productivity, and to enhance food security.

Education is a key to empowering and transforming the lives of our people. Our Government is working on expanding and restructuring various educational sectors including higher education, vocational education and skills development infrastructure. We are also in the process of setting up several new world class universities, including setting up of the legal framework to allow us to tap the best talent in the world to participate in the academic activity of these new centres of excellence. President Obama and Prime Minister Singh launched the "Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative in November last year. The Fulbright-Nehru scholarship programme launched last year has been augmented by additional contributions by both our Governments.

Similarly, through the Women's Empowerment Forum where we will share ideas and best practices in promoting women's participation and equality in society, and the CEOs Forum which will inform the India US Economic Dialogue, we intend to build greater synergies and productive bilateral collaborations. The "Framework for Co-operation on Trade and Investment" and the negotiations for the Bilateral Investment Treaty would contribute significantly to this process. This is a relationship with boundless possibilities for mutual benefit. Through the surge in trade, services and investment that we have witnessed in both directions, our entrepreneurs and corporate have already demonstrated that India-US ties are creating jobs and benefits in both countries.

I now turn to the issue of Climate Change where the steps that we take will need to be intrinsically linked with the growth prospects and developmental aspirations of our people. India along with United States actively participated in the negotiation of the Copenhagen Accord. India has agreed to being listed in the Chapeau of the Accord on certain conditions, including that the Accord is a political document and not a legally binding document. It is not a template for outcomes. Further, it is not a separate, third track of

negotiations outside the UNFCCC. The significant points of convergence in the Accord should help all Parties to reach agreed outcomes under the UN multilateral negotiations.

India needs to sustain an economic growth of at least 9% if it is to eradicate poverty and meet its larger human development goals. This will require in the short to medium term, a quadrupling of our power generation capacity. We are seeking to expand our nuclear energy from 4000 MW to 20,000 MW by 2020; add nearly 20,000 MW of solar energy by 2020; substantially expand the base of wind and biomass energy; increase energy efficiency and expand our forest cover from 22% to 33% of our landmass. At the same time, coal would remain a key component of our energy mix. India is, therefore seeking to access clean coal combustion technologies and new coal extraction technologies. India and the United States are working together in this important area. Our companies, and scientists are working on specific projects in the sector of second and third generation bio-fuels, wind and solar energy. Our joint endeavour should be to create adaptable and affordable technology as also to institute better practices that could then be replicated in other countries in Asia and Africa with similar climatic or developmental conditions.

An important dimension of the landmark agreement on civil nuclear cooperation between our two countries is the substantive role that the United States nuclear power companies can play in the addition of more nuclear energy to India's energy mix. We are in the process of operationalising the Agreement through close coordination between our two Governments.

Dealing with new challenges

Ladies and Gentlemen, both our Governments are agreed that the new global realities require that we revisit and reorganize existing governance models which were put in place over six decades ago. We see our case for permanent membership of the Security Council as valid and legitimate and we seek the support of the United States in this endeavour.

In another context, we see the G-20 process as a useful representative mechanism to manage global economic and financial issues. The Group has conceptualized and defined many constructive measures to deal with the financial crisis, its causes, and steps to mitigate its effects through better regulation, supervision and international financial governance.

President Obama outlined his vision of a nuclear weapon free world last April. This has been consistently espoused by the Indian leadership for about six decades. In 2006, India presented specific proposals in the UNGA as possible building blocks of a new global, verifiable nuclear disarmament framework. These include: a global agreement on "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states; measures to reduce nuclear danger through de-alerting, reducing salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and preventing unintentional or accidental use; a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction etc. Presently, we wish to see the emergence of a consensus in the Conference on Disarmament on issues that the international community considers essential, including negotiations for a fissile material cutoff treaty.

We are committed to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction. We have a law-based system of export controls that has stood the test of time. We have updated it in accordance with international best practices. Our lists and guidelines are harmonized with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime even though we are not as yet members of these regimes.

Driven by common concerns about the security of nuclear assets - particularly in the backdrop of the increasing threat of terrorist access to them, India and the US are partners in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Next month, Prime Minister Singh would participate in the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama. We believe that the Summit can be milestone in addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism. We also hope that India and the US can find other opportunities to work for the safe, secure and proliferation resistant expansion of nuclear energy around the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, having traversed the broad canvas of the partnership envisaged and endorsed by our democratic processes, I would hasten to recognize that in an increasingly complex world, while neither India nor the United States can achieve their goals on their own and nor will our partnership exclusively suffice to address our problems, our respective peoples have strong reason to believe that our collaboration and cooperation will certainly be crucial for shaping the character of the 21st century.

As two proud and independent democracies, we may not always fully agree on everything. The future of our relationship will depend - not only on the momentum that our strategic dialogue will attain - and sustain - and its outcome, but, eventually on how our respective peoples perceive our cooperation as safeguarding their aspirations and sensitivities.

But, we have the maturity and confidence in our relationship to make sure that we can expand and deepen areas of convergence, and that we have the capacity, in a clear eyed way, to turn our varying perspectives into a search for more creative solutions to our global challenges. That must be our mission. If we simply choose to employ our complementary strengths, protect and promote our synergies and pursue initiatives that respond to the legitimate aspirations of our people, we can be confident that our partnership will acquire further substance and relevance. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you want to see in the world".

Once again, I thank you all.



566. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Prime Minister's meeting with the U. S. President Barack Obama.

Washington (D. C.), 11 April, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you all again. As you are aware, the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh arrived in Washington yesterday to attend the Nuclear Security Summit. Today, Prime Minister of India met with the President of the United States. Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao is here to brief you about Prime Minister's meeting with the President of USA. She is also joined by the Media Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Harish Khare, who is to the left of Foreign Secretary. Ma'am, may I invite you to please make your opening remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): Thank you. The meeting between our Prime Minister and President Barack Obama at Blaire House this afternoon lasted approximately fifty minutes. The meeting was

extremely positive and very constructive. Both the Prime Minister and the President referred to the good progress that had been made in bilateral relations between India and the United States since their last meeting here in Washington in November 2009. They said they were looking forward to the strategic dialogue between Foreign Ministers of the two countries, External Affairs Mr. Krishna and Secretary Hillary Clinton, which will take place here in this city in Washington on the 3rd of June this year.

They expressed their happiness that the agreement on arrangements and procedures relating to the Civil Nuclear Deal has been completed. They were satisfied with the good cooperation on counter-terrorism issues. President Obama said that he understood India's deep concerns in regard to this issue as also on the situation in Afghanistan. He said that India's interests were consistently on the mind of the United States.

The President said that there was no country in the world where the opportunities for a strong, strategic partnership are greater and more important to him personally or to the United States, than that with India. He referred to the relations between two great democracies in this context, their common values and the people-to-people relationship.

Our Prime Minister said that we in India were looking forward eagerly to the visit of President and Mrs. Obama to India later this year. He said that the President had caught the imagination of millions around the world including the people of India who were anxious to see him soon in our country.

Prime Minister said he was convinced that the two Governments could begin a new chapter in their relations. He referred to the role of the United States of America in strengthening growth impulses in the world economy, particularly in developing countries, in the post-war world - he was referring to the period after the Second World War - and he said that that experience could be repeated. Countries like India needed an international environment that does not allow protectionist forces to gain ascendancy. He said that we should rewrite the architecture of the global economic system. In this context the G20 could play an important role in ensuring that global economic recovery is sustainable. He said that the United States was uniquely placed to work out a plan for sustainable recovery in a globally integrated financial system. He also said there was a synergy of interests between India and the United States in this regard.

In response, President Obama said that the United States would welcome the suggestions of India as preparations for the next G20 meeting are on their way. He mentioned the common interest of both countries in seeing an early conclusion of the Doha Round. Food security and energy security, he said, were other areas for cooperation especially since the experience of India in these fields was particularly very valuable and of global relevance.

Prime Minister said that in ensuring this architecture of high economic growth for countries like India what happens in our neighbourhood is of crucial importance. The terrorist onslaught in our region, if it persisted, could affect our growth prospects. This terrorist menace should be tackled and this was an issue on which India and the United States stood on the same side. He said this with specific reference to what is happening in Pakistan and Afghanistan. How this menace was tackled would determine the future of the South Asian region, Prime Minister said. He mentioned in this context the issue of David Coleman Headley and also the tremendous rise in infiltration across the Line of Control.

The activities of the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and persons like Hafiz Saeed and Ilyas Kashmiri were also mentioned, as also the fact that unfortunately there was no will on the part of the Government of Pakistan to punish those responsible for the terrorist crimes in Mumbai of November 2008. This was where the partnership of India and the United States could make the difference.

President Obama said that India had the goodwill and the understanding of the United States in this regard. He said he shared Prime Minister's vision of South Asia. He said the United States fully appreciated India's interest in Afghanistan and recognised the enormous sacrifices that India has made in helping to stabilise that country. He expressed support for India's continuing contributions to Afghanistan's development. On India-Pakistan relations, President Obama said that the United States favoured the reduction of tensions between the two countries. And again Prime Minister stressed the need for Pakistan to take convincing action against those accused for involvement in the Mumbai attacks.

As I mentioned earlier, President Obama fully understood our concerns about the LeT and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He

said the United States was engaging Pakistan on these issues. He also said that the United States would be sensitive to the issues that we have raised in the context of security assistance provided to Pakistan.

I referred earlier to President Obama's remarks about the positive cooperation between India and the United States on counter-terrorism, and he said in this context that they were working through their legal system on the issue of provision of access to David Coleman Headley. He was fully supportive of our request for provision of such access.

I would also like to add that President Obama was appreciative of our contributions to the preparations for the Nuclear Security Summit which, as you know, begins tomorrow here in Washington. Prime Minister congratulated him on his initiative in convening this Summit.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Foreign Secretary will be happy to take a few questions.

Question: Foreign Secretary, did the issue of Iran come up in this bilateral mini-summit? Even if it did not and the fact that it is not on the formal agenda of the Nuclear Security Summit either - obviously the US is trying to mobilise support to isolate Iran - how is India in this instance going to walk this tightrope? When you were at the Woodrow Wilson Centre that became sort of a lead question and even India's friends in Congress sort go ballistic on this whole Iran issue. So, how is India going to walk this tightrope even if it did not come up in the discussions?

Foreign Secretary: I believe our views in this regard are very well-known to the United States. Yes, the issue of Iran did figure in the discussions. This was especially with reference to the ongoing discussions in New York on the possibility of a UN Security Council Resolution to deal with the Iranian nuclear issue. So, the President briefed the Prime Minister on these discussions. Our Prime Minister made known India's position very clearly in this regard. You are aware of the fact that we have always stressed that Iran has certain obligations to fulfil as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the nuclear issue as it concerns Iran. Also, on the issue of sanctions, our

position that sanctions when they target ordinary people have always been counter-productive was mentioned by the Prime Minister. Both sides agreed to keep in touch on this issue and to continue their discussions.

Question: Madam, you mentioned the issue of access to David Coleman Headley which was part of the discussion that took place between the President and the Prime Minister. Madam, you also said that Obama was supportive of what India has said. Do we take it that now there seems to be a green signal from the US authorities that Indian authorities can actually have access because that is very crucial to the investigation in 26/11? Or are we just one step closer to that cooperation between India and the US on this issue?

Foreign Secretary: I meant exactly what I said. I said that they are working through their legal system on the issue of provision of access to David Coleman Headley, and that they were fully supportive of our request for provision of such access. I will stop at that.

Question: You have said that Headley subject was mentioned. But talking to the US lawyers and knowing about how the things are moving here, they have given clear three ways you can approach Headley- through video teleconference, or through some agents coming here, or through documentation. Which approach is India taking? Can you just clarify exactly?

Foreign Secretary: I am not here to discuss that issue. I am here to brief you on the meeting between our Prime Minister and President Obama. The issue of Mr. Headley did come up in that discussion and I briefed you on that also.

Question: Madam, you said that the issue of the Lashkar and Hafiz Saeed was brought up in the meeting. What exactly did President Obama say on the LeT and the fact that Hafiz Saeed can freely make speeches in Lahore and Rawalpindi even today?

Foreign Secretary: I said that he was very sensitive to these concerns that we expressed and that the United States was aware of the issues that we have consistently been raising on this and the activities of other

individuals and groups that have advocated violence against India. What he conveyed to Prime Minister was that the United States was sensitive to these concerns.

Question: Madam, my question was about this security assistance that the US is giving Pakistan. What exactly did the Prime Minister discuss with the President? Was it something to do with the US-Pakistan strategic relations agreement?

Foreign Secretary: Security assistance is security assistance that is being provided to Pakistan by the United States. That was the context in which this issue was discussed.

Question: Madam Foreign Secretary, when President Obama expressed his desire for reduction of tension between India and Pakistan - that is the phrase you used - did he make a connection between reduction of tension between the two countries and the ongoing American military effort in Afghanistan? Was that link made by him?

Foreign Secretary: No, it was not.

Question: When you spoke about the security assistance what was President Obama's response in the sense of would they take India's sensitivities or concerns onboard, would that lead to a reduction in security assistance, or what did he say?

Foreign Secretary: That the issue would be monitored and would be kept under observation keeping India's concerns in mind.

Question: Madam, talking of remaining steps on the nuclear deal front, did President Obama take up the issue of Civil Nuclear Liability Legislation with the Prime Minister? Secondly, there is an impression that there is a disconnect between India and the United States on Af-Pak issues on some of issues relating to Af-Pak. Can we say that following this meeting there is a greater harmony in our views or are we at the same pitch?

Foreign Secretary: The President did refer to the pending Civil Nuclear Liability Bill and expressed the hope that this could be concluded as expeditiously as possible. In response to your second question, there

was absolutely no disconnect in evidence. As I mentioned, the President was very appreciative of the role that we have played in Afghanistan, the sacrifices that we have made, and the contributions that India has made to the development of Afghanistan. He added that the United States would like to see India continuing to be involved in these activities in Afghanistan.

Question: Madam, the whole focus of the Summit is securing nuclear arsenal. Did India raise any concerns about the security of the Pakistan nuclear arsenal during this meeting? If not now, then do they plan to raise any of these questions in future sideline meetings?

Foreign Secretary: We did not raise it at this meeting and I will let you know if anything transpires on this issue in the next few days.

Question: Madam, coming back to the question of reduction of tensions between India and Pakistan, what is India planning to do now after President Obama has talked specifically about reduction of tensions? Are we planning another round of talks? In terms of specifics what is this going to translate into?

Foreign Secretary: I am not able to understand, you are making some connection between what was discussed at today's meeting and what we should do next. I do not think that connection should follow from what we discussed today. As far as we are concerned, our policy in regard to dialogue with Pakistan has been very clearly enunciated and it is there for all the world to see. I believe our friends, our partners, especially the United States, fully understand the approach that we have followed on this issue.

Question: I wanted to know whether there is any chance that your Prime Minister would meet the Pakistani Prime Minister while they are both here, or perhaps at some other level there could be some other encounters between the two delegations while you are here.

Foreign Secretary: Not here in Washington. No, I do not believe any meeting is on the cards.

Question: Madam Foreign Secretary, we have been listening since long time that President Obama is expected to visit India this year. Did he

give any indication about the dates? It is understood that Mr. Obama wants to take his children also with him. If that is the case, he has to come to India before September when the schools start.

Foreign Secretary: The President of the United States has been invited to visit India. Prime Minister said we were greatly looking forward to this visit. A visit is definitely planned for this year. We do not have dates as yet but both Governments are working on that.

Question: Has Pakistan extended any invitation to our Prime Minister for meeting on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit? Are we looking forward for a meeting between the two Prime Ministers there?

Foreign Secretary: The answer to your question is, no. There is no invitation. As I said, as of now I cannot tell you whether there will be any meeting planned for the SAARC Summit. They are not meeting here in Washington.



567. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of U. S Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns.

New Delhi, May 24, 2010.

Mr. William Burns, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, US Department of State visited New Delhi on May 24, 2010 for meetings with his counterpart, Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary and Under Secretary Burns reviewed the India-US bilateral agenda and, specifically, the progress made in the India-US Strategic Dialogue announced on July 20, 2009 by External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton during the latter's visit to New Delhi.

The substantive issues relating to the forthcoming visit of External Affairs Minister to USA from June 2-3, 2010 for the inaugural meeting of the India-US Strategic Dialogue in Washington were at the core of their discussions.

Intensified India-US co-operation in the five focus areas of strategic cooperation, energy and climate change, education and development, economic trade and agriculture constituted their main agenda. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest and common concern.

Under Secretary Burns also called on Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia , Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, H'ble Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser .



568. 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 28, 2010.

The Prime Minister spoke this evening with United States President Barack Obama. The two leaders discussed the forthcoming Strategic Dialogue between the two countries scheduled next week in Washington. Both sides attach great priority to the dialogue as a means to strengthen bilateral engagement on a wide range of issues including high technology trade, science & technology, civil nuclear cooperation, agriculture, human resource development, security and other strategic issues. The two leaders took the opportunity to discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest. President Obama conveyed condolences on the loss of lives resulting from the air crash in Mangalore last week. The Prime Minister said that a warm welcome awaited the President and his family when they visit India.



569. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to USA for Strategic Dialogue.

New Delhi, May 30, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon and thank you for joining even on a Sunday. My colleague, Joint Secretary (AMS) Shrimati Gaitri Kumar, and I would give you a perspective on the External Affairs Minister's forthcoming visit to Washington for the first Strategic Dialogue with USA, which would take place on the 3rd of June this year.

You would recall that in July 2009, during the visit of Secretary Clinton, EAM and Secretary Clinton had decided to launch the Strategic Dialogue between the two countries. It will be held alternately in the capitals of both countries. The Strategic Dialogue will enhance the Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US, by serving as a very important mechanism to review, enhance and coordinate our broad-based cooperation.

At the Strategic Dialogue on the 3rd of June in Washington, EAM will be joined by Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission, who is also the Co-chair for the India-US Economic Dialogue, for the India-US Agricultural Dialogue, and the India-US Energy Dialogue. The Minister of Human Resource Development Mr. Kapil Sibal will also be travelling to Washington, and he is the Co-chair of the Education Dialogue. Minister of Science and Technology Shri Prithviraj Chavan will be there too. As you know, science and technology is a very important facet of our bilateral cooperation.

The aforementioned dignitaries will have their separate programmes and meetings with their US counterparts, as a part of their ongoing dialogue processes and would join the Strategic Dialogue on the 3rd of June. EAM will be assisted by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao; Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology; Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Joint Secretary Shrimati Gaitri Kumar; and other officials.

Secretary Clinton would be joined by the National Security Advisor, the Commerce Secretary of the US, the Education Secretary and a number of other senior leaders and officials. Composition of the delegations and the

high-level participation on both sides, should give you a fair idea of the scope and nature of the first Strategic Dialogue between our two countries. Regular high-level contacts and bilateral dialogue on a wide range of subjects of mutual interest, are reflective of the qualitatively transformed relationship between our two countries.

It would be recalled that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had paid a state visit to the USA in November 2009, which was the very first state visit under the new Obama Administration. The Joint Statement - called 'India and the United States - Partnership for a Better World' - issued after the talks, outlines the main focus of the discussions and a roadmap for taking the relationship forward in this new phase of our strategic ties.

Prime Minister stated that rapid socioeconomic development under way in India, the transformation that is under way in India, offered several opportunities for mutual cooperation between our countries in a vast number of areas, including important areas such as infrastructure, communications and information technology, healthcare services, educational services, energy, environmental friendly technology sectors, and so on. Prime Minister Dr. Singh and President Obama had another very important meeting on 11th of April in Washington just prior to the Nuclear Security Summit. President Obama had observed during the meeting that there was no country in the world where the opportunities for a strong strategic partnership were greater to the United States than that with India.

Friends, that is the brief background in which the first Strategic Dialogue is going to take place in Washington. It will focus on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest and common concern. It would give direction to the programmes currently under implementation and take initiatives to further the Indian and US developmental, security and economic interests.

Currently our interaction, our exchanges, our dialogue is being undertaken in eighteen areas comprising of five pillars of cooperation, under the Strategic Dialogue. These are: strategic cooperation; energy and climate change; education and development; economic, trade and agriculture; and lastly science, technology, health and innovation.

EAM and Secretary Clinton will consider an approach to operationalise the Obama Singh Knowledge Initiative aimed inter alia at increasing

University linkages, faculty exchanges, and so on. A memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation and food security was also signed in November 2009 during the visit of the Prime Minister, to increase cooperation in agricultural research, human resource capacity development, natural resource management and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. This will also be discussed.

Energy, as you are well aware, is a vital sector of cooperation for both the countries. As part of the Energy Dialogue, both sides are working on establishing a joint Clean Energy Research Centre and we are accelerating efforts to deploy clean energy technologies in both countries. India and the US have also taken crucial steps towards full implementation of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. The Agreement on Arrangements and Procedures for Reprocessing pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the India-US Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, has been concluded, which will allow for India's reprocessing of US-origin spent fuel.

A Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was established in 2009. A number of meetings have taken place under that framework.

These are just a few snapshots of some of the very important facets of our ties. I would like to add that since the decision to launch the Strategic Dialogue in July 2009, both sides have held comprehensive discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interests. We have discussed regional issues including those related to security and our common objective of promoting peace, stability and economic development in the region and beyond.

EAM and Secretary Clinton will also discuss cooperation within multilateral fora and exchange views on how international organizations can better address the 21st century challenges. The Dialogue will serve to reaffirm our bilateral commitment to further deepen our Strategic and Global Partnership. The meeting will also help lay the ground for the visit of US President to India later this year.

Thank you.



570. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at the 35th Anniversary Summit of the US-India Business Council on "India-US Partnership: Shaping the future through Innovation".

Washington (D. C.), June 2, 2010.

Mr. Terry McGraw, Chairman of the India -US Business Council,

Srimati Indra Nooyi, CEO of PepsiCo,

Mr. Ron Sommers, President of the USIBC,

Mr William Cohen, Chairman, Cohen Group ,

I am glad to be here among you all in Washington D.C., which brings back nostalgic memories of long years back. Many of those who witnessed those years are still excited about those times.

Mr. Shephard Hill, President of Boeing International,

Thank you for your warm words of introduction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am especially pleased to join you in celebrating 35 years of the US India Business Council - and in recognizing the contribution of many pioneering entrepreneurs like those present here today, who have built the strong, resilient edifice of the India US bilateral economic partnership. Their vision and leadership achieved a mutually beneficial synergy that bridges distances, spans the oceans that lie between us and enriches the bilateral economic discourse in a way that just was not imaginable 35 years ago. Mr. Terry Mc Graw, I congratulate you and the past and present members of the USIBC.

As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said in this very building a few months ago, "In today's economically integrated world, economic relationships constitute the bedrock on which social, cultural and political relationships are built."

The India-US example, similarly, draws its strength not merely from engagement and understanding between governments, but from the vitality of private partnerships and the warmth of ties between our peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 20th century was a century of capital accumulation; the 21st Century will be the Century of innovation.

We see this in India - where we are presently witnessing a revolution of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. It has made our manufacturing sector modern and globally competitive through market-induced "frugal engineering". It has made our services sector a powerful instrument of modernization and a major source of exports. And, it is turning India into a global hub for innovation, design and development and manufacturing.

India's responsible corporate sector is a key player in our innovation initiative. Three years ago, the State Bank of India found a low cost and easy-to-operate solution for banking in remote areas of India. The "Tiny Branch", as the State Bank of India called it, costs a little over US \$ 300 per branch and is made up of a mobile phone and a finger print scanner. This set can hold data of up to 50,000 customers, can record details in 11 languages and is operated by women recruited at village level. Furthermore, the devices work on battery using solar energy. State Bank of India hopes to install 250,000 of these tiny branches across Indian villages.

Around the same time one of our foremost Indian corporates came out with a no profit rice husk based water purifier. At a onetime cost of 20 US Dollars and a recurring expense of 6 US Dollars every 3000 litres, this is an example of an affordable innovation for safe drinking water across village and middle class urban homes in India, reducing cost but increasing efficiency as well. Being natural, it is a 'green' filter. Even the advertising is door to door and by word of mouth in order to keep the project cost low. They are, of course, presently fielding inquiries from developed and developing markets.

Ladies and gentlemen, India has already created successful business models and price innovations; for example, when designing the Nano,

Tata was able to save production costs with their "design to cost" strategy, by challenging its vendors to come up with supplies under pre-set price caps. Similarly, Titan produced the World's slimmest water resistant watch, and I believe even the Swiss are very impressed! A product like the small car or a portable low cost ECG machine are powerful examples of global capabilities applied to local needs, and have great potential in other markets.

Governments in India have ensured that the rural and agriculture sectors are prioritised in our developmental plans for inclusive growth - and today, we see the fruits of that policy - as some of the most exciting developments are taking place in the extensive rural markets of India, and a significant part of the growth impulse is coming from this sector.

Using satellite imagery, internet and computers and supported by novel financing methods, villages and rural communities in India are developing better resource mapping, better prices for their products and they are improving their access to a range of services from farming know-how and education to healthcare and insurance.

The focus in all the above has been towards innovation with a specific purpose. The net result is a broader outreach and inclusion from the grass-roots upwards, making India the ideal place for locating such innovation which depends on technology and a broad based and diverse spread in all sectors of the economy and market.

Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, by engaging the medium - sized companies in US and India is another priority. Foreign Direct Investments now are a two-way traffic, with United States being one of the leaders in investments in India. A growing number of patents of US companies are coming out of their Indian operations. And, the nature of our business ties has brought people together in an unprecedented manner that has had a profound impact on overall relationship. I observed the transformation at its earliest stages from close quarters as Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The present opportune environment has been recognised early by the private sectors in both our countries. Drawing on India's substantial

knowledge base, U.S. high-technology firms are increasingly finding it attractive to conduct advanced research and development in India. Out of Fortune 500 companies, around 200 have set up research and development base in India. India looks to USA for its unmatched scientific output and the ability of converting this strength into wealth-generating innovations. USA also values Indian partnership in the areas of information technology and its applications, biotechnology, nanotechnology, medicine, advanced material, high-energy physics etc.

India -US partnerships are now looking at providing low cost, efficient healthcare services to remote areas through mobile clinics, tele-medicine etc. Both countries can work together in streamlining health based IT solutions such as digitizing health records, joint research and collaboration in drug discovery, medical research and clinical trials.

Several institutional mechanisms exist such as the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum, established in 2000, and Indo-US S&T Umbrella Agreement signed in 2005 and the India-US Bi-National S&T Commission.

In recognition of the importance of innovation in meeting our economic goals, Government of India has declared the decade of 2010-2020 the decade of innovation. Our Ministry of Commerce has recently announced a single FDI policy document to facilitate foreign investors.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Indian economy grows, as the global economy recovers and the US economy regains its momentum, our trade and investment figures can multiply exponentially. We must go beyond that, make innovation the defining principle of our cooperation, and achieve its true potential. Indian and American businesses have a proven track record of partnership in innovation. From civil nuclear cooperation to 'Chandrayaan' and FutureGen, the bonds between our engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs and innovators can make a major contribution to shaping the 21st century in every area of human endeavour - in science, in tracking monsoons, for warning of natural disasters, guiding cultivators and farmers with environment predictability, crossing frontiers in e-learning, e-health and bringing about the e-revolution that one had only imagined a few decades ago.

While we explore the immense opportunities for collaboration, I would also say that we must explore new designs that reduce resource intensity and have a low environmental impact. Clean energy, healthcare, agriculture, science and technology, space and security are just some areas on which we are working to step up India-US collaboration. I would especially emphasise the importance of innovation that places products and services within reach of the weakest and poorest in our societies.

To quote the late Prof C.K. Prahalad whose untimely passing we deeply mourn, the prospective rewards would be, "growth, profits and incalculable contribution to humankind".

As a young law student in this country, who witnessed the historic 'Apollo' launch to the moon, and having personally expedited the IT revolution from Bangalore, I am absolutely confident that the emphasis, going forward, must be on the India-US partnership in high technology cooperation and innovation that will generate prosperity for both our peoples in the years to come.

years now - and have, last year, agreed to a Technical Safeguards Agreement in space co-operation. We also have the End Use Monitoring arrangement for defence acquisitions. We have given a number of written assurances that US technology will enjoy the level of security stipulated by the relevant US laws and not be diverted in contravention of US regulations.

With this background and the trust that we have built as strategic partners, we should be able to create an environment for a robust two way trade in advanced technology products.

I have received some feedback on areas of particular interest to members present here - foremost is the implementation of the historic Civil Nuclear Agreement between our two countries signed in 2008. We are well within the agreed timelines. Of course, the Government is committed to put in place a nuclear liability regime. We look forward to US companies investing in India. Many of you are in dialogue with our companies already. We would like it to be as robust a partnership as we have both envisioned.

I am confident that our economic partnership holds immense potential for the prosperity of our two countries and for invigorating the strategic partnership between our two countries.

Tomorrow, I will join Secretary Hillary Clinton, for the first India-US strategic dialogue at the ministerial level. We will discuss many areas in which we have shared interests-ranging from countering terrorism and extremism, advancing nuclear security, working to secure the global commons, seeking to build a developed and cooperative Asia, and succeeding in Afghanistan to dialogues for co-operation in science and technology, research for clean energy and monsoon prediction, health and education, and a dialogue on women's empowerment . That will be an important occasion for us to reflect on the remarkable journey that our two great democracies have embarked upon, and to set our sights on new milestones.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your exceptional contribution to the splendid successes that we have been able to achieve due to your efforts, and due to your goodwill. I would like to assure you that it is heartily reciprocated in India. We look forward to ever more brilliant achievements and joint successes as our scientist, engineers and business and industry forge new paths as they progress in their co-operation.

Mr. Terry McGraw, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your patience.



571. Opening Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the Press Conference after the Plenary Session of the India-US Strategic Dialogue meeting. Washington (D.C.), June 3, 2010.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

I am particularly pleased to be co-chairing this dialogue with Secretary Clinton, whom we consider as a dear and longstanding friend. She is a true believer in the vast potential of the India-US partnership. I want to thank her for her gracious hospitality and the splendid co-ordination by her colleagues that has, no doubt, gone into the preparations for this inaugural meeting of the India-US Strategic Dialogue. This dialogue, as Secretary Clinton said, is a unique forum that really brings together all the different threads of our extraordinarily wide agenda and allows us to look at the entire relationship in an integrated, strategic fashion.

I would like to emphasise the importance that our Prime Minister attaches to India-US Strategic Dialogue, and to India-US relationship. He and President Obama reaffirmed, when they last met, their commitment to taking this relationship to a new level of co-operation - a global strategic partnership for the 21st century between India and the United States.

We consider our strategic partnership with the United States as one of our key foreign policy priorities. The United States is the largest economy in the world. India is emerging as one of the world's largest - and one of its fastest growing - economies. The relationship rests on a solid bedrock of shared values. There are few relationships in the world that have so much potential as India-US relations. Therefore, I believe, that our cooperation is not only for great mutual benefit, but we can work together to make a significant contribution to global peace, prosperity and stability in the 21st century.

Secretary Clinton and I, joined by senior colleagues, have had a very comprehensive and productive discussion today. Our discussions covered a broad range of global economic and security issues. We agreed to

continue the practice of close and regular consultation, and to remain sensitive to each other's interests and concerns.

We expressed the hope that the G-20 meeting in Canada later this month will stimulate further coordinated international efforts for economic recovery and stabilization and to safeguard our goal of balanced and sustainable development.

We had a very good exchange of views on reforms necessary not only in the international economic architecture, but also in the global political and security architecture, including the UN Security Council, so as to reflect contemporary global realities, as President Obama's National Security Strategy also points out.

We shared concerns about developments in Asia, including on the Korean peninsula. We have a common interest in advancing security and stability across Asia. We shared our perspectives on South and Central Asia, East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean Region.

India and the United States have a shared convergent goal of a stable, peaceful, pluralistic and democratic Afghanistan, which protects the rights and the dignity of all sections of Afghan society. India and the United States are partners in achieving these goals. I conveyed our view that these goals can be best advanced through sustained international commitment to Afghanistan, by building Afghan capacities for governance and security through initiatives that are led and controlled by the Afghans themselves. We agreed on the importance of avoiding choices that lead us into the dark alleys of the 1990s, and the importance of safeguarding the gains and progress that have been made since then, especially with regard to the position and rights of women in Afghanistan.

Our dialogue has further increased our understanding on the nature and source of terrorism that threatens both our societies. We agreed that terrorist groups operate as a syndicate, leveraging each other's assets and strength, and are increasingly converging together on motivation and targets. Hence, a segmented approach towards terrorism, especially in our neighbourhood, would not succeed. We are pleased with the way our counter-terrorism cooperation has progressed, and today we have agreed to intensify it further.

We discussed the steps that we should take to further deepen our growing defence and security cooperation, including defence trade and collaboration, which has grown rapidly in recent years.

We had, again, a very good discussion on economic cooperation, high technology exports to India, cooperation in higher education, healthcare, science and technology, empowerment, agriculture, climate change and energy. In each of these areas, there is immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation that will make a significant contribution towards creating jobs and prosperity in both countries.

I am pleased that there is a strong balance and momentum in trade and investment in both directions. Secretary Clinton and I agreed that we have to go beyond multiplying our trade and investments. We are two innovative societies with a proven track record of success in partnerships for innovation. India is making a modest but meaningful contribution, based on its experience and expertise and our resources, to development efforts in other countries. This is an area where we have a lot to learn from each other and we had a very useful discussion on these issues today.

In short, our dialogue was wide-ranging. We have identified the areas of our strategic priority and the roadmap for cooperation in each of these areas. Secretary Clinton and I have agreed to monitor progress and meet again in 2011.

We look forward to warmly welcoming President Obama and his family in India later this year.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development , Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission , Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences and other senior officers who joined me here in Washington - after having held a series of meetings with their US counterparts - for the Strategic Dialogue today. Thank you, once again, Madam Secretary.



572. Joint Statement issued after the conclusion of U.S. - India Strategic Dialogue.

Washington (D. C), June 3, 2010.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and India's External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, met in Washington on June 3, 2010, for the inaugural meeting of the "India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue." President Barack Obama welcomed the Indian delegation and emphasized his commitment to strengthening the growing U.S.-India partnership.

Minister Krishna was accompanied by Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Prithviraj Chavan and high ranking officials of the Government of India.

Secretary Clinton was joined by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, FBI Director Robert Mueller, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, the President's Advisor for Science and Technology Dr. Holdren, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman, and other high ranking U.S. Government officials.

The U.S. - India Strategic Dialogue is propelled by the dynamic momentum achieved in the U.S.-India relationship over the last decade and is in pursuance of the global strategic partnership - for a better world that Prime Minister Singh and President Obama reaffirmed during their meetings in November 2009 and April 2010 in Washington. Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna pledged to deepen people-to-people, business-to-business, and government-to-government linkages between the world's oldest and largest democracies, for the mutual benefit of both countries and for the promotion of global peace, stability, economic growth and prosperity. Both recalled that the India - U.S. partnership rests on the firm foundation of common ideals as well as security and economic interests. The guiding principles upon which both nations were founded - democracy, mutual respect, individual liberty, rule of law, and an appreciation for the strength we derive from being pluralistic societies - make the India -U.S. bond strong, resilient, and uniquely important for building a peaceful, prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable world.

They pledged that as strategic partners, India and the United States would continue to consult each other closely on regional and global developments, and remain sensitive to each other's interests. They confirmed that global institutions of governance should reflect contemporary realities and enhance effectiveness, in order to meet the challenges of the new century.

In addition to advancing global security and stability, both recognized that their two countries had enormous opportunities to deepen their cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, infrastructure investment, environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation, energy security, education, agriculture, food security, healthcare and empowerment of people.

The two leaders emphasized that the Strategic Dialogue and its detailed architecture is a vital instrument to pursue these goals.

The co--chairs welcomed the significant progress across all pillars of the India -U.S. Strategic Dialogue since its launch on July 20, 2009.

Advancing Global Security and Countering Terrorism

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton reiterated their shared goal of advancing security and stability across Asia, in particular, through the emergence of an open, balanced, and inclusive architecture of cooperation in the region. Secretary Clinton welcomed India's leadership role in helping to shape the rise of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia. They shared their perspectives on South and Central Asia, East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean regions and pledged to expand regular high-level exchanges on regional issues of mutual concern.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna reiterated their shared interest and commitment to a stable, sovereign, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. They reiterated the importance of a sustained international commitment to Afghanistan that builds local capacities through Afghan-led initiatives. Secretary Clinton welcomed India's vital contribution to reconstruction, capacity building and development efforts in Afghanistan and its offer to enhance efforts in this direction. Both sides pledged to explore opportunities for coordination on civilian assistance projects that advance Afghan self-sufficiency and build civilian capacity.

India and the U.S. committed to regularly consult with each other on Afghanistan. It is in our common interest that the people of Afghanistan succeed in their reconstruction and development efforts without outside interference, in an atmosphere free from violence and extremism. Afghanistan's success is vital for the security and stability of the region.

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton expressed grave concern over recent incidents in the United States and India that remind that terrorism and violent extremism know no boundaries and remain continuing threats to global, regional, and domestic security. They acknowledged the importance of continued cooperation in efforts to defeat terrorism. They reaffirmed the critical principle that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism in any form. They called for swift and credible steps to eliminate terrorist safe havens and vowed to strengthen global consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, including by working together at the UN toward adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that strengthens our efforts in combating terrorism.

Both Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton heralded the unprecedented and expanding India-U.S. counterterrorism partnership, as embodied in the recently announced U.S.-India Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative to enhance collaboration, information sharing and capacity building. Secretary Clinton reiterated the continued U.S. commitment to provide full cooperation and support in ongoing counterterrorism investigations, including through continued exchanges of information between designated agencies and by bringing the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terrorism attack to justice.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna also acknowledged the global dimension of cyberspace, the increasing interdependency in the area of information technology, and the excellent progress made in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Dialogue by the Indo-U.S. Working Group in this regard. They reiterated the necessity of building on this momentum to strengthen cooperative efforts in the area of ICT in general and also to address emerging transnational cyber-security challenges.

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton expressed satisfaction with the strengthening of defense cooperation in recent years and stressed that security dialogues, service-level exchanges, and trade and technology

transfer and collaboration on mutually determined terms were an intrinsic part of the strategic partnership and should be further strengthened. They welcomed the regular engagement of Armed Forces of both countries, including through conduct of joint military exercises. They recognized the scope for enhancement of defense trade between both countries to the mutual benefit of both sides.

Indian importers have a 100% compliance record when it comes to safeguarding imported technology - we have been implementing the End-Use Verification Agreement with US partners for Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton pledged to continue bilateral discussions on their identified ongoing initiatives on global issues of common concern through the Global Issues Forum which is focused on how the world's two largest democracies can form a truly global partnership by working through regional, international and multilateral cooperation.

In Pursuance of the Strategic Dialogue, Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna expressed their shared view that the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue and the bilateral mechanisms therein provide an important platform for strengthening the U.S.-India partnership, offering a strategic vision for enhanced future cooperation. The U.S. and Indian delegations look forward to further discussions on specific matters raised at the Dialogue through expanded high-level official engagement, working groups, and existing bilateral dialogues.

Secretary Clinton confirmed President Barack Obama's intention to visit India this year at the invitation of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for the leaders' fourth substantive bilateral meeting. The co-chairs noted that this inaugural meeting of the Strategic Dialogue has helped lay the groundwork for that visit and pledged to intensify discussions on how to further deepen and broaden their cooperation.

The two sides plan to hold the next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi in the first half of 2011.

Both countries pledged to continue to work together on areas of mutual interest including maritime security, counter-piracy, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and response.

Disarmament and Non Proliferation

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton reiterated the two countries' shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and restated their commitment to address the challenges of global nuclear proliferation. Minister Krishna reiterated India's appreciation for President Obama's initiative to host the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC. They expressed satisfaction with the Summit's outcome and the adoption of a Communiqué and Work Plan.

Secretary Clinton welcomed India's announcement of establishing a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership with focus on advanced nuclear energy systems, nuclear security, radiological safety and applications of radio isotopes and radiation technologies and appreciated India's intent to welcome participation by international partner countries and IAEA in the work of the Centre.

They also committed to continue working together to achieve an early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament.

Trade and Economic Relations

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton, though encouraged by signs of global economic recovery, recognized that the recovery is fragile and requires sustained international support, including through concerted efforts by G-20 countries and continuing openness in trade policies and promoting innovation and growth. They looked forward to the next meeting of the G-20 in Canada. They called for a balanced and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Development Round, consistent with its mandate. As members of the G 20, they agreed to advance the G 20 understandings including with regard to energy security and resisting protectionism in all its forms.

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton noted that both Governments have taken steps to strengthen their bilateral engagement and understanding in three broad areas - macroeconomic policy, financial sector, and infrastructure financing - through the launch of a new Economic and Financial Partnership' between India's Ministry of Finance and the Department of the Treasury in April 2010. The partnership is intended to

help both countries to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth, as well as share experiences on infrastructure financing and financial sector regulation. They also took note of the accelerated work under the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) led by the U.S. Trade Representative and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry. One key result was the signing of a 'Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment' in March 2010 which, uniquely, is expected to contribute to realizing the further potential in bilateral trade and investment, supporting job creation in both countries.

High Technology

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton underlined the importance of facilitating co-operation in strategic and high technology sectors such as through the 7th meeting of the High Technology Cooperation Group in Washington in March 2010 as a key instrument to achieve the full potential of the strategic partnership. Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton confirmed the shared objective of a strong 21st century partnership in high technology. They committed to approach the issue of export controls in the spirit of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change

The United States and India have taken crucial steps towards full implementation of civil nuclear cooperation. Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton reiterated that nuclear energy can make a significant contribution to building a sustainable and clean energy future. They highlighted the Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation Action Plan recently signed by the two countries.

They welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Arrangements and Procedures Agreed between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the India-U.S. Agreement Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which sets forth the arrangements and procedures for India's reprocessing of U.S.-obligated spent nuclear fuel.

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton discussed progress on energy and climate change issues since the signing of the U.S.-India Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security, Clean Energy, and Climate Change. They stressed that the Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative they

finalized last year would contribute to achieving sustainable development and a clean energy future for the people of both countries. The goal of establishing a Joint Clean Energy Research Center and accelerating collaborative efforts to deploy clean energy technologies in both countries remains a priority. They reiterated that the "Partnership to Advance Clean Energy," to be launched by both countries to take full advantage of multi-agency coordination and engagement with the private sector, constitutes an important step forward in developing and deploying clean energy.

They discussed their respective national action plans and initiatives to address the challenge of climate change. They noted the enormous potential for scientific and commercial collaboration in clean energy technologies and recognized that their respective experience and expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency provided a sound platform for building their bilateral partnership further and supporting similar efforts in other countries, especially developing countries.

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton reaffirmed their support for the Copenhagen Accord as a positive step forward in meeting the global climate challenge, and underscored its importance in building consensus in the ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC in pursuance of the Bali Action Plan, towards a successful outcome at the Sixteenth Conference of Parties at Cancun, Mexico, later this year. They also welcomed the launch of the India-U.S. Climate Dialogue, which seeks to enhance bilateral U.S.-India cooperation with a view to achieving a successful outcome of the ongoing multilateral climate change negotiations. They reiterated the importance of the Climate Dialogue in focusing and coordinating both countries' priorities in dealing with climate change consistent with their national policies and strategies. In this regard, both sides recognized that further cooperation in knowledge on climate science can enhance our shared understanding of the planet's climate. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in the area of unconventional gas resources, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change.

Agriculture

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton noted that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food

Security would increase cooperation in agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. They noted that India's experience with agricultural development in the framework of low capital intensity and diverse conditions offers useful lessons for other developing countries. They resolved to continue to look for innovative ways to work together to promote agricultural development and reduce rural poverty, promote global food security, and improve weather prediction and crop forecasting capabilities for agricultural purposes in order to improve livelihoods in the rural sectors. They also pledged to work together to improve the farm to market supply chain, food processing, and agricultural extension programs.

Education

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton acknowledged the positive contribution of cooperation in education and science and technology to bilateral relations. They noted the enormous potential for enhancing academic exchanges and collaboration, including through participation of U.S. universities in India, in the context of the ongoing reforms and expansion of the higher education and professional training sectors in India. Education cooperation is an area of high priority for the two Governments. They welcomed the steps taken towards implementation of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative launched last year with the goal of increasing university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between U.S. and Indian universities. They further welcomed in this context the formation of the India-U.S Higher Education Forum under the auspices of the U.S.-India Business Council.

Health

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton reviewed progress on the collaborative effort to establish a Regional Global Disease Detection Center in India. They acknowledged that the Health Dialogue would provide a framework to discuss ways to accelerate bilateral cooperation and collaborations, including exchanging views on extending affordable healthcare to all sections of the population and to continuing education and training for health care practitioners at all levels of service. Both governments pledged to enhance bilateral collaboration in controlling and preventing diseases, assuring food

and medical product safety, and increasing biomedical and translational research and development with the goal of identifying new and effective methods of medical treatment and ensuring equitable access of such outcomes to the citizens of both the countries.

Science and Technology

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton emphasized the importance of science and technology collaboration, both in economic and strategic areas. They welcomed the progress on the India-U.S. Science and Technology Joint Committee and the endowment. The United States and India are using their strong common scientific expertise to improve the lives of their citizens, push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, and identify projects to encourage engagement on innovation and entrepreneurship. They noted the upcoming U.S.-India Joint Committee Meeting in late June to push this agenda forward; both governments reinforced the need to support science and technology research aimed at innovation.

Development

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton noted with satisfaction the emphasis that the two governments place on empowerment of women and advancement of their welfare, as an integral part of social and economic development worldwide. They stressed the importance of empowerment of women for global prosperity and stability. They resolved to place special emphasis on integrating women's interests in all aspects of their strategic dialogue and bilateral cooperation. They welcomed the second meeting of the Women's Empowerment Dialogue held on 27th May, 2010, where both sides discussed women's social and economic empowerment, capacity building for self help groups, support for micro finance, political participation of women, addressing violence against women, early childhood education and gender budgeting. They also agreed on the need to work out modalities for supporting Afghan women leaders in the area of economic opportunity.



573. Remarks of External Affairs Minister at the reception hosted in his honour by Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton.

Washington (D.C.), June 3, 2010.

Mr. President,

Last year, you and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched a new phase in the 'India US Global Strategic Partnership'. I bring you greetings from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister has asked me to reiterate the importance he attaches to the Strategic Dialogue and his personal commitment to it.

I am grateful to for the warmth and gracious hospitality that has been extended by Secretary Clinton to me and to my colleagues and officers. Her commitment and involvement in working for a positive transformation of India-US relations has been a key factor in the achievement of the global strategic partnership that we have established today.

Mr. President, we consider our mutually beneficial relationship with the United States to be one of our foremost foreign policy priorities. Our two countries, given our dedication to our fundamental freedoms, openness and diversity, are well placed to be pacesetters in an era of globalization. There are few relationships in the world that have so much potential as India-US relations, because, I believe, that our cooperation is not only for great mutual benefit, but is destined to have a strong impact on global peace, prosperity and stability in the 21st century.

Mr. President, as India regains the momentum of our economic growth, new opportunities are emerging to empower rural communities, especially women. Time and again, we have seen in other developing countries, for example in the pioneering efforts of S. Ann Seotoro, your late mother, Mr. President, in Indonesia, the transformational impact of innovation and microfinance. That is our hope for transforming our economy and society in an equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner.

My colleagues and I have had very productive meetings yesterday and today in our Strategic Dialogue. We reviewed progress in all areas of our ongoing cooperation, and also focussed on our vision and the roadmap

for future. We also discussed how we would work together to realise the immense potential of our cooperation across the spectrum of human endeavour - from strategic cooperation to sustainable growth and economic and developmental partnerships - to achieve real benefits for our peoples and for the world.

Mr. President, we are pleased that you, with your deep personal links with the Asia-Pacific region, are taking strong interest in the future of this rapidly evolving region. We look forward to a stable, secure, prosperous future for this region, defined by cooperation, openness and inclusion.

Mr. President, our agenda is broad and rich. I thank you once again for your belief in and commitment to this relationship and look forward to your visit to India - where a very warm and heartfelt welcome awaits you.



574. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the annual dialogue on 'India US Strategic Partnership' at Brookings Institution.

Washington (D. C.), June 4, 2010.

Thank you, Ambassador Indyk, Mr. Mittal, Dr. Cohen, Bill, distinguished former colleagues who are present here, Foreign Secretary Sibal, Foreign Secretary Mansingh, Mr. Ajay Shankar, Amit Mitra. If I've anybody out, please forgive me, dear friends. There are a number of familiar faces in the audience here today. It's indeed an honor and a privilege for me to be present here with my esteemed colleague and friend, Bill -- Bill Burns -- at the first annual dialogue on India-U.S. strategic partnership jointly hosted by the Brookings Institution and FICCI.

I believe that this decade has been a truly transformational one in the India-U.S. relationship. Many milestones have been crossed, and a year ago when Secretary Clinton was in India, and after her discussions with our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Krishna, our two governments announced their decision to establish a Strategic Dialogue. And in November last year, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh came to Washington at the invitation of

President Obama on the first State Visit of the new U.S. Administration. It was a very successful visit that yielded rich dividends in terms of cooperation between our two countries in many areas, underscoring the vitality and the relevance of our strategic partnership. And the recently released National Security Strategy of the United States has stressed the importance attached to comprehensive U.S. engagement with India, which it sees as a center of influence in the 21st century.

Yesterday we held the first round of our Strategic Dialogue. Both External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna and Mrs. Clinton -- Secretary of State Clinton -- shared this dialogue. The visit of President Obama to India in November this year will take our endeavor onward to greater heights. President Obama's gracious presence at the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue reception at the State Department yesterday was an abiding affirmation of what he eloquently called the unprecedented partnership between our two countries.

The transformation of our relationship has taken place against the backdrop of India's initiatives to reform its economy and the geopolitical changes in the post-Cold War world. To my mind, there are three main drivers that have led to this transformation.

First are shared values of democracy, pluralism, and tolerance and respect for fundamental freedoms which provide the underpinning of a durable relationship.

Second, there is the reality of growing economic linkages and people-to-people contact. Over the last two decades, our businesses have formed strong and mutually beneficial partnerships. Mr. Mittal talked about cooperation touching the lives of ordinary people about the power to connect and reaching out to the common denominator. I think that very eloquently expresses the nature of what we are doing in some areas of our partnership today. Our trade in goods and services has grown. It is broadly balanced. We have launched a new financial and economic partnership and have agreed on a new framework for promotion of trade and investment. These are all catalysts of closer ties. They build what Ambassador Indyk referred to as the zone of trust between our two countries.

And, third, there is an increasing convergence of interests and major global issues. The imperatives of a multi-polar and interconnected world today set the stage for us to work together to address global challenges whether it be the rising threat of terrorism and extremism or ensuring a balanced, equitable, and sustainable development for all - energy security and food security for both our peoples and for the world at large.

While the rapidity and the evolution of our bilateral relations with the United States has surprised some observers, there is today broad-based political support and public goodwill in India for a strategic relationship with the United States. We see the United States as a friend and as a valuable partner in our developmental efforts. Thus, even as we strengthen our ties in defense, in security, in counterterrorism, trade, and the economic sphere, areas of cooperation such as in agriculture, energy, environment, innovation, and education are also coming to define the structure of our strategic partnership. Bill referred to this in his remarks just now.

The joint statement that we issued yesterday at the conclusion of the strategic dialogue reflects this growing partnership that not only encompasses our bilateral cooperation but also charts the path for us to work together on regional and global issues. Again to quote Ambassador Indyk or was it Mr. Mittal, there is a sense of destiny about what we do in this partnership.

While there are no major irritants in our relationship, we need to ensure, of course, that our partnership does not become hostage to regional dynamics and that we realize its full potential. Some months ago at an address at the Woodrow Wilson Center, I had noted that the future of our relationship will depend not only on the momentum of our strategic dialogue and its outcome but eventually on how our respective peoples perceive our cooperation as safeguarding their aspirations and sensitivities. We need to be mindful of this aspect.

There is no doubt that India's democratic, pluralistic, and stable society encompassing over a billion people, makes it unique and, in many senses, exceptional; and with a sister democracy -- the United States -

- we share a strategic interest in fostering security and stability in a rapidly changing Asia. Even as the face of Asia, and indeed the world, changes with the rise of China and with India, we, India and the United States, must work together to engender an open, balanced, equitable, and inclusive architecture of economic and security cooperation. In a related context, the question of reform of the U.N. Security Council and the expansion of its membership is an important item on the agenda of our dialogue as we seek U.S. support for India's case for permanent membership of the Security Council.

In our neighborhood, we have a vision of enhanced South Asian cooperation for development. That vision is, however, challenged by violent extremism and terrorism, which originates in our region and finds sustenance and sanctuary there. The recent failed terrorist attempt at the Times Square in New York has again revealed the global reach of terrorist organizations. Whether it be the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Al-Qaeda, or the Taliban, all these groups are driven by a similar ideology, an ideology that is opposed to freedom, to democracy, to development, and the peaceful resolution of differences. Our two countries, India and United States, have a vital interest in defeating terrorism and in ensuring that its safe havens and breeding grounds cease to exist. In this context, our bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism is crucial. Our concerns in this area are shared, and our cooperation in information sharing and improving our infrastructure to resist and deal with terrorism is of great relevance.

We are supportive of the U.S. efforts to fight terrorism in Afghanistan and to bring stability there. Indian assistance amounting to over U.S. \$1.3 billion has helped build vital civil infrastructure, develop human resources and capacity in the areas of education, health, agriculture, rural development, among many others, in Afghanistan. In this process, we have been guided by the needs of the Afghan people. The Indian Medical Mission in Afghanistan, for instance, has treated over 300,000 people there in 2009 alone. We stand by our development partnership with Afghanistan despite repeated terrorist attacks on the Indian Mission and our brave men and women who are working there to help transform the lives of ordinary Afghan citizens.

Like the United States, India would like to see the emergence of a strong, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan. We also believe that any reconciliation or reintegration efforts there should include only those who abhor violence, renounce terrorism, and pledge to abide by the values of democracy and pluralism and the Afghan constitution.

In the larger Asian context, both the United States and India have an interest in protecting the global commons -- maritime, cyber, and space domains. The free flow of information and trade across these global commons is vital for both our economies. Our naval forces have been working with each other in ensuring the safety and the security of shipping lanes of communication, including in the Gulf of Aden. We need to also create appropriate norms for cyberspace to ensure that the freedom and the anonymity provided by these pathways are not misused. Our space agencies have had fruitful cooperation in the past, and there is immense potential for the future.

Defense cooperation, as Bill Burns just pointed out, has become an important strand in our strategic partnership. Today our armed forces have regular interaction and conduct joint exercises. In fact, the Indian armed forces conduct more joint exercises with the United States armed forces than with any other country. We are increasingly also looking to partner with the U.S. as we modernize our armed forces with the latest technology and equipment. An important element in this regard would be progress on easing of U.S. export control restrictions as they apply to India. This would not only be a logical outcome of the Civil Nuclear Initiative, but would also be a catalyst for promoting trade and cooperation in high technology, defense, and the space sectors. It would also be consonant with the nature of the strategic partnership that exists between us and the growing mutual trust and confidence that is an important driver in our relations today.

Economics and trade of course constitute an important plank of our bilateral relations. For us, the United States remains a prime source of investment and an important trading partner. As we make efforts to increase investment in infrastructure and give a fresh impetus to the manufacturing sector, the importance of partnership with the United

States is only going to increase. This mutually beneficial partnership of course creates jobs. It creates opportunities in both countries. There's also been a surge in Indian investment in the United States. On the global stage also, as members of the G20, we have worked closely together on formulating policy responses to deal with the global financial and economic crisis and to address the needs of balanced and sustainable development worldwide.

Issues such as agriculture, energy, education, and health have a direct impact on the lives of ordinary people. Development has become an important focus of our strategic partnership.

Agriculture remains an important sector of our economy. While we have become self-sufficient in food production, the rapid growth in agriculture is essential for increasing the incomes of our farmers and rural folk and achieving the objective of inclusive growth. In the 1960s, India and the United States have partnered to usher in the green revolution in India. The spirit that animated our cooperation and which resulted in the green revolution must be revived. It is our hope that we can work together to bring a second green revolution to India.

Separately, India has also developed capabilities and expertise in agriculture especially suited for a low-capital intensive environment. There is immense scope for us to share our respective experiences and work together to address food security in third countries and this is where I think the development of cooperation in Africa becomes particularly relevant. We have agreed to establish working groups in diverse areas relating to agriculture, which would help us to increase productivity and also contribute towards regional and global food security.

Both our countries also face similar challenges of dependence on energy imports and fossil fuels, and we recognize, both of us, the importance of addressing the challenge of climate change. We have, in India, a long-term prospective plan on energy and an ambitious national action plan on climate change, which seeks to increase the share of clean and renewable energy in our energy mix; increase energy efficiency across the economy; and expand our forest cover. In November 2009, our Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to launch a Clean Energy and

Climate Change Initiative to advance cooperation in clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency. We are working together to ensure a speedy implementation of its various provisions, that is, of the MOU, including of establishing a Joint Research Center.

The conclusion of the historic and very important Civil Nuclear Initiative with the United States in 2008 opened new vistas of cooperation between our two countries. We have finalized the arrangements and procedures relating to reprocessing, and it is our hope that we can move soon towards practical cooperation in the field of nuclear power.

Education is another important area for our cooperation. It plays a vital role in empowering and transforming the lives of our people. The government of India has therefore launched an ambitious program for reform and expansion of the education sector. It is our hope to partner and benefit from the excellent U.S. university system. The Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative announced during our Prime Minister's visit would be one important instrument for this purpose. Meanwhile, there are at least a hundred thousand students from India who study in U.S. universities today.

The field of women's empowerment is another aspect of our strategic dialogue, and yesterday at our meeting we were able to talk about recent developments in our dialogue on women's empowerment, but first we had an interesting meeting on this subject here in Washington a few days ago.

There is, thus, today a very broad canvas before us to strengthen our strategic partnership. This is a relationship which can be, as President Obama has said, one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. There are no major issues on which our long-term interests do not converge. We may occasionally differ on the manner in which these shared objectives can be achieved. We need to weave all these various strands that I refer to and intensify the momentum of consolidating our cooperation. In this endeavor, we will certainly benefit from the valuable inputs from the FICCI-Brookings dialogue. I wish you success in your meeting today. I look forward to knowing more about the results of your deliberations.

Thank you so much.



575. Response of Indian Ambassador to the United States Meera Shankar on a question regarding visit of the National Investigative Agency team to USA.

Washington (D. C.), June 11, 2010.

"In response to a question from PTI regarding the visit of the NIA team, the Indian Ambassador Meera Shankar said that the Government of India had requested the Government of the United States of America for access to question US national, David Coleman Headley, who has been charged for his role in the planning of the Mumbai terrorist attack of November 26, 2008. Following discussions with US Attorney General, Eric Holder, a team from the National Investigation Agency of India has visited the US for questioning David Headley. This took place over several days, beginning from June 3, 2010, and the team is now returning to India on the conclusion of a useful visit. The Government of India attaches importance to this in investigating the full dimension of this heinous act of terrorist violence. The support and cooperation extended by the US authorities is appreciated and is in keeping with the commitment of the two countries to strengthen their cooperation in meeting the challenge of terrorism."



576. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Obama before their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.

Toronto, June 27, 2010.

President Obama: Well, I want to express my pleasure having the opportunity to meet once again with my good friend, Prime Minister Singh. I said before and I continue to believe that the extraordinary leadership that Prime Minister Singh has provided not just to India, but to the world, has helped us navigate through some very difficult times.

And I can tell you that here at the G20, when the Prime Minister speaks people listen, particularly because of his deep knowledge of economic issues, as well as the fact that he understands that as India rises as a world power, not just a regional power, that it also has enormous responsibilities to work with the rest of the world community around issues of peace and prosperity.

The last time that Prime Minister Singh visited the United States, as part of a wonderful State Dinner, we instituted what we termed a strategic partnership that involves all of our ministers at the highest levels working together to try to find ways to enhance commercial ties, security ties, coordination on critical multilateral issues like climate change. And as a consequence, Minister Krishna led a delegation to Washington to follow up, and working with Secretary Clinton, conducted some very high-level talks. I had the opportunity to participate in that dialogue.

We also wanted to make sure that in addition to government-to-government ties, we were initiating people-to-people ties, and so an Indian-American CEO conference took place. And we're going to continue to see how we can get our businesses to work together, and then generating recommendations to each of us in terms of how we can improve ties between the United States and India.

I am very pleased to have accepted a visit on behalf of myself and Michelle to India. It is a trip that I'm very much looking forward to, and I

know that the Prime Minister and his gracious wife will extend great hospitality to us. We are also just excited because of the tremendous cultural, as well as political and social and economic examples that India is providing the world and has in the past.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you so much for your friendship, and we look forward to working with you in the months to come, leading up to the visit, so that we know that we're going to have a very productive stay when we're in India.

Prime Minister: Mr. President, thank you very much for your warm words. I attest that India attaches the greatest importance to this relationship with the United States, with which we have a steady partnership.

It is our common endeavor, Mr. President, to give this strategic partnership a new thrust, a new meaning, a new content. And it's my privilege to be associated in this global endeavor with you, Mr. President. You are a role model to millions and millions of people all over the world. Your life history is a history which inspires millions of people everywhere where there are people who have risen by the sheer depth of their austerity, of their hard work, and their commitment to the values on which you have worked and you've stood for.

It has been my privilege, Mr. President, to enjoy your friendship, and this is something which I will cherish forever in my life.

The dinner that you hosted for me and for my wife last year was a most memorable evening for both of us. And we look forward to your visit, the First Lady's visit, and your children's visit to India later this year. A very warm welcome awaits you, Mr. President. And I have every reason to believe that you will find it a productive and exciting journey to a country of India's diversity, of India's complexity.

And we are engaged in getting rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease, which still afflict millions and millions of our people. And it's our common desire to work together to get rid of this scourge in our lifetime. And in that, the United States' support means a great deal to us. Your personal commitment to social justice is something we cherish.

And I look forward to have the privilege of welcoming you and your family to our country so that you can see for yourselves what we are trying to do, the difficulties of managing social and economic transformation in the framework of a democracy committed to the rule of law, committed to all fundamental human freedoms. I think that's what India seeks to achieve.

And in this, we seek your active involvement and active participation. Thank you very much.

President Obama: Thank you, everybody.



577. Press Release on the visit of U. S. National Security Advisor General James L. Jones' visit to India.

New Delhi, July 15, 2010.

US National Security Adviser General James L. Jones (retd.) visited India for discussions with Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser on July 14-15, 2010 in New Delhi.

General Jones' visit to India is part of the institutionalized dialogue mechanism between the National Security Advisers of India and the USA which has served as a useful channel of communication between the two countries. During the visit the two sides reviewed the status of the strategic partnership between India and the USA, and discussed preparations for the State visit of President Barack Obama to India later this year. Discussions were positive, constructive and forward looking.

Apart from bilateral relations, regional and global issues, including the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, international terrorism, the global governance architecture and emerging threats to international security were also discussed.

During his visit, General James Jones also called on Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee



578. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on India-US Agriculture Dialogue.

New Delhi, September 17, 2010.

The India-US Agriculture Dialogue held its inaugural meeting on 13-14 September 2010 in New Delhi. Foreign Secretary and Mr. Robert Hormats, Under Secretary (Energy, Economic and Agricultural Affairs) in the US State Department co-chaired the Dialogue, on behalf of the Governments of India and USA respectively. Senior officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Food-Processing Industries, Earth Sciences and other concerned Departments participated.

Under the Agriculture Dialogue the two governments have set-up three Working Groups for: Strategic Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security, Food-Processing, Agriculture Extension, Farm-to-Market linkages, and Weather and Crop-forecasting respectively.

The Working Groups discussed proposals for cooperation and will finalize the specific initiatives and modalities for cooperation through mutual consultation.

The Agriculture Dialogue provides a platform for implementing the India-US Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security signed in March 2010, in pursuance of a decision taken during Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to USA in November 2009.



579. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the meeting of India - USA Trade Policy Forum to discuss trade and investment relations between India and the United States.

New Delhi, September 22, 2010.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce & Industry and Ambassador Ron Kirk, the United States Trade Representative co-chaired the Ministerial Indo-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) at Washington DC yesterday. Shri Sharma and Ambassador Kirk noted that the Trade Policy Forum had given both countries an opportunity to focus together on the state of the burgeoning US-India trade and investment relationship, which is becoming an increasingly significant factor in the economic life and prosperity of the two countries, as well as in the global economy. The Indian delegation included the Commerce Secretary, Shri Rahul Khullar along with other senior government officials.

Shri Sharma along with Ambassador Kirk received feedback from the 5 Focus Groups on Agriculture, Innovation & Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade that work under the TPF. The focus groups held comprehensive discussions on a wide range of issues, identifying areas for future constructive engagement between the two trading partners. The Minister welcomed the reports of the Focus Groups and appreciated the fact that both sides are engaged in constant dialogue. He expressed his firm belief that this session of the TPF has moved the Indo-US relationship in the direction of realizing tangible benefits, and looked forward to continued cooperation to this end in the coming year.

Earlier in a closed-door meeting with Ambassador Kirk, Shri Sharma expressed India's concern about the trade restrictive and protectionist policies adopted by the United States in recent times. The Executive Order of Ohio state Governor that imposes restrictions on outsourcing and the Border Security legislation, that directly impacts Indian software companies and increases their costs by millions of dollars were raised by him. In his words, "Protectionism kills growth and innovation. In order to ensure that we continue our high growth trajectories, we have to be

strong to resist domestic calls and pressures to increase barriers to trade." The Minister also stressed upon the need for a Totalisation Agreement between India and the United States that will go a long way towards supporting growth in the Services sector.

Both the Ministers co-chaired the meeting of the PSAG (Private Sector Advisory Group) and observed that the private sector serves to remind us that it is the small and medium-sized companies, that are key to maximizing the trade and investment flows. "Through cooperative engagement in this area, we will be able to provide sustained employment, higher incomes, and other critical economic benefits", Shri Sharma said.



580. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the visit of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to the United States and his call on the US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton.

New Delhi, October 8, 2010.

Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee called on US Secretary of State Ms Hilary Clinton in Washington yesterday. Both the leaders discussed the issues of bilateral interest. They also discussed about the forthcoming visit of US President Barack Obama to India early next month. Mr. Mukherjee said that the said visit will further strengthen the relations between the two largest democracies of the world. He said that this will be a defining moment in their relationship especially when most of the countries are still struggling to come out of the global financial crisis. Both the leaders also discussed about the current status of global financial crisis and sluggish recovery in developed economies while emerging developing economies are performing much better in this regard. Mr. Mukherjee said that forthcoming meeting of G-20 countries in Seoul would also discuss the various options for early recovery and would also focus on developmental agenda.

Mr. Mukherjee also said that the free flow of trade, business and money between the countries is good for every country's development and policies of protectionism wouldn't help anyone. Both the leaders also discussed about the final stages of nuclear deal implementation. Mrs Clinton mentioned about the issues relating to export of agricultural and dairy products from US to India.

Earlier, the Finance Minister met the President of World Bank and Managing Director, International Monetary Fund on the sidelines of Annual Fund Bank Meetings in Washington. He discussed with them their role in helping the world economy especially the poor countries to come out of the recession successfully. They should provide maximum aid and grant to these economies. He also said that they should help these developing economies in creating more job opportunities beside helping them in food security, poverty alleviation, rural upliftment. These financial institutions should focus on providing clean energy to these economies, Mr Mukherjee added

Later, Sri Lankan Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning called on the Indian Finance Minister .Both the leaders discussed the issues of mutual interest and their close cooperation in the region. Mr Mukherjee also met South Korean Finance Minister Yoon Jaung Hyun on the sidelines of World Bank and IMF meetings. Both the leaders also discussed about the forthcoming G-20 Finance Ministers Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea and likely issues to be discussed therein including developmental agenda. They also discussed to have a common strategy on the issues of increase in quota for emerging economies in IMF as they are contributing much more to the growth of the world economy.



581. Speech by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the concluding session of the FICCI-Brookings Dialogue on 'U.S.-India Strategic Partnership'.

New Delhi, November 2, 2010.

It is a great privilege to be with you at the concluding session of the Second FICCI-Brookings Dialogue on India-US Strategic Partnership. I believe you have had a long and productive day of discussions on a truly comprehensive range of subjects, with an impressive array of speakers from both countries.

I had the honour to be present at the birth of this dialogue in June 2010 in Washington DC, a day after the first India-US Strategic Dialogue at the ministerial level. I am glad that this dialogue is already acquiring the character of a regular institutional dialogue, anchored in two premier organizations of India and the United States. Indeed, one of the most important aspects of the transformed India US relations is the extraordinary level of discourse and debate through non-government channels on the strategic future of this relationship.

This welcome development in our relationship is clearly evident, as we prepare for the visit of President Barack Obama to India from 6-9 November 2010. There has been a plethora of news and leaks on the visit, the deliverables and the themes; and, many valuable editorials, seminars and think tank reports that take a long-term and comprehensive view of the relationship. This excellent dialogue, for one, is a great help for us in planning and preparing for this visit. This is a reflection not only of the obvious interest in the first visit of President Obama to India, but also, I think, a widely held view that this visit could be a milestone in shaping the next phase of the relationship.

While there has been much debate and speculation on whether the relationship has sustained its momentum, it is reassuring to see consensus on at least one fundamental point: a strong India-US strategic partnership is in the interest of both countries and is good for the world.

For us in the government, though, the state of the relationship has not been a subject of doubt or debate. Over the past two years, the relationship has made a seamless transition through the democratic cycles in the two

countries. The intensity of our engagement and the momentum of our cooperation have not only been sustained, they have actually deepened and intensified.

Since April 2010, PM and President Obama have met six times. Besides the Prime Minister's State visit to Washington DC in November 2009, the two leaders have met within the G-20 framework; in the context of discussions on climate change in Copenhagen; and for the first ever Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC. This reflects the growing global nature of our engagement.

During this period, the two governments have signed a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative and a Framework for Cooperation in Trade and Investment; launched an India-US Financial and Economic Partnership; signed an MoU on Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation; continued to expand counter-terrorism cooperation, which included access to David Headley in the US; expanded our strategic dialogue; launched a dialogue on what is referred to as Global Commons; announced our intention to cooperate in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which India is establishing.

The two governments have also completed the remaining steps for the implementation of their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, including conclusion of the reprocessing arrangements and procedures and completion of Part 810 assurances. India has also enacted a Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act and has signed the CSC. We welcome the commencement of the commercial negotiations between the Indian operators and the US companies, and look forward to an early realisation of our shared goal of a robust India-US cooperation in the civil nuclear sector.

These are just a few examples of steps, small and big, that the two governments are taking to expand their cooperation across the full spectrum of our expanding bilateral agenda, not only in traditional strategic and security domain, but also in the areas of national development priorities for India and, I believe, of importance to the United States as well - areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, clean energy, health, higher education, and agriculture.

It is heartening that the frequency, quality and the range of our political dialogue on all regional and global issues have reached a new level. Our mutual understanding on critical issues, including on global economic situation, terrorism, Afghanistan, regional challenges and Asian stability has become stronger.

President Obama's visit to India is, therefore, taking place at a time when our relationship has matured significantly. So, it is natural that this visit would be somewhat different from the visit of President Clinton, which took place 22 years after the visit of President Carter and, after a time of great strain in our relationship; or that of President Bush, when we were at an important build phase of the relationship.

President Obama's visit will reflect this essential continuity in our relationship. It will be an opportunity to consolidate all that we have built in the past decade. We are not at a stage in our relationship for dramatic breakthroughs and big bang. But, we will see concrete and significant steps in a wide range of areas that will expand the long term strategic framework of the relationship in a way that we can create a productive partnership for the mutual benefit of our two countries and, equally important, to give substantive content and shape to our global strategic partnership.

This will be an opportunity to once again underscore that our shared values of democracy, openness, pluralism and fundamental freedoms.

This is a time to showcase the vibrant nature of our economic and technological partnership, which is balanced, growing rapidly in both directions, driven by innovation and knowledge, and which is creating jobs and prosperity in both India and the United States. People and services have been at the heart of our economic ties, and they have done more than just boost trade and investment between the two countries - they have played a vital role in bringing our two countries closer.

This visit comes at a time of significant global and regional challenges. Prime Minister looks forward to continuing the extremely productive dialogue on the global economic situation; the threat of terrorism that

our two countries face continually; our convergent interests in Afghanistan; the challenges emanating from Pakistan, and our shared goals of sustained security, stability and prosperity in Asia.

We intend to expand and intensify our strategic consultations on regional and global issues. We will explore the possibility of sharing our experience, expertise and resources in promoting development, in partnership with interested countries, in other parts of the world including in regions like Africa. We will deepen our bilateral cooperation in a broad range of areas, including space, clean energy, healthcare, education and agriculture. We will further strengthen our partnership in non-proliferation and our cooperation in high technology.

This visit, therefore, could be an important milestone in our shared journey. There has been far too much focus on the transactional aspects of this visit. All relationships entail transactions, but sustained, long term partnerships are built on certain basic principles.

In the case of India and the United States, the relationship is not anchored on a single issue, idea or challenge. This is only natural in a complex world, characterized by pluralism of challenges and, rapid and unpredictable changes. I believe there can be three basic organising principles for a sustained and strong long term partnership.

Shared values will be the bedrock of our relationship. It creates comfort in our ties and minimizes the possibility of any fundamental disagreement between the two countries. But beyond that, success of the world's two largest democracies and a strong relationship between them will remain the best advertisement for our shared values. Today, however, we are at a stage in our relationship where we can give concrete shape to our partnership based on shared democratic values - for example, in reforming the global institutions of governance to make them representative of contemporary realities and weighted in favour of democratic values; in working together to strengthen democratic institutions and capabilities in fellow democracies; and, advancing inclusive and broad-based social and economic development across the world.

Secondly, economic partnership will be another important pillar of this relationship. We are among the largest economies in the world anchored in democracy and diversity. We are blessed with enormous enterprise and skills. We are endowed with synergies drawn from India's rapid growth and US's global economic leadership. We have an impressive track record of partnership based on innovation. Our economic partnership has great promise and potential, not only to be an engine for global competitiveness of our companies and generating employment and prosperity in our two countries, but also in but, above all, to use technology and innovation to find solutions for economic and social challenges facing our people and the world.

The third important basis for our relationship is the security of our people and stability in the world. All of us are familiar with the challenges that our two countries face, both conventional and long term, and asymmetric and immediate. Our interests increasingly converge; our understanding of the nature and the source of problems that we face have also become increasingly similar. But, we face the challenge of reconciling our objectives and approaches in dealing with a complex range of challenges, which have sometimes been irritants in our relationship in the past and sometimes create lingering doubts in the minds of our people about the merit of this strategic partnership. So, as we deepen our strategic partnership, we must - I am confident that we will - be more sensitive to each other's vital interests and always be guided by our long-term objectives and by the shared recognition the more secure we are individually the more we will be effective partners in promoting peace, stability and security.

Our relationship is in a state of constant evolution in a rapidly changing world. This is, therefore, an exciting time in our relationship, because we have a unique opportunity at this stage to work together to influence the course of this world. That is the hope and the promise of the India-US partnership in the 21st century

Thank you



582. Press Release issued by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on 'Indo-US Relationship needs to move beyond Transactional Issues'.

New Delhi, November 2, 2010.

The breadth of Indo-US relations extends to all areas of human endeavour, to bilateral and regional issues and the big picture is often not appreciated because "we get caught in transactional issues, such as outsourcing", Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon, National Security Adviser said here today. His remarks were seconded by Mr. Strobe Talbott who said "US companies that have done strategic outsourcing are actually doing well, creating jobs and helping the US economy".

In his keynote address at the Dialogue on 'US-India Strategic Partnership' organised by FICCI and Brookings Institution, Mr. Menon said that "Indo-US relations have changed in a fundamental way in the last decade. We have more than just a transactional relationship with the US. The two nations have an open, democratic and inclusive architecture, we have learnt overtime that mercantilism and protectionism do not serve us well and it is time to be ambitious about the relationship".

He said the two democratic nations respect the rule of law, open trading arrangements, and rule-based multilateral trade. India and the US, he said, were capable of institutional innovation and "we need to be pragmatic to work this relationship where it works and go beyond what's in it for me and move to a more holistic and strategic level of engagement".

Asked where China stood in the India-US relationship, Mr. Menon said China was India's biggest neighbour and a major trading partner. There were sensitivities on both sides and just as all major powers were talking to each other, there is need to engage with China. "I therefore do not see our relations with the US affecting our relations with China".

Mr. Strobe Talbott expressed optimism on taking the US-India ties to the next level as there is minimal temptation amongst the two sides to re-argue all the issues in the strategic partnership. "Both nations can and

must work together to mitigate the effects of climate change which poses an existential threat to the future of mankind. They must engage with the European countries and China to combat the fall-out of climate change", he added.

On counter-terrorism, Mr. Talbott said the Mumbai massacres were a wake-up call for the two governments. "We are now building on and upgrading our efforts on counterterrorism," he said.

For peace and security in the region, he expressed the hope that the triangular relationship amongst US, India and China will be in the larger interest of peace in the region and "for this to happen there is need to deal and discuss issues candidly with Beijing and amongst ourselves"



583. Briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama.

New Delhi, November 4, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good afternoon to you and lovely to see you in such numbers. Welcome to XP Division and the Media Hall.

You are aware that we are awaiting the visit of President Barack Obama of the United States of America who is coming to Mumbai on the 6th of November. Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao is here to brief you about the visit. Let me also introduce Mr. Javed Ashraf sitting to the right of the Foreign Secretary. He is our Joint Secretary (Americas). Foreign Secretary would be making an opening statement and thereafter she would be most happy to take a few questions.

May I now invite Foreign Secretary for her opening remarks?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): A very good afternoon to all of you! President Barack Obama will visit India from 6-9 November 2010 on the invitation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. As you are aware our Prime Minister visited USA in November 2009 and was given the honour

of the first State visit of the Obama Administration. President Obama's visit will reciprocate that visit and lend continuity to the bilateral engagement and high-level dialogue. The last Presidential visit to India from USA was that of President George Bush in 2006.

President Obama will be accompanied by the First Lady Michelle Obama, and a high-level delegation which is likely to include his National Security Adviser Tom Donilon; Mr Timothy Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury; Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce; Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Dr Rajiv Shah Administrator of USAID, and others. A large business delegation and media delegation are also accompanying the President.

President Obama will reach Mumbai in the forenoon of 6 November. He will begin his program by paying homage to the victims of the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai, visit Mani Bhavan to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi - his admiration for Gandhiji is well known - and attend a Business Summit organized by the US India Business Council in association with FICCI and CII. On 7th November he will address a 'Town Hall' meeting and associated events at the St Xavier's College, and celebrate Diwali at a Primary School.

He will leave Mumbai and reach Delhi in the afternoon of 7th November. His program includes a brief visit to Humayun's tomb. He will be the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister and Mrs Gursharan Kaur.

The official component of President Obama's visit is on 8th November beginning with the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, followed by a visit to Raj Ghat. President Obama and Prime Minister will meet in the forenoon and discuss bilateral, regional and global developments of mutual concern. They will also discuss how to expand the strategic framework of India-US relations on the basis of our shared values and interests.

Prime Minister will be assisted by the Ministers of Finance, External Affairs, Defence, Home, Agriculture, Human Resource Development, Commerce and Industry, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, National Security Adviser, myself and our Ambassador to the USA.

On conclusion of the Summit level meeting, they will preside over the meeting of the India-US CEO Forum.

Thereafter the two leaders will address a Joint Press Conference. In the afternoon, the Hon'ble Vice-President, Leader of Opposition and Chairperson UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi will call on President Obama. That evening President Obama will address Members of both Houses of our Parliament, in the Central Hall. His official program concludes with a meeting with Hon'ble President, and a State Dinner for him and the First Lady at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Obama leaves Delhi in the forenoon of 9 November 2010 for Indonesia.

The US Administration under President Obama has expressed its commitment to strengthen Indo-US bilateral relations further, building upon the existing level of cooperation in various areas of bilateral and global engagement. Both Prime Minister and President Obama share the belief that this will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

A very warm welcome awaits President Obama. The visit comes at a time when India-US relations have matured significantly. The intensity and frequency of dialogue is unprecedented. In addition to their meeting in November 2009 in Washington DC, Prime Minister and President Obama have met five times in the course of the last 18 months, most recently at the Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010 in Washington and the G20 Summit in June in Toronto. This is President Obama's first visit to India.

The India-US relationship is founded on shared values, increasingly convergent interests, enormous opportunities for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation and a shared commitment to work together to address regional and global issues.

Since Prime Minister's State visit to Washington in November 2009, cooperation has become broad-based and continues to grow and expand across sectors. Our Strategic Dialogue in June 2009 chaired by EAM and Secretary Clinton, the first of its kind between the two countries, with high-level inter-Ministerial participation on both sides was itself a landmark. Our strategic dialogue, including through institutional mechanisms, has expanded to cover all regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Our defence cooperation, including defence trade, continues to grow.

The two governments have signed a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative and a Framework for Cooperation in Trade and Investment;

launched an India-US Financial and Economic Partnership; signed an MoU on Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation; continued to expand counter-terrorism cooperation, including on the investigations into the Mumbai terror attack; and, announced our intention to cooperate in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which India is establishing.

We have also completed the remaining steps for the implementation of their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, including conclusion of the reprocessing arrangements and procedures and completion of Part 810 assurances. India has also enacted a Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act and has signed the CSC. We welcome the commencement of the commercial negotiations between the Indian operators and the US companies, and look forward to an early realisation of our shared goal of a robust India-US cooperation in the civil nuclear sector.

The two governments have worked purposefully to expand cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, clean energy, health, higher education, agriculture etc which are national development priorities for India.

Bilateral commerce and economic relations have flourished. Trade has also diversified and encompasses a wide range of products, services and technology. Bilateral trade in goods and in the services sector is largely balanced. The economic partnership between the two countries will be one important area of focus. There are a lot of synergies between the two countries. The economic relationship is growing well in both directions.

The US is the third largest source of foreign direct investments in India. Cumulative FDI inflows from the US from April 2000 amount to \$8.86 billion constituting nearly 8 percent of total FDI into India.

According to US officials, India is the fastest growing source of foreign direct investment in the US. This investment from India is creating, saving or supporting tens of thousands of jobs in the US. India's defence acquisitions and major purchases in the energy and aviation sectors, for example, are contributing in a substantive manner to the US economy.

We have recently signed a Framework for Cooperation in Trade and Investment; and launched an India-US Financial and Economic Partnership to further boost our bilateral economic partnership.

The relationship also derives strength from the 2.7 million Indian-origin community in USA and the vibrant people-to-people linkages between the two countries.

President Obama's visit will reflect this essential continuity in our relationship. It will be an opportunity to once again underscore that our shared values of democracy, openness, pluralism and fundamental freedoms form the bedrock of our strategic partnership. It will be an opportunity to consolidate our relationship. We will see concrete and significant steps in a wide range of areas that will expand the long term strategic framework of the relationship in a way that we can create a productive partnership for the mutual benefit of our two countries and, equally important, give substantive content and shape to our global strategic partnership.

Our Prime Minister looks forward to continuing his extremely productive dialogue with President Obama on a range of issues, including the global economic situation; the threat of terrorism; the challenges in our neighbourhood; and our shared goals of sustained security, stability and prosperity in Asia.

We look forward to this visit as an important milestone in elevating our global strategic partnership to a new level.

Question: Madam, yesterday President Barack Obama gave an interview to PTI wherein he talked about some complexities in supporting India's case for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Are you disappointed that as a friend of India and a strategic partner of India, while the US have endorsed Japan's case for a permanent seat it has not done so for India, and maybe when the President was coming to India, this was the right time to do so?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think we can structure a relationship on the basis of drawing hasty conclusions of the nature you referred to. The issues that you mentioned are by nature very complex. They are the subject of ongoing and continuing discussion with the United States. We have used the opportunity of the official discussions, and the meetings, the strategic dialogue that we had recently, to talk about these issues in a very candid, in a very open and transparent way. I think the United States is increasingly

aware of the great potential for India's contribution to global affairs, to global peace and security, and to global development. And that really is the crux of the matter, the fact that the United States recognises this potential.

Question: India has expressed serious concerns as far as the talks with the Taliban are concerned of the Afghan Government, especially the role of Pakistan in terms of a mediator. Though US calls us a strategic and natural ally, we do not see that translating into action vis-a-vis their approach on Pakistan. So, what would New Delhi's message and expectations be on the issue from Washington?

Foreign Secretary: Again I think a very stark conclusion. As far as the situation in Afghanistan is concerned, India and the United States have maintained constant contact. The subject of the situation in Afghanistan is something that we discuss very closely with the United States. There have been a number of interlocutors who have come to Delhi. We have been in Washington. And certainly the situation in the region has figured very prominently. Both India and the United States share similar goals as far as stabilisation of the situation in Afghanistan is concerned. We are categorically against terrorism. We are categorically against religious extremism. We are for Afghan democracy; we are for Afghan pluralism; we are for Afghan development. I think that is really the focus that we and the United States have brought to bear on these discussions.

Question: The other issue Mr. Obama yesterday described in the interview as very difficult and complicated was on the issue of dual use technologies to India. Are we to understand that there will not then be any major announcement on that front? Are those talks still going down to the wire? Have you lowered your expectations on that front as well?

Foreign Secretary: Here again I am not going to jump to hasty conclusions. Yes, I think the President is correct when he refers to these issues as being complex. Obviously, these are issues which have existed between India and the United States for some time now. But what is different, and I would like to stress and underscore this difference, is that with the growth and the growing maturity of the strategic partnership, both Governments have been of the view, are of the view that these controls, these obstacles that have existed in the way of dual use technology trade between the two countries need to be reviewed, need to be looked at anew with the intention

of seeing how we can reduce these obstacles, and ultimately eliminate them altogether. So, that is the focus at the moment.

Question: Will the Prime Minister raise specifically Warren Anderson's extradition?

Foreign Secretary: I cannot say that at the moment. There is a textured and a fairly rich agenda for the talks. But I cannot say whether this will be raised.

Question: Will the issue of Cold Start be discussed in this meeting?

Foreign Secretary: No, it will not be discussed. There is no reason why it should figure in the talks.

Question: India has passed all the necessary legislation to pave the way for foreign nuclear companies to make investments in India. But the American companies do not seem terribly excited. They still think that the liability might be very high and all that. What does India propose to do to clear their doubts and how hopeful are you of American companies investing in Indian nuclear plants?

Foreign Secretary: First of all let me say we are very hopeful about American companies participating in our nuclear energy sector. Our Department of Atomic Energy and the NPCIL remain in touch with the US companies concerned. The idea is to provide a level-playing field for all foreign companies who are keen on participating in this sector. This is a sector of great importance for us in the context of the development of clean energy resources for India. So, obviously we give a lot of importance to it.

Question: The United States describes India as a strong partner in bolstering global non-proliferation regime. Are we expecting support from President Obama on India's desire to join elite nuclear clubs like the NSG, Australia Group and other such groupings?

Foreign Secretary: When I spoke about the dual use technology regime and the removal of obstacles in that context, the issues that you referred to also form a part of this discussion.

Question: What is our expectation?

Foreign Secretary: I would not like to predict the outcomes of this. But let me say that the discussions that we have held so far between the two sides have covered considerable ground and we are reasonably optimistic about the outcomes.

Question: Madam, this is regarding the 26/11 attack. I am again going to refer to the PTI interview of President Obama in which he says Pakistan has a special responsibility to see to it that the perpetrators are brought to book. Is that going to be one of the issues that would be discussed?

Foreign Secretary: In my opening remarks I referred to the fact that discussions relating to counter-terrorism and the cooperation that India and the United States can strengthen in this area have been very much a part of the discussion that we have had over the last few months. Obviously the issue of counter-terrorism would figure in the agenda of the discussions during the President's visit.

Question: Officers of both the countries were finalising a deal on C17 Globemaster aircraft. Is this deal likely to be announced during the visit?

Foreign Secretary: I cannot say. I will not be able to give you an answer on that. Yes, this is a subject of discussion in the context of our defence purchases from the United States. We have made considerable progress in completing the various procedures that are connected with such purchases. But the final outcome I will not be able to give you at this moment.

Question: Madam, you just talked about the Indian investment in the US and said that we are creating tens of thousands of jobs and they are supporting the US economy. In the light of what you have said, are we going to discuss the issue of outsourcing because there is a ban in some of the States in the US which has been imposed by Obama so far as outsourcing is concerned? Are you going to take up this issue and what are the expectations?

Foreign Secretary: The issue of outsourcing and the recent developments connected with the hike in visa fees will obviously figure very much in the discussions held with the business community that President Obama will have in Mumbai. For instance, there is a Business Summit that is going to

take place, there would be discussion with some of the CEOs and entrepreneurs. So, it is obviously going to figure very much in the discourse during the visit. As far as the economic cooperation component of our relationship is concerned, you must understand that this relationship has become so big in so many areas and the issue of the outsourcing is one issue in this relationship. But overall I would say that the prognosis for our economic relationship is very bright given the extent of US investment in the Indian economy, the fact that there is outward investment from India into the US economy which is creating jobs, which is something we would like to convey to President Obama and his delegation while they are here, to give them the picture as we see it from our side. The recent studies that FICCI and others have conducted have clearly shown that thousands of jobs have been created by our green field investments, by our acquisitions in the United States. That is something we would like definitely to stress.

Question: Madam, what are our expectations in the space and the agriculture sectors?

Foreign Secretary: On the space sector, we have been talking about a commercial space launch agreement between the two sides, and the two Governments have been looking at the text of a possible agreement in this area. So, we hope that there will be a satisfactory conclusion of such an agreement during the visit although one cannot guarantee this. On agriculture and food security, as I mentioned, during the course of this year we signed an MoU in agriculture and food security. Very possibly during this visit we hope to conclude an MoU on weather forecasting and crop forecasting which will really take its reference from the MoU on agricultural cooperation that we have signed.

Question: I want to follow up on the nuclear energy question from earlier. The US companies have been looking for India to do something to mitigate the law that was passed. They feel that the liability law is not actually compliant with the CSC India had signed. And so they are looking either for a regulation in the interim or some sort of long-term promise to amend that law. Can you say whether or not you have indicated that India can take such a measure?

Foreign Secretary: I just want to emphasise once again that firstly we look forward to the participation of US companies in the civil nuclear energy

sector in India. We are now at a stage where commercial negotiations could begin between Indian operators and the US companies. We have invited the US companies in order that we can explain the provisions of the civil liability law to them so that we can address any concerns that they may have and also begin discussions on the next steps for implementation of our civil nuclear power projects. And I am pleased that a commercial delegation from the United States is likely to visit India very shortly in this connection. That is as much as I can say.

Question: Mrs. Rao, America has recently released over two billion dollars to Pakistan in aid. Would you be raising the question of Pak-based groups targeting Indian interests in Afghanistan? There have been so many reports about Pakistani intelligence agencies even sheltering senior Al Qaeda leaders. Afghan Taliban is also working for them. So, would you be raising this issue and specifically what are the various aspects that you would be talking to the US?

Foreign Secretary: We will obviously talk about the situation in the region. One of the major threats we face is the threat from terrorism, terrorism directed at us from across our borders, and also the problem of terrorism in Afghanistan which has directly targeted Indian interests there. So, in the context of the concerns that we have about the operation of terrorist elements, and that would include all the major global terrorist organisations that operate in our region, we will obviously be talking about our concerns.

Question: Madam, a few days ago the Home Secretary, Mr. Pillai, talked about the Americans refusing to give India access on the Headley issue. A day ago the National Security Advisor said completely the opposite. He said there was unprecedented access. Why is the Government speaking in different voices? Can you tell us what exactly is the situation on this?

Foreign Secretary: I do not the Government is speaking in different voices. I think you are trying to segment these various statements, if I may say. Do not take them out of context please because the bottom line is that there has been unprecedented cooperation. And there has been an excellent and a very responsive attitude from the American side on the investigation into the Mumbai terror attacks, and we have not been denied access to any information. That is the situation as it exists. There is no contradiction, in my view, between any of these statements.

Question: Madam, what is your response or rather our assessment of Democrats' loss yesterday in the election? How do you think it will impact Indo-US relations in the tenure of President Obama, because now he will be a relatively weaker President?

Foreign Secretary: Obviously I would not comment on the internal affairs of the United States. But let me add that the subject of India-US relations is a subject of bipartisan consensus within the United States. So, we look forward to working with the new members of Congress. Many of them are well-known old friends of India who have been associated with the India Caucus in the Congress, many of whom have visited India, they know the India-US relationship very well. So, we are looking forward to working with them.

Question: You would have seen reports of the Chinese sprawl or presence in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir with army troops building bridges. This report was taken seriously by the Indian Government as well as it expressed concern officially. Will this feature in your talks with the United States given that we have a high-level Chinese delegation visit in just barely a month after President Obama's visit?

Foreign Secretary: India's interests in the region go beyond South Asia, and I have said this before. They stretch into the Southeast Asian region, into East Asia. Obviously our relations with China are very important. Obviously when we meet friends and partners including the United States, we discuss the situation in the region, and that would include our relations with our major partners and our neighbours. So, in that context, yes, we will be talking about the situation in the region. But let me emphasise that both believe, for the United States as much as it is for India, dialogue with China, an open, transparent dialogue that seeks to engage China across the board on a number of areas - whether they are security-related, strategic concern related, issues of trade and economic cooperation and investment, people-to-people contact - all these really form the subject of the relationships that both India and the United States seem to build with China today.

Question: Madam, Please tell us a little about the agreements to be signed and their field and number; please tell us some details of the MoUs.

Foreign Secretary: Normally we do not talk about the agreements that we are going sign or conclude before the visit is over. So, I would prefer not to go into those details. But let me say that they will include development-related subjects. I just mentioned about agriculture and space. I would add health. I would add clean energy. These are some of the areas, areas that really impact on lives of people at the grassroots. We are talking about agreements like that.

Question: Madam, I think we have heard from the National Security Advisor that the visit of Mr. Obama, especially on the terrorism issue, is a wakeup call for both the countries to counter terrorism measures to take. But I would like to know a little elaboration on what is the mechanism. Are you having any kind of an action to be taken place because and specially in regards to not only Afghanistan or Pakistan which is your great concern, it is also about Afghanistan where America would be pulling out at least the combat troops from next year onwards. So, what would be the fall out on India's internal security and anti counter measures of India along with the US satisfaction?

Foreign Secretary: That is a very long question I am afraid. I said to you that counter-terrorism cooperation is one of the pillars of the strategic dialogue between the two sides. We have signed an MoU, a counter-terrorism initiative MoU between the two sides. Now what we intend to do is to draw up a plan of action that will concretise specific areas of cooperation whether it is information sharing, whether it is in the area of forensics, whether it is in the area of coastal security, megacity policing - these are all areas in which we hope to strengthen cooperation.

Question: What are the prospects for the defence agreements during the President's visit?

Foreign Secretary: I do not have anything to say on that at the moment.

Question: Madam, can you elaborate on the health and the education sectors? Are there any agreements on that?

Foreign Secretary: On health there is a plan to set up a regional disease detection centre which will involve global participation, especially with the United States. We will have collaboration with the National Institute of Health in Washington apart from the Centre for Disease Control.

Question: And in education are you going to sign any agreements?

Foreign Secretary: We are planning an education summit in 2011. So, both Governments under the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative have been discussing an education summit.

Question: Despite the problem of the liability law, when you look forward to robust cooperation in civil nuclear trade, what are the reasons for optimism?

Foreign Secretary: As they say, 'watch this space'.

Question: Is there any proposal for Indo-US partnership in open government or any such proposal for democratisation of information?

Foreign Secretary: Internationally, multilaterally India and the United States have been doing enough together to strengthen that aspect of their partnership that concerns the issues relating to democracy, governance, leadership. And we have been working together in the United Nations also on initiatives that strengthen the systems, of structures of democracy worldwide. So, when I speak of shared values and shared approaches, this is particularly relevant when it comes to the strengthening of our democratic values. Working together particularly in the field of development, how democracy promotes economic development, that is how we have started using our expertise and our experience in such areas as e-governance and e-technology for governmental purposes, for developmental purposes, and also under the access to open information as in the RTI. That is also an area where we share common approaches and values.

I wanted to add, when I spoke of the engagements that President Obama has in Delhi, let me once again refer to the fact that he will meet with various dignitaries. I spoke of his meeting with the Hon. Vice-President, and the Leader of the Opposition. And Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will be calling on President Obama. That is also a very important meeting that will take place. All this will happen before he addresses the Joint Session of Parliament on the 8th of November.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



584. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the United States President Barack Obama.

New Delhi. November 8, 2010.

Your Excellency, President Barack Obama,

Mrs. Michelle Obama,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege, Mr. President, to welcome you this evening. You are in our midst at a time when India-US relations have never been stronger and the promise and potential of our partnership has never been greater.

From different paths and different circumstances, Indians and Americans have reached the same conclusion: that democracy is a universal ideal and justice, dignity and opportunity are universal aspirations.

At important moments in our history - for example, during India's freedom struggle and the American Civil Rights Movement - we have inspired each other. The lives and message of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King reflect our shared vision, our common struggles and our collective hopes. Nothing echoes this better than the words of Martin Luther King, "If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony." Your own admiration for Mahatma Gandhi reflects this continuing philosophical bond between our peoples.

Today, we have built a strong strategic partnership on the solid bedrock of shared ideals and common interests. The historic civil nuclear initiative is an instrument and a symbol of our transformed relations. But, across virtually every field of human endeavour, we have explored new frontiers and redefined the paradigm of co-operation.

There are many ties that bind our two nations together. Nearly 3 million people of Indian origin in the United States act as a bridge of friendship, including over 100,000 Indian students in the United States, who along with the growing number of young Americans coming to India, are sowing the seeds of future partnerships. Our enterprises, scientists, engineers, technologists and academics are creating partnerships that generate hope for the future.

We have, therefore, enormous potential to work together for a sustainable and inclusive global economic development, to address the challenges of infrastructure, clean energy, food security and health security, and educate and empower the youth, especially our women, for the responsibilities of the new era. Our two nations are well placed to harness the power of innovation, not only for technological leadership and global competitiveness, but also as a tool for economic empowerment and social transformation.

I am pleased that today we have announced initiatives to benefit not only our peoples, but also fulfill our responsibility to humankind. We have the humility to know that we do not have all the answers, but we have the strength of our values and the benefit of our experience to make our own modest contribution to this cause.

Excellency, we cannot make our world more prosperous without making our people safer. As democracies, we have a profound responsibility to work together for peace, stability and security in the world. We must continue our joint efforts to reform global institutions to reflect contemporary realities, and increase their effectiveness in meeting current challenges.

This is a time of great challenges in the world, but never has the opportunity been greater, the environment better, and the need more urgent for our two countries to work together and lead global efforts to seek a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future, full of goodwill for this world.

Your visit, Mr. President, has been a historic milestone in our shared journey.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests, may I now request you to join me in raising a toast to:-

- the good health of His Excellency President Obama and Her Excellency Mrs. Obama;
- to the prosperity and well-being of the people of the United States; and
- to further strengthening of the bonds of co-operation and friendship between India and the United States.



585. Joint Statement issued during the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama.

New Delhi, November 8, 2010

Reaffirming their nations' shared values and increasing convergence of interests, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama resolved today in New Delhi to expand and strengthen the India-U.S. global strategic partnership.

The two leaders welcomed the deepening relationship between the world's two largest democracies. They commended the growing cooperation between their governments, citizens, businesses, universities and scientific institutions, which have thrived on a shared culture of pluralism, education, enterprise, and innovation, and have benefited the people of both countries.

Building on the transformation in India-U.S. relations over the past decade, the two leaders resolved to intensify cooperation between their nations to promote a secure and stable world; advance technology and innovation; expand mutual prosperity and global economic growth; support sustainable development; and exercise global leadership in support of economic development, open government and democratic values.

The two leaders reaffirmed that India-U.S. strategic partnership is indispensable not only for their two countries but also for global stability and prosperity in the 21st century. To that end, President Obama welcomed India's emergence as a major regional and global power and affirmed his country's interest in India's rise, its economic prosperity, and its security.

A GLOBAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama called for an efficient, effective, credible and legitimate United Nations to ensure a just and sustainable international order. Prime Minister Singh welcomed President Obama's affirmation that, in the years ahead, the United States looks forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member. The two leaders reaffirmed that all nations, especially those that seek to lead in the 21st century, bear responsibility to ensure that the United Nations fulfills its founding ideals of preserving peace and security, promoting global cooperation, and advancing human rights.

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama reiterated that India and the United States, as global leaders, will partner for global security, especially as India serves on the Security Council over the next two years. The leaders agreed that their delegations in New York will intensify their engagement and work together to ensure that the Council continues to effectively play the role envisioned for it in the United Nations Charter. Both leaders underscored that all states have an obligation to comply with and implement UN Security Council Resolutions, including UN sanctions regimes. They also agreed to hold regular consultations on UN matters, including on the long-term sustainability of UN peacekeeping operations. As the two largest democracies, both countries also reaffirmed their strong commitment to the UN Democracy Fund.

The two leaders have a shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Indian Ocean region and the Pacific region and committed to work together, and with others in the region, for the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture in the region. In this context, the leaders reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit and

committed to regular consultations in this regard. The United States welcomes, in particular, India's leadership in expanding prosperity and security across the region. The two leaders agreed to deepen existing regular strategic consultations on developments in East Asia, and decided to expand and intensify their strategic consultations to cover regional and global issues of mutual interest, including Central and West Asia.

The two sides committed to intensify consultation, cooperation and coordination to promote a stable, democratic, prosperous, and independent Afghanistan. President Obama appreciated India's enormous contribution to Afghanistan's development and welcomed enhanced Indian assistance that will help Afghanistan achieve self-sufficiency. In addition to their own independent assistance programs in Afghanistan, the two sides resolved to pursue joint development projects with the Afghan Government in capacity building, agriculture and women's empowerment.

They reiterated that success in Afghanistan and regional and global security require elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Condemning terrorism in all its forms, the two sides agreed that all terrorist networks, including Lashkar e-Taiba, must be defeated and called for Pakistan to bring to justice the perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks. 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 an increasingly inter-dependent world, the stability of, and access to, the air, sea, space, and cyberspace domains is vital for the security and economic prosperity of nations. Acknowledging their commitment to openness and responsible international conduct, and on the basis of their shared values, India and the United States have launched a

dialogue to explore ways to work together, as well as with other countries, to develop a shared vision for these critical domains to promote peace, security and development. The leaders reaffirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.

The transformation in India-U.S. defense cooperation in recent years has strengthened mutual understanding on regional peace and stability, enhanced both countries' respective capacities to meet humanitarian and other challenges such as terrorism and piracy, and contributed to the development of the strategic partnership between India and the United States. The two Governments resolved to further strengthen defense cooperation, including through security dialogue, exercises, and promoting trade and collaboration in defense equipment and technology. President Obama welcomed India's decision to purchase U.S. high-technology defense items, which reflects our strengthening bilateral defence relations and will contribute to creating jobs in the United States.

The two leaders affirmed that their countries' common ideals, complementary strengths and a shared commitment to a world without nuclear weapons give them a responsibility to forge a strong partnership to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament in the 21st century. They affirmed the 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. They support strengthening the six decade-old international norm of non-use of nuclear weapons. They expressed a commitment to strengthen international cooperative activities that will reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons or material without reducing the rights of nations that play by the rules to harness the power of nuclear energy to advance their energy security. The leaders reaffirmed their shared dedication to work together to realize the commitments outlined at the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit to achieve the goal of securing

vulnerable nuclear materials in the next four years. Both sides expressed deep concern regarding illicit nuclear trafficking and smuggling and resolved to strengthen international cooperative efforts to address these threats through the IAEA, Interpol and in the context of the Nuclear Security Summit Communiqué and Action Plan. The two sides welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established by India.

Both sides expressed deep concern about the threat of biological terrorism and pledged to promote international efforts to ensure the safety and security of biological agents and toxins. They stressed the need to achieve full implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and expressed the hope for a successful BWC Review Conference in 2011. The United States welcomed India's destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Both countries affirmed their shared commitment to promoting the full and effective implementation of the CWC.

The two leaders expressed regret at the delay in starting negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

India reaffirmed its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The United States reaffirmed its testing moratorium and its commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and bring it into force at an early date.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, and discussed the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council.

TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND ENERGY

Recognizing that India and the United States should play a leadership role in promoting global nonproliferation objectives and their desire to

expand high technology cooperation and trade, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama committed to work together to strengthen the global export control framework and further transform bilateral export control regulations and policies to realize the full potential of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Accordingly, the two leaders decided to take mutual steps to expand U.S.-India cooperation in civil space, defense, and other high-technology sectors. Commensurate with India's nonproliferation record and commitment to abide by multilateral export control standards, these steps include the United States removing Indian entities from the U.S. Department of Commerce's "Entity List" and realignment of India in U.S. export control regulations.

In addition, the United States intends to support India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes (Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group, and Wassenaar Arrangement) in a phased manner, and to consult with regime members to encourage the evolution of regime membership criteria, consistent with maintaining the core principles of these regimes, as the Government of India takes steps towards the full adoption of the regimes' export control requirements to reflect its prospective membership, with both processes moving forward together. In the view of the United States, India should qualify for membership in the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement according to existing requirements once it imposes export controls over all items on these regimes' control lists.

Both leaders reaffirmed the assurances provided in the letters exchanged in September 2004 and the End-Use Visit Arrangement, and determined that the two governments had reached an understanding to implement these initiatives consistent with their respective national export control laws and policies. The Prime Minister and President committed to a strengthened and expanded dialogue on export control issues, through fora such as the U.S.-India High Technology Cooperation Group, on aspects of capacity building, sharing of best practices, and outreach with industry.

The possibility of cooperation between the two nations in space, to advance scientific knowledge and human welfare, are without boundaries and limits. They commended their space scientists for launching new initiatives in climate and weather forecasting for agriculture, navigation, resource mapping, research and development, and capacity building. They agreed to continuing discussions on and seek ways to collaborate on future lunar missions, international space station, human space flight and data sharing, and to reconvene the Civil Space Joint Working Group in early 2011. They highlighted the just concluded Implementing Arrangement for enhanced monsoon forecasting that will begin to transmit detailed forecasts to farmers beginning with the 2011 monsoon rainy season as an important example of bilateral scientific cooperation advancing economic development, agriculture and food security.

The two leaders welcomed the completion of steps by the two governments for implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement. They reiterated their commitment to build strong India-U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation through the participation of the 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 both countries had enacted domestic legislations and were also signatories to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation. They further noted that India intends to ratify the Convention on Supplementary Compensation within the coming year and 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.

India will continue to work with the companies. In this context, they welcomed the commencement of negotiations and dialogue between the Indian operator and U.S. nuclear energy companies, and expressed hope for early commencement of commercial cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector in India, which will stimulate economic growth and sustainable development and generate employment in both countries.

Just as they have helped develop the knowledge economy, India and the United States resolved to strengthen their partnership in creating

the green economy of the future. To this end, both countries have undertaken joint research and deployment of clean energy resources, such as solar, advanced biofuels, shale gas, and smart grids. The two leaders also welcomed the promotion of clean and energy efficient technologies through the bilateral Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) and expanded cooperation with the private sector. They welcomed the conclusion of a new MoU on assessment and exploration of shale gas and an agreement to establish a Joint Clean Energy Research Center in India as important milestones in their rapidly growing clean energy cooperation.

The leaders discussed the importance of working bilaterally, through the Major Economies Forum (MEF), and in the context of the international climate change negotiations within the framework of the UNFCCC to meet the challenge of climate change. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama reiterated the importance of a positive result for the current climate change negotiations at the forthcoming conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Mexico and affirmed their support for the Copenhagen Accord, which should contribute positively to a successful outcome in Cancun. To that end, the leaders welcomed enhanced cooperation in the area of climate adaptation and sustainable land use, and welcomed the new partnership between the United States and India on forestry programs and in weather forecasting.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH, MUTUAL PROSPERITY, AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The two leaders stressed that India and the United States, anchored in democracy and diversity, blessed with enormous enterprise and skill, and endowed with synergies drawn from India's rapid growth and U.S. global economic leadership, have a natural partnership for enhancing mutual prosperity and stimulating global economic recovery and growth. They emphasize innovation not only as a tool for economic growth and global competitiveness, but also for social transformation and empowerment of people.

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama celebrated the recent growth in bilateral trade and investment, characterized by balanced and rapidly growing trade in goods and services. They noted positively that the United States is India's largest trading partner in goods and services, and India is now among the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment entering the United States. The two leaders agreed on steps to reduce trade barriers and protectionist measures and encourage research and innovation to create jobs and improve livelihoods in their countries.

They also welcomed expanding investment flow in both directions. They noted growing ties between U.S. and Indian firms and called for enhanced investment flows, including in India's infrastructure sector, clean energy, energy efficiency, aviation and transportation, healthcare, food processing sector and education. They welcomed the work of the U.S.-India CEO Forum to expand cooperation between the two countries, including in the areas of clean energy and infrastructure development. They also encouraged enhanced engagement by Indian and American small and medium-sized enterprises as a critical driver of our economic relationship. They looked forward to building on these developments to realize fully the enormous potential for trade and investment between the two countries.

Recognizing the people-to-people dynamic behind trade and investment growth, they called for intensified consultations on social security issues at an appropriate time. The two leaders agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, students, and exchange visitors between their countries to enhance their economic and technological partnership.

To enhance growth globally, the Prime Minister and President highlighted both nations' interests in an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations, and in having their negotiators accelerate and expand the scope of their substantive negotiations bilaterally and with other WTO members to accomplish this as soon as possible. They agreed to work together in the G-20 to make progress on the broad range of issues on its agenda, including by encouraging actions consistent with achieving strong, balanced, and

sustainable growth, strengthening financial system regulation, reforming the international financial institutions, enhancing energy security, resisting protectionism in all its forms, reducing barriers to trade and investment, and implementing the development action plans.

Building on the historic legacy of cooperation between the India and the United States during the Green Revolution, the leaders also decided to work together to develop, test, and replicate transformative technologies to extend food security as part of an Evergreen Revolution. Efforts will focus on providing farmers the means to improve agricultural productivity. Collaboration also will enhance agricultural value chain and strengthen market institutions to reduce post-harvest crop losses.

Affirming the importance of India-U.S. health cooperation, Prime Minister and the President celebrated the signing of an MOU creating a new Global Disease Detection Regional Center in New Delhi, which will facilitate preparedness against threats to health such as pandemic influenza and other dangerous diseases.

Embracing the principles of democracy and opportunity, the leaders recognized that the full future potential of the partnership lies in the hands of the next generation in both countries. To help ensure that all members of that generation enjoy the benefits of higher education, the Prime Minister and the President agreed to convene an India-U.S. Higher Education Summit, chaired by senior officials from both countries in 2011, as part of a continued effort to strengthen educational opportunities. They welcomed the progress made in implementing the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative that is expanding links between faculties and institutions of the two countries and the expansion in the Nehru-Fulbright Programme for Scholars.

Noting that the ties of kinship and culture are an increasingly important dimension of India-U.S. relations, President Obama welcomed India's decision to hold a Festival of India in Washington DC in 2011. Recognizing the importance of preserving cultural heritage, both governments resolved to initiate discussions on how India and the United States could partner to prevent the illicit trafficking of both countries' rich and unique cultural heritage.

A SHARED INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Consistent with their commitments to open and responsive government, and harnessing the expertise and experience that the two countries have developed, the leaders launched a U.S.-India Open Government Dialogue that will, through public-private partnerships and use of new technologies and innovations, promote their shared goal of democratizing access to information and energizing civic engagement, support global initiatives in this area and share their expertise with other interested countries. This will build on India's impressive achievements in this area in recent years and the commitments that the President made to advance an open government agenda at the United Nations General Assembly. The President and Prime Minister also pledged to explore cooperation in support of efforts to strengthen elections organization and management in other interested countries, including through sharing their expertise in this area.

Taking advantage of the global nature of their relationship, and recognizing India's vast development experience and historical research strengths, the two leaders pledged to work together, in addition to their independent programmes, to adapt shared innovations and technologies and use their expertise in capacity building to extend food security to interested countries, including in Africa, in consultation with host governments.

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama concluded that their meeting is a historic milestone as they seek to elevate the India-U.S. strategic partnership to a new level for the benefit of their nations and the entire mankind. President Obama thanked President Patil, Prime Minister Singh, and the people of India for their extraordinary warmth and hospitality during his visit. The two leaders looked forward to the next session of the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue in 2011.



586. Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media at the Joint Press Conference with President Barack Obama.

New Delhi, November 8, 2010.

Your Excellency President Barack Obama,
Distinguished representatives of the media.

I am delighted to welcome President Obama on his first visit to India.

I welcome the President as a personal friend and a charismatic leader who has made a deep imprint on world affairs through his inclusive vision of peace, security and welfare for all peoples and nations. The President and the First Lady have made an abiding impression on the people of India, with their warmth, their grace and their commitment to promoting ties between our two great democracies.

President Obama yesterday characterized the India-US partnership as one of the defining and indispensable partnerships of the 21st century. In my discussions with the President, we have decided to accelerate the deepening of our ties and to work as equal partners in a strategic relationship that will positively and decisively influence world peace, stability and progress.

We welcome the decision by the United States to lift controls on export of high technology items and technologies to India, and support India's membership in multilateral export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group. This is a manifestation of the growing trust and confidence in each other. We have agreed on steps to expand our cooperation in the space, civil nuclear, defence and other high end sectors.

We have announced specific initiatives in the areas of clean energy, health and agriculture. These include a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre, the establishment of a Global Disease Detection Centre in India and an agreement for cooperation in weather and crop forecasting. We have decided to hold a Higher Education

Summit next year. Cooperation in the education sector holds great promise because no two other countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future.

The United States is one of our largest trading partners. Our trade is balanced and growing. India is among the fastest growing sources of investment in the United States. Indian investments have helped to increase the competitiveness of the US economy. We welcome US investment and high technology in key sectors of our economy, including nuclear energy. We have agreed to facilitate trade and people-to-people exchanges, recognizing that protectionism is detrimental to both our economies.

I conveyed our gratitude to the President for the cooperation we have received in our counter-terrorism measures post Mumbai. We will start a new Homeland Security Dialogue to deepen this cooperation.

We had a detailed exchange on the situation in our extended region, including East Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and West Asia. We have a shared vision of security, stability and prosperity in Asia based on an open and inclusive regional architecture. We have agreed to broaden our strategic dialogue to cover other regions and issues, and initiate joint projects in Africa and Afghanistan.

As States possessing nuclear weapons, we have today put forth a common vision of a world without nuclear weapons, and decided to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament. This is a historic and bold bilateral initiative. We have also decided to strengthen cooperation to tackle nuclear terrorism, and we welcome US participation in the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership which will be set up in India.

President Obama is a sincere and valued friend of our country and our discussions have led to a meeting of minds. Ours is a partnership based on common values and interests, a shared vision of the world and the deep rooted ties of friendship among our two peoples. I look forward to working with the President to realize the enormous potential of this partnership.

Thank you.



587. Address by Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha M. Hamid Ansari at the Meeting of Members of Parliament held under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group in honour of the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama, at Central Hall, Parliament House. This was followed by the speech of U.S. President.

New Delhi, November 8, 2010

This is one of those infrequent occasions when the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Members come together for a meeting to honour, and hear, a visiting dignitary of great eminence. Our guest today is from one of the world's oldest democracies and we, in the largest, rejoice in welcoming him.

Relationships between countries, Mr. President, are reflective of a complex web of considerations. Some of these are ephemeral, others more durable. The latter pertain to principles and values that transcend material considerations. Elements of what has been called the American Creed with its focus on liberty, constitutionalism, the law, democracy, individualism and political and cultural egalitarianism inspired and influenced our own Constitution.

We admire the tenacity of the American spirit and its capacity for introspection and course correction. You have demonstrated both during your presidency. The troubled world we live in necessitates it. We appreciate your initiative to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" and to take concrete steps towards it. We ourselves have been for long an advocate of non-discriminatory and universal nuclear disarmament.

In over six decades of independence, India has endeavoured to impart substance to the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity and to promote political as well as social and economic justice. We have accommodated diversity. Above all, we have sought to eschew conflict and promote peace.

The United States and India, Mr. President, have much to do together. Our areas of agreement are considerable, and expanding. We venture to

hope that our two countries would work purposefully for an open world based on the principles of equity and dedicated to peace, freedom and prosperity for all people. We both repose faith in John Rawls' dictum that 'rights secured by justice are not subject to political bargaining or to a calculus of social interests.'

We are geographically removed from each other but face similar threats and challenges and have to be sensitive to each other's concerns and critical interests. As vibrant democracies we cherish the right to disagree within a framework of our endeavour for the common good.

We are confident that your visit would bring our two people closer, help create a world order free from the evils of extremism, intolerance, injustice and terrorism, and devoted to the pursuit of new vistas of humanism and technological innovation in the service of humankind.

I now invite the distinguished guest to address the gathering.

Remarks by the U.S. President Barack Obama to the Joint Session of the Indian Parliament in New Delhi, India.

Parliament House, New Delhi, November 8, 2010.

Mr. Vice President, Madam Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and most of all, the people of India.

I thank you for the great honor of addressing the representatives of more than one billion Indians and the world's largest democracy. (Applause.) I bring the greetings and friendship of the world's oldest democracy -- the United States of America, including nearly three million proud and patriotic Indian-Americans. (Applause.)

Over the past three days, my wife Michelle and I have experienced the -- and dynamism of India and its people -- from the majesty of Humayun's Tomb to the advanced technologies that are empowering farmers and women who are the backbone of Indian society; from the Diwali celebrations with schoolchildren to the innovators who are fueling India's economic rise; from the university students who will chart India's future, to you -- leaders who helped to bring India to this moment of extraordinary promise.

At every stop, we have been welcomed with the hospitality for which Indians have always been known. So, to you and the people of India, on behalf of me, Michelle and the American people, please accept my deepest thanks. (Applause.) Bahoot dhanyavad. (Applause.)

Now, I am not the first American President to visit India. Nor will I be the last. But I am proud to visit India so early in my presidency. It's no coincidence that India is my first stop on a visit to Asia, or that this has been my longest visit to another country since becoming President. (Applause.) For in Asia and around the world, India is not simply emerging; India has emerged. (Applause.)

And it is my firm belief that the relationship between the United States and India -- bound by our shared interests and our shared values -- will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. This is the partnership I've come here to build. This is the vision that our nations can realize together.

My confidence in our shared future is grounded in my respect for India's treasured past -- a civilization that's been shaping the world for thousands of years. Indians unlocked the intricacies of the human body and the vastness of our universe. It's no exaggeration to say that our Information Age is rooted in Indian innovations -- including the number zero. (Applause.)

Of course, India not only opened our minds, she expanded our moral imaginations -- with religious texts that still summon the faithful to lives of dignity and discipline, with poets who imagined a future "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" -- (applause) -- and with a man whose message of love and justice endures -- the father of your nation, Mahatma Gandhi. (Applause.)

For me and Michelle, this visit has, therefore, held special meaning. See, throughout my life, including my work as a young man on behalf of the urban poor, I've always found inspiration in the life of Gandhiji and his simple and profound lesson to be the change we seek in the world. (Applause.) And just as he summoned Indians to seek their destiny, he influenced champions of equality in my own country, including a young preacher named Martin Luther King. After making his pilgrimage to India a half-century ago, Dr. King called Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent

resistance "the only logical and moral approach" in the struggle for justice and progress. (Applause.)

So we were honored to visit the residence where Gandhi and King both stayed -- Mani Bhavan. And we were humbled to pay our respects at Raj Ghat. And I am mindful that I might not be standing before you today, as President of the United States, had it not been for Gandhi and the message he shared and inspired with America and the world. (Applause.)

An ancient civilization of science and innovation; a fundamental faith in human progress -- this is the sturdy foundation upon which you have built ever since that stroke of midnight when the tricolor was raised over a free and independent India. (Applause.) And despite the skeptics who said this country was simply too poor, or too vast, or too diverse to succeed, you surmounted overwhelming odds and became a model to the world.

Instead of slipping into starvation, you launched a Green Revolution that fed millions. Instead of becoming dependent on commodities and exports, you invested in science and technology and in your greatest resource -- the Indian people. And the world sees the results, from the supercomputers you build to the Indian flag that you put on the moon.

Instead of resisting the global economy, you became one of its engines -- reforming the licensing raj and unleashing an economic marvel that has lifted tens of millions of people from poverty and created one of the world's largest middle classes.

Instead of succumbing to division, you have shown that the strength of India -- the very idea of India -- is its embrace of all colors, all castes, all creeds. (Applause.) It's the diversity represented in this chamber today. It's the richness of faiths celebrated by a visitor to my hometown of Chicago more than a century ago -- the renowned Swami Vivekananda. He said that, "holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world, and that every system has produced men and women of the most exalted character."

And instead of being lured by the false notion that progress must come at the expense of freedom, you built the institutions upon which true democracy depends -- free and fair elections, which enable citizens to choose their own leaders without recourse to arms -- (applause) -- an

independent judiciary and the rule of law, which allows people to address their grievances; and a thriving free press and vibrant civil society which allows every voice to be heard. This year, as India marks 60 years with a strong and democratic constitution, the lesson is clear: India has succeeded, not in spite of democracy; India has succeeded because of democracy. (Applause.)

Now, just as India has changed, so, too, has the relationship between our two nations. In the decades after independence, India advanced its interests as a proud leader of the nonaligned movement. Yet, too often, the United States and India found ourselves on opposite sides of a North-South divide, estranged by a long Cold War. Those days are over.

Here in India, two successive governments led by different parties have recognized that deeper partnership with America is both natural and necessary. And in the United States, both of my predecessors -- one a Democrat, one a Republican -- worked to bring us closer, leading to increased trade and a landmark civil nuclear agreement. (Applause.)

So since that time, people in both our countries have asked: What's next? How can we build on this progress and realize the full potential of our partnership? That's what I want to address today -- the future that the United States seeks in an interconnected world, and why I believe that India is indispensable to this vision; how we can forge a truly global partnership -- not just in one or two areas, but across many; not just for our mutual benefit, but for the benefit of the world.

Of course, only Indians can determine India's national interests and how to advance them on the world stage. But I stand before you today because I am convinced that the interests of the United States -- and the interests we share with India -- are best advanced in partnership. I believe that. (Applause.)

The United States seeks security -- the security of our country, our allies and partners. We seek prosperity -- a strong and growing economy in an open international economic system. We seek respect for universal values. And we seek a just and sustainable international order that promotes peace and security by meeting global challenges through stronger global cooperation.

Now, to advance these interests, I have committed the United States to comprehensive engagement with the world, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. And a central pillar of this engagement is forging deeper cooperation with 21st century centers of influence -- and that must necessarily include India.

Now, India is not the only emerging power in the world. But relationships between our countries is unique. For we are two strong democracies whose constitutions begin with the same revolutionary words -- the same revolutionary words -- "We the people." We are two great republics dedicated to the liberty and justice and equality of all people. And we are two free market economies where people have the freedom to pursue ideas and innovation that can change the world. And that's why I believe that India and America are indispensable partners in meeting the challenges of our time. (Applause.)

Since taking office, I've, therefore, made our relationship a priority. I was proud to welcome Prime Minister Singh for the first official state visit of my presidency. (Applause.) For the first time ever, our governments are working together across the whole range of common challenges that we face. Now, let me say it as clearly as I can: The United States not only welcomes India as a rising global power, we fervently support it, and we have worked to help make it a reality.

Together with our partners, we have made the G20 the premier forum for international economic cooperation, bringing more voices to the table of global economic decision-making, and that has included India. We've increased the role of emerging economies like India at international financial institutions. We valued India's important role at Copenhagen, where, for the first time, all major economies committed to take action to confront climate change -- and to stand by those actions. We salute India's long history as a leading contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions. And we welcome India as it prepares to take its seat on the United Nations Security Council. (Applause.)

In short, with India assuming its rightful place in the world, we have an historic opportunity to make the relationship between our two countries a defining partnership of the century ahead. And I believe we can do so by working together in three important areas.

First, as global partners we can promote prosperity in both our countries. Together, we can create the high-tech, high-wage jobs of the future. With my visit, we are now ready to begin implementing our civil nuclear agreement. This will help meet India's growing energy needs and create thousands of jobs in both of our countries. (Applause.)

We need to forge partnerships in high-tech sectors like defense and civil space. So we've removed Indian organizations from our so-called "entity list." And we'll work to remove -- and reform our controls on exports. Both of these steps will ensure that Indian companies seeking high-tech trade and technologies from America are treated the same as our very closest allies and partners. (Applause.)

We can pursue joint research and development to create green jobs; give India more access to cleaner, affordable energy; meet the commitments we made at Copenhagen; and show the possibilities of low-carbon growth.

And together, we can resist the protectionism that stifles growth and innovation. The United States remains -- and will continue to remain -- one of the most open economies in the world. And by opening markets and reducing barriers to foreign investment, India can realize its full economic potential as well. As G20 partners, we can make sure the global economic recovery is strong and is durable. And we can keep striving for a Doha Round that is ambitious and is balanced -- with the courage to make the compromises that are necessary so global trade works for all economies.

Together, we can strengthen agriculture. Cooperation between Indian and American researchers and scientists sparked the Green Revolution. Today, India is a leader in using technology to empower farmers, like those I met yesterday who get free updates on market and weather conditions on their cell phones. And the United States is a leader in agricultural productivity and research. Now, as farmers and rural areas face the effects of climate change and drought, we'll work together to spark a second, more sustainable Evergreen Revolution.

Together, we're improving Indian weather forecasting systems before the next monsoon season. We aim to help millions of Indian farmers - - farming households save water and increase productivity, improve

food processing so crops don't spoil on the way to market, and enhance climate and crop forecasting to avoid losses that cripple communities and drive up food prices.

And as part of our food security initiative, we're going to share India's expertise with farmers in Africa. And this is an indication of India's rise -- that we can now export hard-earned expertise to countries that see India as a model for agricultural development. It's another powerful example of how American and Indian partnership can address an urgent global challenge.

Because the wealth of a nation also depends on the health of its people, we'll continue to support India's effort against diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, and as global partners, we'll work to improve global health by preventing the spread of pandemic flu. And because knowledge is the currency of the 21st century, we will increase exchanges between our students, our colleges and our universities, which are among the best in the world.

As we work to advance our shared prosperity, we can partner to address a second priority -- and that is our shared security. In Mumbai, I met with the courageous families and survivors of that barbaric attack. And here in Parliament, which was itself targeted because of the democracy it represents, we honor the memory of all those who have been taken from us, including American citizens on 26/11 and Indian citizens on 9/11.

This is the bond that we share. It's why we insist that nothing ever justifies the slaughter of innocent men, women and children. It's why we're working together, more closely than ever, to prevent terrorist attacks and to deepen our cooperation even further. And it's why, as strong and resilient societies, we refuse to live in fear. We will not sacrifice the values and rule of law that defines us, and we will never waver in the defense of our people.

America's fight against al Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates is why we persevere in Afghanistan, where major development assistance from India has improved the lives of the Afghan people. We're making progress in our mission to break the Taliban's momentum and to train Afghan forces so they can take the lead for their security. And while I have made it clear that American forces will begin the transition to Afghan responsibility next

summer, I've also made it clear that America's commitment to the Afghan people will endure. The United States will not abandon the people of Afghanistan -- or the region -- to violent extremists who threaten us all.

Our strategy to disrupt and dismantle and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates has to succeed on both sides of the border. And that's why we have worked with the Pakistani government to address the threat of terrorist networks in the border region. The Pakistani government increasingly recognizes that these networks are not just a threat outside of Pakistan -- they are a threat to the Pakistani people, as well. They've suffered greatly at the hands of violent extremists over the last several years.

And we'll continue to insist to Pakistan's leaders that terrorist safe havens within their borders are unacceptable, and that terrorists behind the Mumbai attacks must be brought to justice. (Applause.) We must also recognize that all of us have an interest in both an Afghanistan and a Pakistan that is stable and prosperous and democratic -- and India has an interest in that, as well.

In pursuit of regional security, we will continue to welcome dialogue between India and Pakistan, even as we recognize that disputes between your two countries can only be resolved by the people of your two countries.

More broadly, India and the United States can partner in Asia. Today, the United States is once again playing a leadership role in Asia -- strengthening old alliances; deepening relationships, as we are doing with China; and we're reengaging with regional organizations like ASEAN and joining the East Asia summit -- organizations in which India is also a partner. Like your neighbors in Southeast Asia, we want India not only to "look East," we want India to "engage East" -- because it will increase the security and prosperity of all our nations.

As two global leaders, the United States and India can partner for global security -- especially as India serves on the Security Council over the next two years. Indeed, the just and sustainable international order that America seeks includes a United Nations that is efficient, effective, credible and legitimate. That is why I can say today, in the years ahead, I look forward to a reformed United Nations Security Council that includes India as a permanent member. (Applause.)

Now, let me suggest that with increased power comes increased responsibility. The United Nations exists to fulfill its founding ideals of preserving peace and security, promoting global cooperation, and advancing human rights. These are the responsibilities of all nations, but especially those that seek to lead in the 21st century. And so we look forward to working with India -- and other nations that aspire to Security Council membership -- to ensure that the Security Council is effective; that resolutions are implemented, that sanctions are enforced; that we strengthen the international norms which recognize the rights and responsibilities of all nations and all individuals.

This includes our responsibility to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Since I took office, the United States has reduced the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and we've agreed with Russia to reduce our own arsenals. We have put preventing nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism at the top of our nuclear agenda, and we have strengthened the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, which is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Together, the United States and India can pursue our goal of securing the world's vulnerable nuclear materials. We can make it clear that even as every nation has the right to peaceful nuclear energy, every nation must also meet its international obligations -- and that includes the Islamic Republic of Iran. And together, we can pursue a vision that Indian leaders have espoused since independence -- a world without nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

And this leads me to the final area where our countries can partner -- strengthening the foundations of democratic governance, not only at home but abroad.

In the United States, my administration has worked to make government more open and transparent and accountable to people. Here in India, you're harnessing technologies to do the same, as I saw yesterday at an expo in Mumbai. Your landmark Right to Information Act is empowering citizens with the ability to get the services to which they're entitled -- (applause) -- and to hold officials accountable. Voters can get information about candidates by text message. And you're delivering education and

health care services to rural communities, as I saw yesterday when I joined an e-panchayat with villagers in Rajasthan.

Now, in a new collaboration on open government, our two countries are going to share our experience, identify what works, and develop the next generation of tools to empower citizens. And in another example of how American and Indian partnership can address global challenges, we're going to share these innovations with civil society groups and countries around the world. We're going to show that democracy, more than any other form of government, delivers for the common man -- and woman.

Likewise, when Indians vote, the whole world watches. Thousands of political parties; hundreds of thousands of polling centers; millions of candidates and poll workers -- and 700 million voters. There's nothing like it on the planet. There is so much that countries transitioning to democracy could learn from India's experience, so much expertise that India can share with the world. And that, too, is what is possible when the world's largest democracy embraces its role as a global leader.

As the world's two largest democracies, we must never forget that the price of our own freedom is standing up for the freedom of others. (Applause.) Indians know this, for it is the story of your nation. Before he ever began his struggle for Indian independence, Gandhi stood up for the rights of Indians in South Africa. Just as others, including the United States, supported Indian independence, India championed the self-determination of peoples from Africa to Asia as they, too, broke free from colonialism. (Applause.) And along with the United States, you've been a leader in supporting democratic development and civil society groups around the world. And this, too, is part of India's greatness.

Now, we all understand every country will follow its own path. No one nation has a monopoly on wisdom, and no nation should ever try to impose its values on another. But when peaceful democratic movements are suppressed--as they have been in Burma, for example--then the democracies of the world cannot remain silent. For it is unacceptable to gun down peaceful protestors and incarcerate political prisoners decade after decade. It is unacceptable to hold the aspirations of an entire people hostage to the greed and paranoia of bankrupt regimes. It is unacceptable to steal elections, as the regime in Burma has done again for all the world to see.

Faced with such gross violations of human rights, it is the responsibility of the international community -- especially leaders like the United States and India -- to condemn it. And if I can be frank, in international fora, India has often shied away from some of these issues. But speaking up for those who cannot do so for themselves is not interfering in the affairs of other countries. It's not violating the rights of sovereign nations. It is staying true to our democratic principles. It is giving meaning to the human rights that we say are universal. And it sustains the progress that in Asia and around the world has helped turn dictatorships into democracies and ultimately increased our security in the world.

So promoting shared prosperity, preserving peace and security, strengthening democratic governance and human rights -- these are the responsibilities of leadership. And as global partners, this is the leadership that the United States and India can offer in the 21st century. Ultimately, though, this cannot be a relationship only between presidents and prime ministers, or in the halls of this Parliament. Ultimately, this must be a partnership between our peoples. (Applause.) So I want to conclude by speaking directly to the people of India who are watching today.

In your lives, you have overcome odds that might have overwhelmed a lesser country. In just decades, you have achieved progress and development that took other nations centuries. You are now assuming your rightful place as a leader among nations. Your parents and grandparents imagined this. Your children and grandchildren will look back on this. But only this generation of Indians can seize the possibilities of the moment.

As you carry on with the hard work ahead, I want every Indian citizen to know: The United States of America will not simply be cheering you on from the sidelines. We will be right there with you, shoulder to shoulder. (Applause.) Because we believe in the promise of India. We believe that the future is what we make it. We believe that no matter who you are or where you come from, every person can fulfill their God-given potential, just as a Dalit like Dr. Ambedkar could lift himself up and pen the words of the constitution that protects the rights of all Indians. (Applause.)

We believe that no matter where you live -- whether a village in Punjab or the bylanes of Chandni Chowk -- (laughter) -- an old section of Kolkata or a new high-rise in Bangalore -- every person deserves the same chance to live in security and dignity, to get an education, to find work, to give their children a better future.

And we believe that when countries and cultures put aside old habits and attitudes that keep people apart, when we recognize our common humanity, then we can begin to fulfill these aspirations that we share. It's a simple lesson contained in that collection of stories which has guided Indians for centuries -- the Panchtantra. And it's the spirit of the inscription seen by all who enter this great hall: "That one is mine and the other a stranger is the concept of little minds. But to the large-hearted, the world itself is their family."

This is the story of India; this is the story of America -- that despite their differences, people can see themselves in one another, and work together and succeed together as one proud nation. And it can be the spirit of partnership between our nations -- that even as we honor the histories which in different times kept us apart, even as we preserve what makes us unique in a globalized world, we can recognize how much we can achieve together.

And if we let this simple concept be our guide, if we pursue the vision I've described today -- a global partnership to meet global challenges -- then I have no doubt that future generations -- Indians and Americans -- will live in a world that is more prosperous and more secure and more just because of the bonds that our generation has forged today.

So, thank you, and Jai Hind. (Applause.) And long live the partnership between India and the United States. (Applause.)



588. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on the visit of U.S. President Barack H. Obama.

New Delhi, November 19, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I rise to make a statement on the visit of the United States President Barack Obama to India from 6-9 November 2010.

2. India and the United States have in the recent years built a broadbased framework of cooperation. Government attaches high importance to the India-US strategic partnership, both in the pursuit of achieving India's national development goals and for advancing global peace, stability and progress. President Obama has characterized the India-US relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

3. President Obama's wide-ranging programme in Mumbai and Delhi, included in addition to the official engagements, events that covered diverse aspects of our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation. President Obama expressed his gratitude for the honour and privilege of addressing Members of Parliament on 8 November 2010.

4. The visit was successful in strengthening mutual understanding on regional and global issues; accelerating the momentum of our bilateral cooperation; and creating a long-term framework to elevate the India-US strategic partnership to a new level.

5. I place on the table of the House a copy of the Joint Statement issued after the visit which summarises the outcomes of the visit.

6. Briefly, I draw the attention of the august House to the following:-

i) In the area of economic cooperation, we have agreed to take steps to realise the potential for trade and investment in both directions and to harness the scientific and technological capabilities in the two countries for the benefit of our two countries and the world. We welcome US investments in key sectors of our economy, including in the areas of infrastructure and nuclear energy. We also agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travellers between our countries.

- ii) We announced a number of new bilateral initiatives, which include agreements on establishing a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center in India; exploration and assessment of shale gas resources in India; Energy Cooperation Programme; establishment of Global Disease Detection India Centre in India; and an implementing arrangement for enhanced monsoon forecasting that will begin to transmit detailed forecasts to farmers beginning with the 2011 monsoon rain season. iii) To promote collaboration in the field of higher education, Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to convene an India-US Higher Education Summit in 2011.
- iv) We welcome the decisions taken by the United States to ease controls on exports of dual use items and technologies to India. These measures include removing Indian entities from its so-called Entity List, realignment of India in US export control regulations, as well the intention of the United States to support India's full membership in the multilateral export control regimes.
- v) Prime Minister and President Obama have put forth a common vision of a world without nuclear weapons and decided to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament. This is a historic and bold bilateral initiative which reflects the evolution of our partnership with the United States. We have decided to strengthen cooperation to tackle nuclear terrorism.
- vi) We welcome President Obama's affirmation of US support for India's permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council. This reflects the shared belief of our two sides that an efficient, effective, credible and legitimate United Nations is required to ensure a just and sustainable international order.
- vii) India-US understanding and cooperation on the shared challenge of terrorism emanating from our neighbourhood continues to grow. Our two governments have decided to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation and to begin a Homeland Security Dialogue.
- viii) India has an interest in peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, based on an open, balanced and inclusive regional architecture.

We have decided to deepen our existing consultations with the United States on developments in East Asia and expand our consultations to cover regional and global issues of mutual interest, including Central and West Asia. We have also agreed to intensify our consultations on Afghanistan. President Obama appreciated India's contribution to Afghanistan and welcomed enhanced Indian assistance to help Afghanistan achieve self-sufficiency.

7. Madam Speaker, India-US relations have matured over the years. We conduct this relationship in a spirit of mutual respect and as equal partners. This relationship stands on its own merits and is not directed against any other country. It is a relationship that is based on shared values and growing opportunities for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation and a global partnership. It is an important factor for peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

8. In this context, President Obama's visit was a milestone in the process of strengthening the strategic partnership between the world's two largest democracies and in bringing our two peoples closer together.



589. Interview of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar for the CNN-IBN TV.

New Delhi, November 21, 2010

Interviewer (Shri Karan Thapar): Hello and welcome to India Tonight. What is the Indian Government's considered view of the Obama visit and the American President's landmark address to the Indian Parliament? That is the key issue I shall discuss today with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary, the press and the public are convinced that the Obama visit was a great success. What is your Government's considered view?

Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao): I would share that opinion entirely. The visit of President Obama to India was I believe a great success.

It is a reflection really of the state of relations between India and the United States today, two of the world's largest, biggest, most successfully functioning democracies. We have a global strategic partnership with the United States. When President Obama came to India and addressed our audiences here and reached out to the Indian people if I may say - because that was very evident in his meetings with the youth particularly in Mumbai - and also in his address to our Parliament, he spoke of this defining nature of the partnership between India and the United States today. And this is a partnership that is devoted to innovation, to development, and indeed it is a strategic partnership.

Interviewer: For many people the key point was the President's commitment to support India's candidature to a permanent seat in the Security Council. But given that this is neither imminent nor is it going to be easily achieved, how significant a commitment was this?

Foreign Secretary: I think it was a political statement; it was a statement with symbolism; it was a statement with substance. What the United States was conveying to the people of India and indeed to the world when President Obama spoke out in support of our candidature was that firstly the United States is prepared to contemplate a moderate expansion of the Security Council; and secondly that it sees a role for India, the participation, the inclusion of India in an expanded Security Council.

Interviewer: You said this was a substantive statement but The Hindu has pointed out that there was a marked difference in the language President Obama used when he supported India's candidature compared to the language America had used earlier for Japan. In Japan's case the Americans had said that they unambiguously support a permanent seat for Japan. The Indian line was not quite that unequivocal.

Foreign Secretary: There are always nuances in such statements, I do not deny that. But I think what we need to understand and agree on is that there is an underlying subtext and underlying meaning to what President Obama had to convey to our people when he spoke about our candidature.

Interviewer: And what is that subtext?

Foreign Secretary: Basically what he is saying is that India is a democratic great power; India and the United States share a defining partnership. In

fact, the national security strategy of the United States which was unveiled a few months ago spoke of India, Russia and China as big powers. There is no questioning of India's arrival on the global stage.

Interviewer: The second concern is that the American President has not committed himself to actually working to achieve that expansion of Security Council, leave aside expediting it. Does not that in a sense dilute the commitment he has made to India's candidature?

Foreign Secretary: I would not join the Doubting Thomases on this. I would like to say, and I speak here as a practitioner and I am aware of the ground realities, back in New York our two Permanent Missions are closely in touch with each other. Even after President Obama spoke in Parliament and made this expression of support, the two Permanent Representatives have reached out to each other, have exchanged notes, have been speaking of the very positive nature of this development.

Interviewer: So, they are working to take this forward?

Foreign Secretary: They are working together. Let me also add that within the United Nations from the floor of the General Assembly there is a ground swell of opinion and support building on the question of expansion of the Security Council. Vast majority of member states in the United Nations support the principle of expansion of the Security Council.

Interviewer: India of course has unequivocal support from Britain and France. But how strong and unequivocal is the support you have from Moscow for your permanent seat in the Security Council?

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that Russia has said that it regards us as a deserving and as a strong candidate for inclusion in the permanent membership of the Security Council.

Interviewer: Is that ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: Russia and India have a very time-tested and a solid relationship, a friendship that really goes back over the decades. The bandwidth of our relations is so strong, enduring and wide-ranging that we are very confident that Russia will be supportive of our candidature.

Interviewer: I am just going to get that repeated. You are very confident that Russia will support India's candidature for a permanent seat?

Foreign Secretary: I am confident given the very healthy state of India-Russia relations.

Interviewer: You have just come back from Beijing. Did you get any favourable expression of support? Any shift towards the favourable direction in the Chinese position?

Foreign Secretary: I would like to draw reference to the Joint Statement that was issued in January of 2008 when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Beijing and there was this vision of a shared partnership between India and China in the 21st century that was unveiled at that time. There China stated that it understood India's aspirations to play a larger role in global affairs including in an expanded Security Council. That is where the matter stands. Obviously, China and India need to discuss this further. One of the signal developments I would say in recent months and weeks has been China's readiness to discuss, to have consultations with India on UN related matters including on the expansion of the Security Council.

Interviewer: So, the Chinese position is as it was expressed in January 2008 because there has been no advance on that.

Foreign Secretary: Let me put it this way that you have to embed this in the matrix of the India-China relationship. And this is a relationship that has grown, that has evolved, and that has expanded into a number of areas. I drew reference to the fact that multilaterally there is a great deal of cooperation between India and China.

Interviewer: So, there is room for movement and change.

Foreign Secretary: I believe there is room for movement and change. I am not saying it is going to happen immediately. It is going to be a process and that process is tied to the evolution of our dialogue and discussions with China.

Interviewer: The one discordant note, and it was almost immediate and it was pretty dark, came from across the border in Islamabad. The Pakistanis have found this incomprehensible. They said it is bereft of morals and ideals. And perhaps most ominously they added, it has implications for

peace, security and stability in South Asia. How do you read that statement from the Pakistan Foreign Office?

Foreign Secretary: Frankly, Karan, I do not want to dignify it with a response. I think where India and Pakistan are concerned - and I believe Pakistan should understand our approach very well - we have reached out to Pakistan on a number of occasions in the recent past. We have offered dialogue. We have expressed our readiness to discuss all outstanding issues. Frankly, as I said, I do not want to dignify this statement with a response. And I do not think we should be receiving lessons from Pakistan on morality.

Interviewer: So, you are a touch disappointed by Islamabad's outspoken criticism.

Foreign Secretary: Yes, I would say I am disappointed. And I think it is a reflection of the trust deficit between our two countries.

Interviewer: President Obama followed up his endorsement of India's candidature for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council by adding the words 'with increased power, comes increased responsibility'. And he went on to express a certain admonition, if I can put it like that, for India's failure to speak out in defence of democratic forces when they are being suppressed. Particular example was Burma. In fact he added pointedly, "If I can be frank, in international fora India has often shied away from some of these issues". How do you respond as Foreign Secretary to this part of his speech?

Foreign Secretary: President Obama spoke frankly. He spoke with candour. But I think between friends and partners we can afford that degree of candour and openness. What I would like to say is that in recent months we have had extensive discussions with the United States not only in the run-up to preparing for President Obama's visit but in the context of our strategic dialogue. We have spoken of various issues concerning the situation in the region. The United States is aware of our concerns about terrorism, about the need to take our fight against terrorism forward, the situation in Afghanistan, the situation in Pakistan. And we have also discussed the other situations in our neighbourhood including Myanmar. We have spoken of the situation in the Asia Pacific, Southeast Asia. Indeed

the range and content of our dialogue encompasses a number of areas. When it comes to Myanmar, we have been very open ourselves in relaying to the United States what it is that drives our relationship with that country today. We share a contiguous border with Myanmar. We have concerns of security. We would like to build connectivity because really Southeast Asia begins in Northeast India. Therefore, obviously we would like inclusive political change in Myanmar. In fact, with the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, you are aware of the statement which our Foreign Minister made welcoming her release.

Interviewer: Am I right in, therefore, understanding that there are no hurt feelings or even ruffled feathers on the Indian side after President Obama's speech?

Foreign Secretary: Karan, let me use the phrase from George Kennan, we are grown up nations and we are perfectly capable of handling differences and divergences. But let me say we are building extensive convergence on a number of issues concerning the region.

Interviewer: So, you can agree to differ?

Foreign Secretary: We can agree to differ, but agree to differ in a perfectly open and friendly and mutually confident way.

Interviewer: What do you say to Indian people, and there are a few of them, who believe that by failing to speak out in defence of democratic forces in Burma and Aung San Suu Kyi in particular, India has in a sense betrayed its own principles and values?

Foreign Secretary: I do not believe we have betrayed our principles and values. Every policy move is based on realpolitik. It is based on the defence of the national interest. It is based on the definition of our security and strategic concerns. And Myanmar is no exception to that. But where Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is concerned, in many ways we have a very close and enduring relationship with Aung San Suu Kyi. She grew up in India. We have wonderful memories of her stay here. She did her doctoral research here. So her association with India and her ties with India can never really be fractured in that sense of the word. The fact is that the situation in Myanmar today is very very complex. And India has sought to engage the leadership of that country and in the process also convey our views and

opinions that we are in favour of inclusive political change, we would favour reconciliation between all the different groups in the country, we would like peace, we would like development, we would like progress in Myanmar.

Interviewer: You mentioned her close emotional association with this country. She was in school and college here. In her first interview to the BBC after her release she actually did express disappointment that India was not more forthcoming and open in support of democracy in Burma.

Foreign Secretary: Let me say that following her release, and I referred to the statement that we made, our Ambassador in Myanmar was one of the select group of Ambassadors who met Aung San Suu Kyi and he had the opportunity to have a brief conversation with her. And what came through was her very deep and enduring positive feelings for India and how these feelings and this association should be preserved and should be in a sense allowed to continue to develop. This is what she had to say. As I said, we have welcomed her release and conveyed that to the world, because we see it as part of the process of gradual, inclusive political change in the country.

Interviewer: Did India have any role to play behind the scenes in her release?

Foreign Secretary: We have consistently, whenever we have had the opportunity to talk to the Myanmar leadership, spoken about the need for reconciliation; we have spoken about the need for peaceful change.

Interviewer: How do you today view the elections that were recently held in Burma but the results of which have still not been announced?

Foreign Secretary: This is part of our dialogue also with the UN Secretary-General and his good offices on Myanmar. I think the view as expressed out of the region - and I am not talking of countries that are on another continent or far away from here, look at the ASEAN countries, and in many ways our policy dovetails into what the ASEAN countries also say - I think they see this as part of a significant process within Myanmar. Obviously a political change is happening and that change has brought to the forefront a number of parties, a number of new and younger leaders. So, we have to see this as part of a process. Obviously there is an undercurrent of change within Myanmar, and we hope and that this is the aspiration that a

lot of likeminded countries like India have expressed, that this is a movement that would lead to positive and inclusive political change and reconciliation within that country.

Interviewer: And in a sense that is India's message also to Gen. Than Shwe and the Junta?

Foreign Secretary: I would say that is our message for the region, for our friends in the region, and for the people of that country.

* * * *

Interviewer:Foreign Secretary, let us come to some of the economic aspects of the visit. In large measure the Obama Administration has lifted export controls and removed practically all Indian companies from the Entities List except for those connected with the DAE. How significant is this?

Foreign Secretary: I think it is a significant development. What we have been emphasising to the United States is, given the defining nature of our strategic partnership and the enormous improvements that have taken place in the relationship, that India should be treated as a partner and not as a target. I think that has been echoed also in the statements from the US Administration on this issue.

Interviewer: And is this a first step in that direction?

Foreign Secretary: I would say it is a very very important and substantive step in that direction. Over the last few months, let me tell you that we have engaged in very detailed and intensive discussions with the Department of Commerce in the US Administration on this very subject, on the removal of export controls on dual technology items, on the removal of our entities from the Entities List of the Department of Commerce, and also the inclusion of India in these major export control regimes, the international regimes. And on all these fronts and also on certain, let me say, realignment or a correction in terms of the country-specific categories that exist on the US side on export controls, on all these fronts we have been able to achieve progress.

Interviewer: The only thing is that the DAE-related companies remain on the Entities List.

Foreign Secretary: This is a work in progress. I would say we should celebrate the fact that we have made so much progress, and the fact that ISRO, DRDO and BDL are off the Entities List - as I said, the country-specific categories are being amended - and also the decision that the United States will assist in the inclusion, in the participation of India in these export control regimes that exist internationally.

Interviewer: Except there where it comes to those four major non-proliferation control regimes, the decision will have to be by consensus. Can America deliver? I know George Bush delivered vis-a-vis the NSG. But Obama is a different ...(Unclear)...

Foreign Secretary: On the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement, I believe the process is fairly uncomplicated. As far as the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime arrangements are concerned, yes, we will have to move forward in a phased manner. The United States has signalled its readiness to help take this process forward, and I believe the compass is set in the right direction.

Interviewer: How long will that take? Are we talking about years?

Foreign Secretary: I am not going to be able to give you a timeline on that. We would like it to happen obviously sooner than later.

Interviewer: Before he has arrived in India, Corporate India was concerned about what the American Administration had done vis-a-vis H1B and L1 visas, about outsourcing and the sort of protectionist rhetoric, the fact that Bangalore was a symbol in his mind of this way, he claimed, jobs were being taken away from America. When he came to India, he referred to all of this as outdated stereotype. Is there a sense in which President Obama's thinking has significantly changed on these issues, or are we over-interpreting things?

Foreign Secretary: I certainly think there was a deep felt concern, especially in our business and industry and in the IT industry particularly, about the recent measures on the visa front that had been taken in Washington. Having said that let me say also very clearly that when

President Obama came here and when he interacted with our captains of business and industry - and I think it was a very fruitful interaction - he himself spoke of the need for both our countries to work together and to avoid kneejerk reactions as he said. And our Prime Minister said very importantly and significantly that we do not steel jobs from the United States.

Interviewer: A very forceful statement.

Foreign Secretary: It was very unequivocally stated, and that is a fact. If you look at our investments in the United States, we are one of the fastest growing leading investors in the United States in every investment, whether it is in the financial sector, whether it is in IT, whether it is in entertainment, whether it is in chemicals or pharmaceuticals. It creates jobs. It creates jobs for Americans. And I think that fact was very clearly articulated during this visit.

Interviewer: So, the fear, I would not use the word threat, that America was turning protectionist under the pressures of its own economic problems which are proving to be a bit more difficult to handle, has that fear receded?

Foreign Secretary: I think that is very much a factor of domestic politics within the United States today. The US economy has gone through difficulties. There is a high rate of unemployment in the United States. And all this together, there has been a kind of a crescendo of concern about these trends within that country. Obviously we would like the United States to grow because the growth of the US economy impacts very positively on the global economy. But having said that it is very necessary to guard against protectionist trends and to have a free flow in trade of goods and services between the United States and the rest of the world, and particularly with India since we are concerned about the health of our economy, the growth of our trade and the creation of jobs and the preservation of the leads that we have been able to establish particularly in the information technology and communication industry.

Interviewer: One tends to forget that a very important part of that visit was in fact Michelle Obama. There is no doubt that India fell in love with

her. You must have met and spoken to the First Lady. What was her response to India? What does she think of this country?

Foreign Secretary: I had a very positive experience I must say interacting, briefly of course, with the US First Lady Michelle Obama. I think she was the epitome of grace and elegance wherever she went. What she had to convey to us was that she was deeply impressed by her meetings and her interactions with ordinary people, with particularly the young boys and girls that she had met. I think she was very very taken in by the magic and the colour and the exuberance, if I may say, of India. And she repeated more than once that she would love to come back and bring her daughters the next time. So, I think it is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Interviewer: And is there an invitation to the Obama family to come back again.

Foreign Secretary: Absolutely.

Interviewer: Foreign Secretary, a pleasure talking to you.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you so much, Karan.



590. Response of Official Spokesperson on the issue of Wikileaks.

New Delhi, November 30, 2010.

In response to questions on the issue of Wikileaks the official Spokesperson said,

"We would prefer not to comment on the issue of Wikileaks* which purportedly are an account of privileged internal US government assessments and correspondence. We have a multi-faceted and forward looking strategic partnership with the United States and there is a regular, open and candid dialogue between the two countries, on a number of matters of mutual interest."



591. Message of condolence of the Government of India on the demise of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke.

New Delhi, December 14, 2010.

The news of the untimely demise of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke has come as a great shock. An accomplished diplomat, he served his country and the cause of international peace and security, with distinction and exceptional insight, in his long and eventful career. He leaves behind a number of friends and admirers in India and indeed the world over. Our heartfelt condolences to members of his family and friends.



* Spokesperson was referring to the large number of classified telegrams of the State Department which were put in public domain by the website Wikileaks.

(ii) SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

ARGENTINA**592. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India Buenos Aires on the Visit of Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur to Argentina.****Buenos Aires, May 26, 2010.**

Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, participated in the Bicentenary celebrations of Argentina held on 25th May, 2010, and conveyed greetings to the Argentine President Cristina Kirchner Fernandez.

In her meeting on 26th May with Mr. Jorge Taiana, the Foreign Minister of Argentina, it was agreed that the two Governments would strengthen the relations and cooperation towards building a strategic partnership as agreed during the visit of the Argentine President to India in October 2009. The two sides agreed to continue to work closely on issues of common interest in G-20 and the Doha Round of WTO.

In her meeting with Mrs. Deborah Giorgi, Minister of Industry and Tourism, the latter invited more Indian companies to enter Argentina for investments and joint ventures. There are 11 Indian companies already operating in Argentina in areas such as IT, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Godrej IFFCO and Kirloskar Groups are in the process of investing in Argentina. The Argentine Ministry of Industry agreed to cooperate in the Business Seminar proposed to be held in Buenos Aires on 16 November, 2010 by the Indian Embassy in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries.

During her meeting with Mr. Mauricio Macri, the Chief Minister of Buenos Aires, the latter agreed to extend support to the Third Festival of India to be held in Buenos Aires from 4-14 November, 2010.

Minister Kaur had discussions with experts on the possibility of Indian investment in agribusiness in Argentina, for which there is very good scope.



BRAZIL**593. Joint Statement issued on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Brazil.****Brasilia, April 15, 2010.**

At the invitation of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. LuizInácio Lula da Silva, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited Brazil on 15 April, 2010. The two Leaders held a bilateral meeting and also met at the 4th Summit of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum (on 15 April) as well as the Second Brazil-Russia-India-China (BRIC) Summit (on 16 April).

At the bilateral meeting and working lunch, President Lula and Prime Minister Singh held detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues and renewed their commitment to strengthen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership. Both Leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation and collaboration between the two countries which has intensified in recent years.

They expressed satisfaction at the continued expansion of bilateral trade* in recent years which reached US\$ 5.6 billion in 2009 despite the impact

* details regarding trade between India and Brazil during the last three years are as under:

Values in US \$ Millions

Year	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Exports to Brazil	2,525.90	2,651.43	2,414.29
Imports from Brazil	949.95	1,185.96	3,437.97
Total trade	3,475.85	3,837.39	5,852.26

The total bilateral trade between India and Brazil has increased from US \$ 589.14 million in 2003-04 to US \$ 3837.39 million in 2008-09. FOCUS LAC Programme of the Ministry of Commerce presently in force provides a number of incentives and financial assistance for supporting and encouraging Indian exporters / companies to boost trade with Latin America in which Brazil is a major partner. A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and MERCOSUR (Brazil being one of the major members of this economic bloc) is in operation since June, 2009. Besides, buyer seller meets / business seminars are held every year in India and Brazil by the leading Chamber Commerce & Industry / apex Trade Bodies of the two sides focusing important sectors of mutual interest to enhance bilateral trade.

of the international financial crisis. They noted, however, the need for increased efforts to achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$ 10 billion by 2010 including the diversification of bilateral trade particularly in value-added sectors. In this context, they noted the positive outcome of the Trade Monitoring Mechanism, the second meeting of which was held on 15 March 2010 in São Paulo, and the scheduling of the next meeting in October 2010 in New Delhi. The Leaders reiterated their intent to hold the Second Meeting of the CEO Forum shortly.

Both Leaders noted that bilateral investments were growing in diverse areas. They called on business and industry in both countries to utilize the opportunities available in the areas of Energy, Agriculture, Mining, Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure and Construction, among others to further expand bilateral investments.

Both Leaders welcomed the coming into operation from June 2009 of the Preferential Trade Agreement between MERCOSUR and India. They expressed the view that there is a need to significantly increase the number of tariff lines in the PTA, so that the coverage of the Agreement could be expanded to a sizeable level. The Leaders urged that the ongoing negotiations in this regard be concluded successfully in a time bound manner.

The two Leaders reiterated the need for active enhancement of cooperation in Science and Technology, Nuclear Energy, Space and Defence for mutual benefit. They also noted that Biotechnology, IT, Marine Science, and Nano-technology have been identified as areas with significant potential for cooperation.

The two Leaders emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the energy sector including in Hydrocarbons and New & Renewable energies. In this regard, they directed the Joint Working Group on energy to convene an early meeting. Brazil welcomed the interest of Indian oil companies to participate in future ANP bidding processes for exploration of oil in conformity with its national policies in this sector. They reaffirmed their intention to encourage better coordination of their positions on the issue of Bio-fuels at multilateral fora.

Both Leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing bilateral cooperation in the Defence sector. They welcomed the appointment of Defence Attachés in their respective Diplomatic Missions in Brazil and in India. They noted the increasing contacts between EMBRAER and DRDO towards the joint development of high-technology military aircrafts. They underlined that the recent visit of Minister of Defence of Brazil, H.E. Nelson Jobim, to India in March 2010 had opened opportunities for enhanced Defence cooperation particularly in the field of joint production, research and development. Both Leaders welcomed the decision to host the First Meeting of the India-Brazil Joint Defence Committee, in India, this year, at mutually convenient dates.

The two Leaders reiterated the importance that Brazil and India attach to bilateral electoral cooperation and noted with satisfaction the ongoing dialogue between the Election Commission of India and Electoral Authorities in Brazil, which saw the visit of Mr. Carlos Augusto Ayres de Freitas Britto, President of the Electoral Superior Tribunal, Brazil, to India for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Election Commission of India on 25 January 2010, and would lead to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Election Commission of India and the Electoral Superior Tribunal of Brazil shortly.

Both Leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing cultural exchanges between India and Brazil. The Brazilian side welcomed India's decision to open a Cultural Center in São Paulo, the first of its kind in the Americas. The Indian side commended the Brazilian side on the successful organization of the "Brazilian Cultural Week" held in India in 2008. The Brazilian side also welcomed India's intention to organize a Festival of India in Brazil in early 2011.

Both Leaders welcomed the convergence of positions between Brazil and India in multilateral fora and in groups such as IBSA and BRIC, which is reflective of the growing importance of developing countries and of their role in shaping a more balanced international order in a multi-polar world.

The two Leaders shared the view on the urgent need to strengthen the participation of developing countries in the decision-making processes

within the multilateral financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and political bodies, such as the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment for the reform of the United Nations, particularly of the Security Council, including through its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent membership, with a view to improving its efficiency, representativeness, and legitimacy needed to meet the challenges faced by the international community today. The two Leaders reiterated their support to each other in their quest for permanent membership in an expanded UNSC. They also expressed their commitment to join efforts to convey to other countries the importance and urgency of the expansion of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories. President Lula expressed appreciation for India's support for the election of Brazil as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for 2010-11 and reiterated the support of Brazil to India's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the UNSC for the period of 2011-12.

President Lula and Prime Minister Singh strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whoever, wherever and for whatever purpose and stressed that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism. They agreed to support the global struggle against terrorism in conformity with the principles of the U.N. Charter, relevant international conventions and International Law. Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue efforts for an early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism.

They recalled the significant progress already achieved in the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations. They called upon all Members to work towards a balanced agreement and to refrain from seeking excessive and additional levels of ambition from a few developing economies. The prolonged inconclusiveness of the negotiations may threaten the credibility of the rule-based multilateral trading system, which has proved its relevance in resisting protectionism during the recent global economic crisis. Brazil and India will continue to make all efforts to build a multilateral trading system that puts development at its center.

President Lula and Prime Minister Singh reiterated that early conclusion of the São Paulo Round of GSTP Negotiations among developing

countries in accordance with the agreement reached last December will contribute in a concrete manner towards increasing South-South trade and economic cooperation.

Both Leaders reaffirmed their concern for Climate Change and its adverse impacts. They committed themselves to work in close coordination including in the BASIC group towards a comprehensive, balanced, and effective outcome at the 16th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Mexico in November-December 2010. They welcomed the Resolution of the UN General Assembly to hold a Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, in 2012.

Both Leaders reiterated their commitment to fight hunger and poverty, promote democratic values, and foster socially-inclusive economic development policies in their respective countries.

Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, sincerely thanked the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. LuizInácio Lula da Silva, and to the Brazilian government for the kind hospitality extended to him and his delegation during their visit to Brasilia.



CHILE

594. Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chilean President Dr. Michelle Bachelet at the loss of life in the earthquake and announcement of a contribution of US \$ 5 million towards the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.

New Delhi, March 5, 2010.

"It is with profound sadness that I have learnt of the massive earthquake that hit Chile on 27th February 2010, causing immense loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure across the country.

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I would like to express deep sympathy and condolences to the people of Chile on this great tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of the bereaved families.

As a token of our solidarity with the people of Chile, we would like to make a modest cash contribution of US\$ 5 million for relief and rehabilitation work following the earthquake.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."



595. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chilean President Sebastian Pinera Echenique on the successful rescue of 33 trapped miner after 69 days.

New Delhi, October 5, 2010.

"Please accept my warm felicitations on the splendid and successful rescue of the 33 miners. We rejoice with the people of Chile that they are free, safe and reunited with their dear and loved ones. We have watched with admiration the courage and fortitude displayed by the miners and their families throughout this long ordeal, and your personal leadership over the last several weeks*."



COLOMBIA

596. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Minister of State Shashi Tharoor to Colombia.

Bogotá, January 19, 2010.

The Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, made an official visit to Colombia 18-19 January 2010 at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Jaime Bermudez Merizalde.

The visit was a culmination of the celebration of the 50 years of the establishment of bilateral relations between India and Colombia, on 19 January 1959.

Dr. Tharoor called on President Alvaro Uribe Velez and Vice President Francisco Santos Caideron and reiterated the growing interest of India in strengthening bilateral relations with Colombia.

* The 33 miners, caught in a collapse of gold and copper mine in the country's north Atacama desert, spent 17 days in isolation, rationing their meagre supplies and organising themselves before being located by drillers on August 22. They had to withstand nearly two more months of waiting before they were finally rescued.

Dr. Tharoor called on the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Edgar Gomez Roman, and discussed the need for regular exchanges between the Parliamentarians of India and Colombia, the two large and vibrant democracies.

The Ministers had extensive discussions in the San Carlos Palace - the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia - and comprehensively reviewed the bilateral relations. Dr. Tharoor thanked Foreign Minister Bermudez for the hospitality and recalled the latter's successful visit to India in November 2009. They expressed the commitment of both sides to implement bilateral MOU's and agreements to give further boost to the ongoing cooperation. They hoped that the signing of a Cooperation Agreement on Health will open up new vistas of cooperation in medical and traditional medicine.

Dr. Tharoor also expressed the hope that signing of the International Cooperation Agreement between NUT (National Institute of Information and Technology) and SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje) will strengthen cooperation in Information, Communication and Technology sectors and help in the capacity building and talent development in Colombia for mutual benefit.

Dr. Bermudez invited the Indian Government to participate in the High Level Event (HLE) on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Capacity Development to be held Bogota during March 24th to 26th 2010. He underlined that as India and Colombia are committed to south - south cooperation, the forum would provide an excellent opportunity to share experiences and ideas.

Dr. Tharoor also stressed the need for an early finalization of the Cultural Exchange Programme 2010-12. He expressed happiness over the launch of Festivals and other cultural events of India in Colombia and of Colombia in India as well as the publication of the book "Colombia and India in Perspective" during his visit.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the excellent state of bilateral economic and commercial relations and noted the growing interest of Indian business houses in investing in Colombia. In this regard they emphasized

the importance of taking steps to conclude a Bilateral Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation. They noted that the ongoing bilateral cooperation in energy sector is strong and that Indian companies have made significant investments in hydrocarbons.

They also stressed the need for intensifying scientific and technical collaboration especially in outer space, information technology, tele-communications, bio fuels and utilization of natural resources such as Bamboo. It was agreed that all these issues can be discussed in a Joint Commission Meeting which could be held at mutually convenient time.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction over close contacts between India and Colombia in multilateral fora, particularly in the United Nations; the World Trade Organization; and on Climate Change in the recently concluded Summit at Copenhagen. Both sides reaffirmed their determination to collaborate in all multilateral fora to maintain global peace and security, promote economic and social advancement and to tackle global threats and challenges.

The Ministers reiterated the need to implement the process of UN reforms to make it more representative, legitimate and effective. In this regard, any expansion and restructuring of the UN Security Council must reflect contemporary realities, increase transparency, democracy and include developing countries.

Both Ministers exchanged views on the continuing scourge of terrorism and the world drug problem in different parts of the world. The Government of India stands committed to assist the victims of this scourge through the Jaipur Foot project, and set in motion a dialogue between narcotics control and enforcement agencies of both countries. Both countries reiterated their common determination to promote early adoption of a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the excellent response to the ITEC programme of India under which the number of scholarships for Colombia has been increased from 25 to 35 in the financial year 2009-2010; as also the excellent collaboration of the Colombian institute, ICETEX, in strengthening academic contacts and exchanges with Indian institutions. Both Ministers

urged the academic communities in Colombia and India to enhance their efforts to increase awareness of each other.

Both Ministers expressed their condolence at the death and destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010. The Government of Colombia and the Government of India expressed solidarity and the willingness to provide aid for immediate and emergency relief purposes.

Bogotá, Colombia 19 January 2010

Shashi Tharoor
Minister of State for External Affairs
Affairs of the Republic of India

Jaime Bermudez Merizalde
Minister of Foreign
of the Republic
of Colombia



HAITI

597. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the "International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti" at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters.

New York, March 31, 2010.

Please see Document No.629.



598. Announcement by the Government of India of a relief assistance of US \$ one million to Haiti for the earth quack-affected people of Haiti.

New Delhi, January 14, 2010.

Government of India is deeply saddened at the death and destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010. Government has also decided to give US\$ 1 million in cash to Haiti for immediate and emergency relief purposes.

Communications with Haiti are currently difficult. However, it has been ascertained that all 140 personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) deployed with the United Nations are safe. So are all civil police officers deployed with the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

The Ministry of External Affairs is in contact with the Indian Embassy in Havana, which is concurrently accredited to Haiti, to ascertain the welfare of other Indian nationals who are presently in Haiti.

On January 15 the Prime Minister in his personal message to the Prime Minister of Haiti Jean-Maz Bellerive while condoling the loss of life in the earth quack announced a donation of U.S. \$ 5 million. The Prime Minister in his message said:

"It is with profound sadness that we have learnt of the vast devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti on 12 January, 2010.

India stands by the Government and people of Haiti in their hour of need. We would like to make an immediate cash donation of US \$ 5 million as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti.

I would also like to convey our condolences to the injured and family members of those who have died on account of the earthquake. We have no doubt that the people of Haiti have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster."



MEXICO**599. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Mexican Foreign Minister Ms. Patricia Espinosa.****New Delhi, August 16, 2010.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good morning to all of you. My colleague Mr. Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary (Latin America & Caribbean), and I would endeavour to give you a perspective on the visit of the Foreign Minister of Mexico Her Excellency Patricia Espinosa. She will be holding discussions with her counterpart, External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna. She had visited India earlier along with the President of Mexico, President Calderon in September 2007.

Let me briefly take you through the programme. She arrived yesterday. Today, she would be visiting TERI, will have a business meeting at FICCI and tomorrow, she has a business meeting at CII. Thereafter in the day today she would be meeting with our Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh. Tomorrow there will be delegation-level talks with the External Affairs Minister, and there would be some other engagements also.

She would be assisted by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Mexican Ambassador, the Special Representative for Climate Change and a number of other officials. The External Affairs minister would be assisted in the talks by Secretary (West) Mr. Vivek Katju, our Ambassador in Mexico, and a number of other officials including Mr. Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary (LAC).

As you are aware, we have historically enjoyed close, warm and cordial relations with Mexico which are issue-free. Both countries are multicultural and multiethnic. We are both vibrant democracies. We also share a unique cultural affinity. There has been a fascination for each other's music, dance, cultural traditions and so on. Traditionally Mexicans have shown a lot of interest in Indian art, dances, films, yoga, music and so on. Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev

Rabindranath Tagore, Mother Theresa, Prime Minister Nehru are very well-known and even household names in Mexico. For example, there are statues of Mahatma Gandhi in at least three major cities including Mexico City the capital of Mexico.

Diplomatic relations were established sixty years ago in 1950. In early years after the establishment of diplomatic relations, Mexico played an important role in assisting in India's Green Revolution. Particularly we remember a high-yield variety of wheat that was provided, which is called Sonora in India, which has been very successful. It is also the second largest economy in Latin America, and like India a more than a trillion dollar economy. Mexico is also very rich in hydrocarbon reserves. In fact their production of crude is now the sixth largest in the world.

During the significant visit of President Calderon, which I had referred to earlier, in September 2007 the two democracies recognizing their mutual strengths, mutual complementarities and a strong desire to further enhance our ties, elevated our relationship to the level of a 'Privileged Partnership'. That visit was followed up by the important visit of our Rashtrapatiji in April 2007. Hence in recent years a very solid foundation has been laid for building further on the relationship.

As I mentioned, the diplomatic relations were established in 1950. So, we have reached an important milestone and 2010 is being celebrated as the sixtieth anniversary year of establishment of diplomatic relations between Mexico and India. Both sides are organizing several cultural activities to commemorate this important year. You will be happy to know that an Indian Cultural Centre was established recently in Mexico City. Also, an India Chair named after Mexican Nobel laureate Octavio Paz is likely to be established in El Colegio de Mexico later this year. As I said, a series of cultural events are being organized which include film festivals.

Both democracies are also looking at stepping up parliamentary exchanges. We were happy just last week to host an important eight-member Mexican Parliamentary Delegation from 8th to 13th August

which was led by Senator Carlos Macias, who is the President of Foreign Relations Commission for the Asia Pacific.

Both sides have already put a very good framework in place for our deepening cooperation which includes an extradition treaty, a mutual legal assistance treaty, a bilateral investment protection and promotion agreement (BIPPA), a double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA).

Trade between the two sides ranges between two billion to three billion dollars and usually in favour of India. There is still a lot of potential and scope to enhance two way trade. To tap that potential, a 'High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation' was established in May 2007 to conduct comprehensive reviews and impart direction to deepening and enhancing our economic and trade relations. Already two meetings of the High Level Group have taken place, the latest being in April this year which was led by the Commerce Secretaries on both sides.

India is also an important investor in Mexico. Our accumulative investments are already more than 1.5 billion dollars in sectors like IT - in fact, practically all leading Indian IT companies have a significant presence in Mexico - pharmaceuticals, automobiles including tyre manufacturing, electronics, chemicals, packaging and so on. We also regularly hold Foreign Office consultations. Preparatory to the visit of the Foreign Minister, a round of Foreign Office consultations took place in July this year in Mexico which was led by Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju.

Mexico has also pledged support for India's candidature of the UN Security Council for the years 2011 and 2012. We attach considerable significance to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Mexico. During the visit it is expected that a whole range of bilateral, regional and international issues, matters of common interest would be discussed.

Thank you. We will be happy to take questions relating to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Mexico.

Question: You mentioned that President Pratibha Patil visited Mexico in 2008 and that there were talks between her and Calderon the President of Mexico. What has been the follow-up between 2008 and 2010 so far as the agreements and other things in the talks are concerned? Has there been any kind of constructive outcome?

Official Spokesperson: Thank you for that question. In fact, there has been very active follow-up of the two high level visits - that of President Calderon in September 2007 and then in quick succession that of Rashtrapatiiji in April 2008. I mentioned that for example, the High Level Group has been set up, because one of the focus areas is our economic, trade and investment cooperation. We have already had the second round of discussions. What is as significant is that despite the economic slow down in 2008-09, the level of trade has been maintained. We would like to enhance trade further because there is tremendous scope given the strengths that Mexico has, given the fact that Mexico is the second largest economy - more than a trillion dollar economy - in the Latin American countries. Sectors like hydrocarbons for example, sectors like mining hold great promise of cooperation. Mexico, is the sixth largest producer of crude and already Indian private sector companies are sourcing some quantities of crude, but there is potential to step that up. So, what is noteworthy is that despite the economic slowdown, we have managed to maintain the momentum and now you have the visit of the Foreign Minister. I would think that the Joint Commission meeting should also be taking place soon. We are trying to work out the dates. These are some of the things that are happening.

Question: Does Mexico support India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council? I believe there is a Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change later in Mexico. Are we participating in it?

Official Spokesperson: As far as the UN Security Council is concerned, I have mentioned that Mexico has pledged support for our candidature for 2011-2012. That is where the matter stands in terms of the support concerned. In respect of COP16, the Summit will take place in Cancun in November 2010. One of the items of agenda of the visit is Climate

Change. Foreign Minister of Mexico is also the Chairperson for COP16. The Foreign Ministry is leading the discussions with countries on COP16. I mentioned that she is going to meet with Minister Jairam Ramesh today. Certainly climate change is an issue which concerns us all. India, as you know, is one of the most vulnerable countries. We are playing an active and a constructive role in discussions on this very important matter including with Mexico.

Joint Secretary (LAC) (Shri Dammu Ravi): The Foreign Minister of Mexico is, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the COP16, having wide-ranging consultations with many countries. During her visit this time to India that is what she plans to do. She would like to have as much of discussion as possible on this important subject where both India and Mexico are very much interested.

Question: What is the status of agricultural cooperation between the two countries? Do we require the Mexican crude in India? If so, can you quantify it?

Official Spokesperson: What I know is that Reliance, Essar import quantities of crude. This is subject to reconfirmation, but we source heavy crude get from Mexico. I am not sure whether we actually bring it to India or trade / exchange it. Whether we bring it to India is something that I need to check.

Joint Secretary (LAC): In the month of September, our Agriculture Minister will be leading a delegation to Mexico. The Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana and a large number of officials are likely to accompany him. Mexicans are very keen to revive research in agriculture with India. Symet is one very important institute where our Minister will be visiting, and then there will be bilateral interactions during the visit. And they are going to reopen up the area of cooperation, research in agriculture ...

Question: What is their stand on permanent membership for India on UN Security Council?

Official Spokesperson: Mexico is a member of the group called the Coffee Club. All countries including Mexico agree on the need for UN reforms but different countries have different approaches to the matter. As a member of the Coffee Club they have certain outlook on the matter. But we are very appreciative of the fact that for our nonpermanent seat of 2011-2012 they have already pledged support.

Question: In this visit, is there any scope of talking to Mexico on our permanent membership of the UN Security Council?

Official Spokesperson: Most certainly. In my opening remarks I have noted that we have historically a close relationship, a cordial relationship, a friendly relationship with Mexico. During this visit we will be discussing UN reforms too. So, certainly we are talking. We exchange views, we discuss. We are fellow developing countries. While respecting each other's views, certainly there is a lot of scope for discussion.

Question: This relates to the situation in Australia. As you are aware, a relative of former External Affairs Minister Mr. Natwar Singh has been involved in a scam that relates to currency notes. Has the Australian Government got in touch? If any action has to be taken, the information would have to be passed through the Indian High Commission or the MEA. So, has any information come from Canberra? If it has come, what is the MEA doing about it? Has it passed on the information to the relevant authorities?

Official Spokesperson: Thank you Srinjoy, we will ascertain facts and revert.

Question: Mexico is one of the countries among the many other countries which have raised a lot of objections over the new visa policy of India which earmarks foreign nationals of Pakistani origin and then their visa applications take a lot of time. How does the Indian Government look at this? Is the Indian Government looking at resolving this issue with various countries?

Official Spokesperson: Would you elaborate your question? I am not clear about the question.

Question: Post-Headley, most of the countries have raised objections over the fact that under the new visa policy, visa applications of foreign nationals of Pakistani origin take a lot of time in processing because the High Commission passes them on to the Home Ministry and then they go back. The whole process takes a lot of time whether it is Mexico, the US, or the UK. In fact articles that appeared in The Guardian in the UK had even gone on to say that this is racist in nature. How does the Indian Government react to this?

Official Spokesperson: Since we are talking of the visit of the Foreign Minister of Mexico and you have already said that your question is related to the visit of Foreign Minister of Mexico. To the best of my knowledge - and the Joint Secretary who directly handles Mexico also tells me - we are not aware of any such objection by Mexico.

Thank you very much.



600. Extract Relevant to Mexico from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

Seoul, November 11, 2010.

* * * *

Let me next turn to the meeting of our Prime Minister with the President of Mexico His Excellency Felipe Calderon. The two leaders have been meeting regularly on the sidelines of international fora. The leaders warmly recalled the very successful visit of President Calderon to India in September 2007 when, recognizing each other's strengths and complementarities the two countries had decided to elevate our relationship to the level of a privileged partnership.

We have historically enjoyed warm and friendly relations with Mexico. It is a trillion dollar economy and the second largest after Brazil in Latin America. Our diplomatic relations go back to 1950, and we are currently celebrating the 60th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations.

The President of India had paid a significant visit to Mexico in April 2008. And recently in August, amongst other high-level and important visits, we had welcomed the Foreign Minister of Mexico Ms. Patricia Espinosa on her first official visit to India.

We have bilateral trade which ranges between two to three billion dollars, which is certainly below the potential, and a trade target of five billion dollars has been established which we hope to achieve soon. India is also an important investor in Mexico with our investments exceeding 1.5 billion dollars.

India and Mexico have a strong cultural affinity. Mexicans have traditionally shown a lot of interest in Indian art, dances, films, yoga, music and so on. Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore, Mother Theresa are widely admired in the country. We have decided to have several cultural activities to commemorate and celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations.

You are aware that Mexico is also hosting the COP 16 Summit on climate change in Cancun between 29th November and 10th of December. Prime Minister and President exchanged notes on the discussions on climate change and the preparations for the forthcoming summit. Prime Minister was of the opinion that initiatives which have a fair chance of garnering consensus should be identified so that the outcome from the Summit is pragmatic, forward-looking and result oriented. They felt that efforts and preparations were moving in the right direction, and that particularly the concerns of the developing countries should be kept in mind, and that the outcome, the decisions, the discussion should conform to UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Both with President Calderon and with Prime Minister Cameron - I will come to the other aspects of discussion with Prime Minister Cameron momentarily - Prime Minister had discussions on the G20 process. Both leaders sought our Prime Minister's views as an eminent economist, his assessment on G20. It was felt by all concerned that greater attention should be paid to global imbalances and to achieving economic stability.

They expressed happiness at initial steps to reform the IMF and the quota sharing arrangements. They also, exchanged views on the G20 post the economic crisis phase noting that the response immediately post crisis was magnificent and now the real challenge was take steps to consolidate the efforts that had been initiated. They also agreed that there was no universally agreed diagnosis as to what ails the world economy.

President Calderon invited the Prime Minister of India to visit Mexico and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

*

*

*

*



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - X

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

601. Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the 2010 Substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

New York, March 30, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed a pleasure to convey our congratulations on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission and we assure you the full cooperation of the Indian delegation. We would like to convey our appreciation to the Chairs of the two Working Groups, Mr. Paolo Cuculi of Italy and Mr. Johan Paschalis of South Africa for their diligent efforts.

2. India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement by the distinguished delegation of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Disarmament Commission has a unique role as the universal deliberative forum for in-depth consideration of specific disarmament issues. When member-states showed the requisite political will, the UNDC was able to make consensus recommendations on issues ranging from confidence building measures to establishment of nuclear weapon free-zones. India believes that the Disarmament Commission now has an opportunity and in fact a responsibility to once again draw up guidelines and make recommendations of a universal character reflecting a forward looking vision for a more secure world. The UNDC is the universal institutional forum to achieve our objectives on the basis of dialogue and consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We are meeting today against the background of considerable excitement and high expectations regarding a new momentum for global nuclear disarmament. At least in terms of aspirations and proposals, nuclear disarmament has moved up on the international agenda. A number of statements have been made by leaders; various commissions

and initiatives have presented reports, and, scholars, academics and NGOs have lent their support to nuclear disarmament. The Disarmament Commission should play its rightful role and help progress our shared objective of attaining a world free of nuclear weapons. The Commission can do so by acting as a platform for deliberation resulting in consensus on specific steps that can be taken up to realize the vision of a nuclear weapons free world.

5. India continues to attach the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament. India has consistently maintained that nuclear weapons can be eliminated through a non-discriminatory and universal convention along the lines of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. Our support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention providing for elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe was reiterated by India's Prime Minister at the 63rd UNGA. This is in keeping with the goal enshrined in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988. We welcome the progress achieved in the bilateral negotiations between the United States and Russia on further cuts in their nuclear arsenals. States with substantial arsenals should take meaningful steps towards nuclear disarmament.

6. Nuclear Disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. Pending global and non-discriminatory elimination of nuclear weapons, it is important to take measures to reduce nuclear dangers. Efforts for expansion of nuclear energy and reduction of proliferation risks must go hand in hand.

7. The possibility of terrorist and extremist groups gaining access to nuclear materials is real and could have catastrophic consequences. We are indeed happy that a resolution sponsored by India on this issue in the UNGA continues to garner wide support. We have in that resolution sought to highlight these dangers and to stress the need for national and international cooperative measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. India has also welcomed the initiative of President Obama to host the Nuclear Security Summit next month to address this global challenge.

8. India is committed to a voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We affirm our policy of no first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. As a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the international community, India is prepared to negotiate a multilateral and internationally verifiable FMCT in the CD. The obstacles placed in launching these negotiations in the CD cannot but be a cause for disappointment.

9. The CD must also address the priority task of nuclear disarmament. India has proposed a number of measures that can help in moving toward a nuclear-weapons free world. These measures are the following:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
- Taking into account the global reach and menace of nuclear weapons, adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear-weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons;
- Negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States;
- Negotiation of a Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified timeframe.

Mr. Chairman,

10. While it is important that we maintain the momentum in Working Group I on Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation, we should redouble our efforts to reach consensus this year with regard to Working Group II on Elements for Declaration of 2010 as the Fourth

Disarmament Decade.

11. We should aim for 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 strengthening international framework for addressing conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons and prevention of their being used by terrorists. The UNDC, as is its tradition, should focus on these issues of security taking into account global interdependence of peoples and nations.

12. We also need a new idiom for conducting the international discourse, which is now no longer confined to states, but must take into account the wider constituencies -peoples voices from the ground expressed in various ways -NGO's, peace activists, scholars and academics. In sum, the elements we draw up must help build a durable foundation for strengthening security in the 21st century.

13. Mr. Chairman, this forum can play its part in revitalizing multilateral institutions and dialogue to build confidence and strengthen international security through multilaterally negotiated legally binding instruments that can provide assurances of verifiability, irreversibility, compliance and universality.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain committed to ensuring a successful session of the UNDC in the coming weeks and look forward to working towards that end.



602. Press Release issued by the Permanent Mission of India at the UN on the election of Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

New York, April 27, 2010.

Ambassador Chandrasekhar Dasgupta of India was elected by ECOSOC today to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Out of the 52 valid votes cast, he obtained the highest number of votes in the Asian Group. Ambassador Dasgupta and candidate from Republic of Korea got elected with 41 and 38 votes respectively.

In addition, India got elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CNGO), Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) by acclamation.



603. Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Brasilia on the visit of Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur to Rio de Janeiro for the Third Global Forum of Alliance of Civilisations.

Brasilia, May 29, 2010.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the Third Global Forum of Alliance of Civilisations (AoC) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from May 27-29, 2010.

2. The AoC, an initiative launched under the UN, aims at bridging the differences and overcoming the mistrust and misconceptions among communities and nations. The Rio Forum, attended by 120 countries, saw the participation of a number of Heads of Governments, Foreign Ministers, senior officials and also representatives of civil society and NGOs.

3. In her address, Smt. Preneet Kaur spoke about India's rich and diverse civilisational and cultural heritage. Quoting from Mahatma Gandhi and Guru Nanak, she reiterated India's ethos of openness, acceptance of diversity and religious harmony. These principles are enshrined in the Indian Constitution itself. She emphasised that the AoC should focus on common areas that unites its membership and not get bogged down in divisive issues. Its message and work are particularly important today in the international efforts at combating extremism and terrorism.

4. The Minister also had bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Serbia and Estonia.



604. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the High Level Segment of the 2010 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations.

New York, July 2, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by expressing my delegation's deep appreciation for your leadership and the work of your team in navigating the ECOSOC process this year towards a meaningful destination.

Mr. President,

Concerted action on the part of the world's largest economies in the G-20 was able to avert a major economic melt-down following the financial crisis of 2008. But the shoots of recovery that we are seeing can easily be upset by shocks and fluctuations as the Euro-zone crisis has shown.

In such circumstances, it is important that we ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable.

This is also critical for achieving the MDGs for which we have just five years more. Firm and time bound commitments, including on the provision

of resources, transfer of technology and capacity building, are the need of the hour on MDGs.

India has a strong interest in the world economy doing well as this is key enabler for us to pursue growth and bring the fruits of development to all sections of our society.

We also need to focus on medium and long-term structural issues of global governance. The reforms at the Bretton Woods Institutions need to be urgently completed. And, at the UN the Security Council must reflect contemporary realities and expand in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Mr. President,

The Annual Ministerial Review this year focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is timely as our MDG aspirations will remain unfulfilled if significant progress is not made on empowerment and equality of women and on their health and education.

India's National Policy for the Empowerment of Women seeks enhancing economic and political empowerment and providing equal access to health care, education and employment for women.

Nearly half of the 46 million rural household beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, one of the world's largest cash for work programmes, are women. Similarly there are over 2 million women's Self Help Groups under the Swarnjayanti Gram Rozgar Yojna, a huge rural employment programme.

In education, we have recently launched Saakshar Bharat, a national programme for female literacy, to impart functional literacy to around 60 million adult women. Moreover, our newly enacted Right to Education Act, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Girls will be its obvious focus.

Our figures on maternal and infant mortality continue to be unacceptably high. Our efforts in reducing maternal and infant mortality through various schemes including the Janani Suraksha Yojna, a cash assistance programme, are beginning to yield results.

We are particularly concerned at the low child sex ratio in our country, the disparity between female and male literacy rates, the exceptionally high maternal mortality rates, the far lower women's work participation rate as compared to men and issues of violence against women.

There is perceptible improvement in the social-economic status of women in India today as a result of our sustained efforts. We are, however, mindful of the enormous challenges we have still to overcome.

Mr. President,

We are justifiably proud that today in India women are participating in greater numbers in the political process and in our decision making structures. Visibly, they occupy some of the highest political positions in the country including as our President, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the House of Representatives in our Parliament and the Leader of the ruling coalition.

However, less visible but equally important, we have more than a million elected women representatives in local government. This is a fruit of our policy to institutionalize women's participation at local government level by reserving one third of seats in the village panchayats more than 17 years ago. And, recently we have tabled a bill to raise these seats to 50%. Legislative action is also on the anvil to institutionalise women's participation in Parliament and State legislatures.

Mr. President,

The last ten years have seen a continuous chorus of calls for reforms at the UN.

I am very happy that one of the most important such efforts, the setting up of an entity to provide leadership and to mainstream women's issues in a coherent and focused manner at the UN, has finally borne fruit.

This is a transformational moment for the UN and I am glad that the Indian delegation played an active role in resolving key contentious issues and ensuring forward movement.

As I noted earlier in my address, achievement of MDGs hinges crucially on women being specially targeted so that they become equal beneficiaries of the gains of development. It is imperative that UN WOMEN operationalizes itself on an urgent basis and receives our full backing. There is far too much work to do.

Thank You.



605. Press Release issued by the Permanent Mission of India at the UN on the Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur to New York.

New York, July 2, 2010.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, was one of the first Ministers to address the United Nations General Assembly at New York on 2 July, 2010, on the occasion of the creation of UN WOMEN (UN Composite Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women within UN). The establishment of this new composite Entity meets a longstanding demand and came after four years of intense and difficult political negotiations. The Minister noted that India has always been at the forefront of issues relating to gender equality, mainstreaming and empowerment. She recalled that Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first woman President of the UN General Assembly in 1953.

The Minister referred to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement that "No society can claim to be a part of the modern civilized world unless it treats its women on par with men." She also quoted Smt. Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson, who has said that "Complete gender equality, nothing less, must be our over-riding goal. There must be neither compromise nor complacency. The struggle is joined. It must be brought to full fruition."

The Minister was then accorded the singular honour of chairing the plenary session of the General Assembly which approved the establishment of the newly-created entity.



606. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs about gratuitous Remarks on J&K attributed to UN Secretary General in a section of the media.

New Delhi, August 3, 2010.

Ministry have seen media reports on certain remarks attributed to the UN Secretary General on the security situation in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and revival of composite dialogue with Pakistan. The Government had sought a clarification from the office of the UN Secretary General through our Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. The office of the UN Secretary General has clarified that no such question was raised at the press conference nor was any such comment made by the UN Secretary General.



607. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit.

New York, September 22, 2010.

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to be present at this august gathering and to speak on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an aspiration which so fittingly captures the global vision and promise for humanity in the 21st century.

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your stewardship, guidance and support to the expansive development agenda of the United Nations including the MDGs.

Mr. President,

In his message on the UN World Public Service Day five years ago, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said

"The Millennium Development Goals that we have set for ourselves cannot be met unless governments are pro-active. No government in any civilized

society can ignore the basic needs of people. The goal of the development process must be to include every last member of our society in that process".

As we take stock of the MDGs, we note that the world as a whole has made substantial gains but the progress is uneven and short of expectations.

This is particularly visible in the so called forgotten MDGs, MDGs that deal with women and children's health. We are, therefore, happy that the Secretary-General has set out a Global Strategy on women and children's health.

Natural disasters have also taken a toll on MDG achievements. The death and destruction in Haiti and Pakistan have been on an unprecedented scale.

As a fellow developing country that has itself taken a huge toll from such disasters, we responded duty-bound in solidarity to assist the Governments and people in the affected countries to the best of our ability and in keeping with their priorities.

Mr. President,

A growing concern is the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and regions in our country. Rain-fed agriculture accounts for sixty percent of crop area in India. Climate change has aggravated the situation in traditionally drought and flood prone regions in the country. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was designed to provide relief to affected farming communities in the country.

We in India are alive to the challenges of climate, and remain committed to mounting appropriate national and regional responses. Our national action plan on Climate Change will increase the share of clean and renewable energy in our energy mix, increase energy efficiency across the economy and expand our forest cover.

Mr. President,

With just five years to go for the MDG target year and our record of mixed success, it is imperative that we significantly step up our individual and collective commitments and efforts for the realization of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

Our collective efforts have certainly borne fruit on the goal of poverty eradication at the global level.

But, more than 60 million people slipped back into poverty in 2009 following the economic and financial crisis of 2008. This has certainly had a regressive impact on the MDGs.

It is, therefore, important that we ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable. This is also critical for achieving the MDGs and for us to be able to effectively address the challenges of food and energy security, climate change and natural disasters.

In so far as India is concerned, our economy has shown resilience and is expected to grow by 8.5% in 2010-11, and over 9% in 2011-12. The UN Secretary General's report on MDGs notes that India's efforts on poverty reduction have been a major contributor for reduction in global poverty levels and some 188 million people in India would be out of poverty by 2015.

We need to, however, be cognizant that the largest concentration of poor in the world continues to remain in India and South Asia. The long distance we still have to travel to put poverty behind us in India should not be underestimated.

Our efforts, therefore, are to push for growth while at the same time ensuring that the fruits of growth reach out across our society, i.e. inclusive growth. This, indeed, is the main objective of India's 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.

By law, all Indian children in the age group of 6 to 14 years must now 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.

To ensure that children remain in school and that this also benefits them nutritionally, we also run the largest school-lunch programme in the world.

This is being supplemented by Saakshar Bharat a special programme focused on female literacy launched in 2009. Enormous strides have been made in the empowerment of women.

India has embarked on perhaps the most ambitious affirmative action 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.

Mr. President,

India faces enormous challenges in the areas of women's and children's health. The Government of India has adopted a multi pronged strategy under the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 to provide health care in the rural areas which is accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable. This Mission is fully focused on improving our standing on maternal and child health indicators. Under the umbrella of this Mission, recently, in order to accelerate progress, new initiatives have been identified, namely, Name Based Tracking of Pregnant Women, Maternal Death Review, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health, Differential Planning, and Annual Health Survey. Our JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA, a dedicated safe motherhood programme, has so far benefited 28 million women.

As a result of on-going efforts, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India has come down from 301 over 2001-2003 to 254 over 2004-2006, a decline of 47 points over a period of three years. Though, we are still some distance away from the target of 109 by 2015, going by the rate of decline in the past and comprehensive efforts being made across the country, it appears that India is on the right track with regard to MDG-5. We are also trying to take similar strides on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

India has made notable progress on combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. The HIV epidemic has reached a plateau in India and we now have a prevalence rate down to 0.34 %.

Mr. President,

India has made valuable use of technology to bring benefits of development to our people. The tele-density in India has increased from 0.67% in 1991 to 37 % in 2009. Our innovative and low cost technology solutions in the field of IT and telecommunication have brought development benefits, not just in India, but also to people in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

In August 2010, we launched the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network project. The network project will link all the 53 countries in Africa with centres of excellence in India for telemedicine and tele-education services. More than 1700 students from African countries have already registered with different Indian universities for various courses and regular tele-medical consultations have also started between African doctors and Indian specialists.

Mr. President,

The lack of progress on building a robust global partnership needs to be urgently addressed. Unmet financial commitments by developed country partners have widened the financing for development gap. We call upon them to fulfill the long made 0.7% of GNI commitment. Equally urgent is the need to transfer technology and undertake capacity building in developing countries.

The quantum leap in South-South Cooperation has significantly complemented global resources targeted at development agenda, but it cannot be a substitute for the North-South cooperation.

We are happy that today India's development partnership with countries in the South goes beyond technical cooperation. Our annual outlay on concessional lending and grants is over US\$ 1 billion, covering countries in our region, in Africa and beyond. In addition, US\$ 5 billion has been extended as lines of credit since 2003.

We are committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation, both on the development side as well as in support of humanitarian needs.

Mr. President,

India is seized of the MDG challenges that lie ahead of us. Our commitment remains resolute.

Our national goal of inclusive growth and the larger idea of a more humane and just global society that underlines the Millennium Declaration would continue to inspire us to work untiringly to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

In the final march towards the attainment of the MDG, let us be inspired by the belief of Mahatma Gandhi in the limitless potential of human achievement, he said:

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."

This should be the driving force for nations across the world and to this we dedicate ourselves.

Thank you.



608. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the G-4 Ministerial Meeting.

New York, September 24, 2010.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me begin by congratulating His Excellency Mr Seiji Maehara on his appointment as the Foreign Minister of Japan. You bring, Mr. Minister, a wealth of experience to this important and challenging job. I am sure that we will gain from your wise counsel. I would like to thank you and the Japanese Delegation for arranging this meeting.

Excellencies, we are meeting as G4 Foreign Ministers after a period of more than five years. It is a great pleasure for me to attend this meeting. During this interregnum, India, Brazil, Japan and Germany have played

a pivotal role, both individually and collectively in progressing the process of UN Security Council reform forward. This meeting will send a very strong political message.

Our meeting assumes added significance as it is being held following the renewed momentum imparted to the reform process by the start of the text-based negotiations from July this year. Our Missions in New York have played a commendable role in mobilizing the support of over 140 countries for this demand. However, we need to build the consensus further to be in a position to force, if required, the changes we seek in the Security Council. In this, the ongoing intergovernmental negotiation process remains useful and important to draw and involve a larger number of the Member States in the UNSC reform process.

I would like to stress that it is very important that we remain steadfast in our demand for expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. Any dilution in our principled position or in our unity would make us vulnerable to demands for concessions. I believe that we, as Ministers of the G4 countries need to commit ourselves personally to pushing the process forward and consolidating the gains so far.

Another matter of importance is that we need to work towards achieving early reform. I feel we should instruct our officials both at our capitals and at the Missions here at New York as well as in major world capitals to strengthen their efforts with a view to achieving reform preferably by the end of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, but not later than the 66th session. I am happy to note that these points are adequately reflected in the draft statement before us, to which I would like to invite your comments.

I feel that at this stage, our strategy should primarily aim at the following objectives:

- Build greater support in the inter-governmental negotiations for evolving a consensus document which advocates expansion of UNSC in both categories

Gain greater support for our position among the African, Latin American and Caribbean Countries

Urge USA to take lead in the reform process and work with Russia and China to address their insecurities regarding UNSC reform
Maintain our unity and further build our base by accommodating natural candidates from Africa in our group

All of these would need our united and collective efforts, perhaps more now than ever. I am eager to listen to your views and suggestions on these issues.



609. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

New York, September 24, 2010.

Excellencies,

India welcomes the Secretary General's initiative to convene this meeting. We believe that its main purpose is to send a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda. India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

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. Such negotiations, which we support, are without prejudice to India's principled position on other agenda items, in particular the priority issue of nuclear disarmament. We share the disappointment expressed here by a number of speakers that the CD has been prevented from undertaking its primary

task of negotiating multilateral treaties. We reaffirm our support for the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, recognized as such by the international community. We also support the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its Programme of work in early 2011.

Mr. Chairman,

India remains committed to the objective and vision of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Action Plan of 1988 for ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. It is a painful reality that this has remained a distant goal, not least due to the continued opposition to negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament. It may be recalled that the Final Document of the First Special session on Disarmament accorded nuclear disarmament the highest priority. We call for intensification of dialogue amongst UN member states for strengthening the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

While it is not possible for this short meeting to deliberate on all issues nor can it take decisions on the disarmament agenda, the Chair's summary that the UN Secretary General will make at its conclusion, will, we hope, add 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.



610. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at 65th session of UNGA.

New York, September 29, 2010.

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the General Assembly. My delegation assures you of its fullest cooperation and support in the fulfillment of the responsibilities before you.

Mr. President,

Sixty-five years ago, the United Nations was created to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to affirm faith in fundamental rights, to establish conditions under which respect for international law can be maintained and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. These noble aims enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations continue to remain as valid today as they were when the United Nations was founded.

The world has changed dramatically in the last six-and-a-half decades. Global integration at an economic, social, cultural and political level has made the world a smaller place. On the other hand, this has also created conditions whereby the problems and challenges of one country or region can very quickly become those of the larger community of nations.

The global threats and challenges of the 21st century are not necessarily those that were prevalent in the 20th century in the aftermath of World War II. Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, maritime piracy, pandemics and epidemics, organized crime and narcotics smuggling, recognize no borders or boundaries. Similarly, the fallout of intra-state conflicts, failed states, natural disasters, food shortages, financial or economic crises, transcends countries and regions.

The challenges of global governance in an increasingly inter-connected and multi-polar world are truly formidable as we near the end of the first

decade of the 21st century. The international community looks up to the United Nations to overcome the common challenges of humankind through the "harmonized actions of nations" as stated in the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

The United Nations, with its universal membership and equality of nations, enjoys a unique legitimacy that requires it to be at the centre of international governance. We must, therefore, not just reaffirm the central role of the UN in global governance but restore and reinforce it reflecting contemporary realities.

India remains fully committed to the principles and purposes of the United Nations and believes that the UN should be at the core of global governance and efforts to meet the challenges of collective peace, security and development. The UN, however, needs urgent reform to reflect contemporary realities and to effectively meet emerging global challenges. The changes in the global geo-strategic order since 1945 have barely been reflected in the most vital of the UN's organs, charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council spends most, if not all of its time, on issues pertaining to the developing world. Developing countries contribute almost all the troops that are part of the UN's peacekeeping presence worldwide. Yet, their voice on the Council's high table on decisions relating to international peace and security is barely audible. Despite the agenda of the Council being seized of conflicts in Africa, yet, there is no permanent member from Africa in the Security Council.

In the inter-governmental negotiations on the issue of Security Council reform, an overwhelming majority of the membership expressed clear support for expansion in both the permanent and the non-permanent categories of the Council along with an improvement of its working methods. It is imperative that we take these negotiations to an early and logical conclusion.

The General Assembly, as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN, must set the global political, economic and social agenda. It must reclaim its position on vital matters like the

appointment of the Secretary General and in the relationship between the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions. Along with the ECOSOC, the General Assembly should also set the paradigms of multilateral engagement for the global economy and for development and development cooperation.

Mr. President,

The significant advancement of the UN's reform agenda this year in an area that is clearly a priority of our times, gender equality and women's empowerment, is a matter of satisfaction to my delegation, particularly given the pro-active role played by India in the negotiations. I wish to reiterate our strong commitment for UN WOMEN and its strengthening.

The review of the Human Rights Council this year should contribute to the Council's role as an effective and credible mechanism.

UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding and flagship activities in the core area of maintaining international peace and security, require a new global compact based on greater inclusiveness and participation in the decision making process.

India has contributed over 100,000 peacekeepers in nearly every major UN peacekeeping operation. It stands committed to UN peacekeeping.

Another area in which the UN has a key role is humanitarian assistance. It is important that international humanitarian actions fully subscribe to the humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality.

The capacities of the UN to manage development operations need to be augmented and the funding for these needs-based activities, especially "core" untied funding, requires manifold increase. It is also imperative that the UN and its Funds and Programmes not advance particular ideological objectives linked to preferences of donors but align themselves squarely behind national priorities of developing countries.

India, within its means, has consistently contributed to the developmental and humanitarian activities of the UN, including by way of South-South cooperation through NEPAD and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund with the UNDP.

Mr. President,

Mahatma Gandhi once described poverty as the worst form of violence. With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, there is an ever greater need to ensure that firm and time bound commitments, including on the provision of resources, transfer of technology and capacity building, are made, if extreme poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease are to be effectively curtailed.

My Government accords the highest priority to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. We, in India, understand that there can be no peace and progress unless poverty is eliminated and the fruits of development and progress shared among all countries and people. In this context, we believe that special attention needs to be focused on the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island developing States, the African countries and others who are vulnerable and need special support to make them institutionally strong and economically resilient to overcome their myriad challenges. We in India are also pursuing one of the most ambitious programmes of socio-economic intervention ever undertaken, designed to free our people from poverty, provide universal education, empower women and ensure health care to all.

Our development challenges, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, were exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis that started in 2008. Acting in concert, the G-20, which includes the largest developed and developing countries, reacted promptly and purposefully to stem the global slowdown and send a strong message of confidence and stability. India believes that the G-20, the premier forum for international economic cooperation, can help catalyze strong, balanced and sustainable growth for the benefit of all.

Mr. President,

As a country vulnerable to and already suffering from the impacts of climate change, India has an important stake in the success of ongoing international negotiations to address climate change.

A framework to guide our action has been painstakingly built around the UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, along with the roadmap

laid out in Bali three years ago. It is time for the international community to display political vision and perseverance - to follow through and ensure that whatever we do must enhance, and not diminish, the spirit and substance of these important international agreements. There is no substitute to the UN-led process with its inherent inclusiveness and transparency.

We hope that the Conference of Parties at Cancun will take us closer to this goal.

Our collective strategy must be sensitive to the aspirations of hundreds of millions of the world's poor for a better future - including those inhabiting the Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and the countries of Africa - and take account of our differential capacities.

Clearly, with their greater capacity to contribute, the developed countries must take lead in this process and fulfill their obligations - not only in terms of more ambitious commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in helping the developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts. A paradigm for 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.

In India, despite our huge developmental challenges, we are doing everything possible, within the limitation of our own resources, to contribute to the global action on climate change through an ambitious National Action Plan. We are willing to work with the international community in a forward-looking and positive spirit, acknowledging our responsibilities as citizens of the globe, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and above all, an equitable outcome to the on-going negotiations.

Mr. President,

India has an abiding commitment for achieving universal, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament within a specified timeframe, a vision that was most eloquently articulated here in the General Assembly by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988. More than two decades later the painful reality is that this goal still remains a distant one. In the meantime, newer threats have emerged, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

India tabled a working paper on nuclear disarmament in 2006 containing specific proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. We call for an intensification of discussion and dialogue amongst Member States and the larger non-governmental communities so as to strengthen the international consensus that can be translated into concrete action on achieving nuclear disarmament. I participated in the High Level Meeting on Disarmament called by the Secretary General on 24th September to lend India's support for the objectives of that meeting.

India remains committed to the negotiation in the CD of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT that meets India's national security interests. We hope that the Conference will be able to commence negotiations at an early date. We remain committed to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

Mr. President,

Terrorism has emerged as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. To defeat this scourge, it is imperative for the global community to build on international cooperation and take concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors. Acts of terrorism need to be condemned by all, wherever and whenever they are committed, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes. There can be no justification for terrorism just as there can be no good and bad terrorists. It is important for every Member State of the UN to note that it is no longer possible to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

India is a party to all major international conventions against terrorism and fully supports implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism strategy. However, there remain considerable gaps in the international legal framework against terrorism. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is designed to fill these gaps. We urge Member States to display the necessary political will to finalise and adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. President,

Peace and stability in South Asia is one of our highest priorities. We are committed to good neighbourly relations with all our neighbours,

including Pakistan. It is in this spirit of solidarity with the people of Pakistan in their hour of need, that we pledged US\$ 25 million aid which is being channeled through the UN for flood relief efforts in that country. As a neighbor we wished to provide succor and relief in a timely manner to the victims of this natural disaster. We are saddened by the loss of life and property that Pakistan has suffered as a result of these unprecedented floods.

It is well known that many countries have deep rooted concerns about the growth and consolidation of militancy and terrorism in Pakistan. We share these concerns, particularly because Jammu & Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, is the target of such Pakistan-sponsored militancy and terrorism. Pakistan must fulfill its solemn commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for terrorism directed against India. Credible and firm action by Pakistan against terrorist groups operating from its soil is in the interest of the region as it is in Pakistan's own interest. Pakistan cannot impart lessons to us on democracy and human rights. If, however, Pakistan were to live up to its commitment not to allow use of its soil by terrorists acting against India, this would significantly help reduce the trust deficit that impedes the development of better bilateral relations between our two countries. We are neighbours, and as neighbours, we have an obligation to work together.

The peoples of South Asia share a common destiny and my government has consistently stressed that we will work together with our South Asian brothers and sisters to build a future that brings prosperity and development through strengthened dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan has recently successfully concluded parliamentary elections. We believe the international community needs to be steadfast in its engagement with Afghanistan to ensure the success of its reconstruction efforts and its emergence as a democratic, pluralistic and prosperous society. The continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists beyond Afghanistan's borders is the major impediment to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan. This should be a primary focus of the international community.

Mr. President,

India was among the original signatories of the UN Charter in 1945. We have, at every step thereafter, done what we could to strengthen this great endeavor that represents the aspirations of all humanity.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, said in 1948, and I quote, "The fundamental principles on which the UN is based are the right principles. We believe in those fundamental principles and want to help the organization in following these principles."

The Government and more than one billion people of India have stood by this commitment.

Mr. President,

I would like to solemnly reaffirm our faith in the principles that underlie the United Nations and in the United Nations system.

Thank you



611. Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao Permanent Representative of India to The Conference on Disarmament Geneva at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly.

New York October 6, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I want to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee and by assuring you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your duties. This Committee has the vital task of strengthening consensus on the international disarmament agenda and our common resolve to achieve specific steps that enhance international peace and security. India aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches the highest priority to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. The vision for establishing a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order was most eloquently articulated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here in 1988. Twenty two years later, that vision remains as compelling as before but the goal remains a distant reality. In the meantime newer threats have emerged, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

In 2006, India tabled a working paper on Nuclear Disarmament containing specific proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. The Working Paper suggested a number of measures including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, measures to reduce nuclear danger, including de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-First-use' of nuclear-weapons, negotiation of a Convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, within a specified timeframe.

We believe that the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons is essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. There is need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. We support an intensification of dialogue to strengthen the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation. This dialogue should cover not just member states but the wider spectrum of non-governmental communities as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Without prejudice to the highest priority we attach to the goal of nuclear disarmament, India supports the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally

verifiable FMCT 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.

Addressing the High level meeting called by the UNSG on September 24th 2010, India's External Affairs Minister expressed disappointment that the CD, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, had been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. He expressed India's support for the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its programme of work in early 2011.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. India has a policy of a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused the 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 is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The CWC remains a unique treaty providing for elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction through a multilateral[^] negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument. It is important that all state parties uphold and fulfil their commitments under the treaty. We look forward to strengthening the implementation of the BWC at the 7th Review Conference to be held in Geneva in 2011.

India continues to support 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, a common heritage of mankind. While universal and non-discriminatory TCBMS are useful complementary measures, we support

the negotiation of legally binding instruments to strengthen space security and to prevent an arms race in Outer Space.

Mr. Chairman,

India is strongly committed to the CCW process as a keystone in the edifice of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law. We have ratified all the five CCW protocols. India has actively engaged in the negotiations on a draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions that strikes a balance between humanitarian and security considerations. We welcome the successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons held here in New York in June 2010. While we have participated actively in the preparatory meetings with regard to the ATT, we believe that the prospects for a viable and effective outcome would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a transparent and consensus based process.

Mr. Chairman,

As in the previous years, India would be tabling three resolutions in the First Committee on:

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction

Reducing Nuclear Danger Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

We will be making more detailed presentations on these resolutions during the time allocated for that purpose.

Thank you



612. India's Election to the United Nations Security Council**Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs
on India's election to United Nations Security Council.****New Delhi, October 12, 2010.**

The United Nations General Assembly today elected India as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two year term beginning 1 January 2011. India received 187 votes, the highest among the candidates for election to the Security Council as non-permanent members. The minimal threshold for election to the Security Council is 128 votes, which is two-thirds of the votes of the 192 Member States of the United Nations.

This will be India's seventh term on the Security Council as a non-permanent member. India has previously been a member of the Security Council in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, and 1991-92.

As a founding member of the United Nations, India is fully committed to the Organization's principles and purposes. During its forthcoming term in the UNSC, India will discharge its obligations as a responsible member of the international community and a representative of the developing countries by remaining fully and actively engaged on all issues before the Council. India looks forward to working with fellow members of the UNSC and other Member States of the UN to these ends.

**Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on India's
Election to UN Security Council.****New Delhi, October 12, 2010.**

Friends,

Good evening to all of you. I appreciate your presence here at this late hour in the evening.

I am happy to have this opportunity to inform you of India's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a period

of two years beginning January 1, 2011. In the elections held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York a short while ago, India received 187 votes, the highest among the countries standing for election to the Security Council as non-permanent members. This represents over 98% of the total membership of the UN and is well ahead of the required 128 votes. This resounding endorsement of India's candidature at the United Nations serves as a reaffirmation, if any were needed, of the overwhelming support that India enjoys in the international community. On behalf of the Government of India, I extend my sincere thanks to the overwhelming number of the UN Member States who have supported us.

India will take over the Asian seat in the Security Council vacated by Japan at the end of this year. It will re-enter the Security Council after an interregnum of nearly two decades.

There have been significant changes in the international scene since India last served on the Security Council. India has been integral to some of the important processes that induced these changes in the context of the financial and economic architecture, major shifts at the world trade and climate change negotiations as well as the recalibration of the global regime for civilian nuclear cooperation. The overwhelming support we have received is recognition of India's contribution to these and other developments and, in turn, reflects the expectations of the international community from India. This support is also reflected in the formal endorsement for the UNSC non-permanent seat we received from the Asian Group in February 2010.

Let me now turn briefly to our priorities during our term in the UN Security Council.

The UN Security Council is at the centre of global politics. It is the principal organ of the United Nations entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security. India's traditional wisdom and desire to contribute to international peace and amity will result in our being the voice of moderation and constructive engagement in the decisions of the Security Council.

We live in a troubled neighbourhood. Our immediate priorities in the Council 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 weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, and the strengthening UN peacekeeping.

It is of significance to note that, for the first time, the Security Council will witness the simultaneous presence of all BRIC [Brazil, Russia, India, China] and IBSA [India, Brazil, South Africa] countries, and three of the four G4 countries {India, Brazil and Germany}. The Council will also include a number of developing countries with which we have close ties as well as some of our global strategic partners.

India will also continue to work with like-minded countries and groups for bringing about much needed structural reform to the UN Security Council.

India offers a unique and unparalleled example of nation-building. We are willing to share our experience in nation-building with the world.

I have absolutely no doubt that we will utilize our tenure to provide a sense of satisfaction to all our partners and obtain their reaffirmation of the need for a permanent presence for India on the Security Council.

Membership of the UN Security Council, of course, entails higher responsibility. We will live up to that. India will also not only bring ability but add to the legitimacy of the Security Council and be pro-active on tackling the scourge of terrorism and strengthening the UN's peacekeeping and peace-building efforts. We will demonstrate to the international community that India on the Security Council is good for the world.

As a founding member of the United Nations, India is fully committed to the principles and purposes of the UN. As the world's largest democracy, a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, strong votary of the rights of developing countries, advocate for human rights and the rule of law, universal disarmament and respect for international law, voice of moderation and firm believer in the peaceful settlement of disputes, India has excellent credentials to serve on the UN Security Council. During its forthcoming term in the Security Council, India will discharge its obligations as a responsible member of the international community by remaining fully and actively engaged on all issues before the Council.

Thank you.



613. Press Conference by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on India's election to UN Security Council.

New Delhi, October 12, 2010.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you and welcome. It is wonderful to see you in numbers at this hour. I am sure you all are awaiting the news from New York or may have already heard it. It is indeed a very big day for Indian diplomacy.

We have a bonus in XP Division. We get an opportunity for the first time to welcome External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna to XP Division and to the Media Hall in Shastri Bhavan. Let me also welcome back Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao. We also are joined by two of our colleagues who I would like to introduce. To the right of Foreign Secretary is our Additional Secretary (IO) Mr. Dilip Sinha; and to my left is Mr. Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary (UNES).

The External Affairs Minister would be making an opening statement and thereafter would be happy to take a few questions. May I invite the External Affairs Minister to please address us?

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Friends, Good evening to all of you. I appreciate your presence here at this late hour in the evening.

I am happy to have this opportunity to inform you of India's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for a period of two years beginning January 1, 2011. In the elections held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York a short while ago, India received 187 votes, the highest among the countries standing for election to the Security Council as non-permanent members. This represents over 98% of the total membership of the UN and is well ahead of the required 128 votes. This resounding endorsement of India's candidature at the United Nations serves as a reaffirmation, if any were needed, of the overwhelming support that India enjoys in the international community. On behalf of the Government of India, I extend my sincere thanks to the overwhelming number of the UN Member States who have supported us.

India will take over the Asian seat in the Security Council vacated by Japan at the end of this year. It will re-enter the Security Council after an interregnum of nearly two decades.

There have been significant changes in the international scene since India last served on the Security Council. India has been integral to some of the important processes that induced these changes in the context of the financial and economic architecture, major shifts at the world trade and climate change negotiations as well as the recalibration of the global regime for civilian nuclear cooperation. The overwhelming support we have received is recognition of India's contribution to these and other developments and, in turn, reflects the expectations of the international community from India. This support is also reflected in the formal endorsement for the UNSC non-permanent seat we received from the Asian Group in February 2010.

Let me now turn briefly to our priorities during our term in the UN Security Council.

The UN Security Council is at the centre of global politics. It is the principal organ of the United Nations entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security. India's traditional wisdom and desire to contribute to international peace and amity will result in our being the voice of moderation and constructive engagement in the decisions of the Security Council.

We live in a troubled neighbourhood. Our immediate priorities in the Council 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 weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, and the strengthening UN peacekeeping.

It is of significance to note that, for the first time, the Security Council will witness the simultaneous presence of all BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) and IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) countries, and three of the four G4 countries {India, Brazil and Germany}. The Council will also include a number of developing countries with which we have close ties as well as some of our global strategic partners.

India will also continue to work with like-minded countries and groups for bringing about much needed structural reform to the UN Security Council.

India offers a unique and unparalleled example of nation-building. We are willing to share our experience in nation-building with the world.

I have absolutely no doubt that we will utilize our tenure to provide a sense of satisfaction to all our partners and obtain their reaffirmation of the need for a permanent presence for India on the Security Council.

Membership of the UN Security Council, of course, entails higher responsibility. We will live up to that. India will also not only bring ability but add to the legitimacy of the Security Council and be pro-active on tackling the scourge of terrorism and strengthening the UN's peacekeeping and peace-building efforts. We will demonstrate to the international community that India on the Security Council is good for the world.

As a founding member of the United Nations, India is fully committed to the principles and purposes of the UN. As the world's largest democracy, a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, strong votary of the rights of developing countries, advocate for human rights and the rule of law, universal disarmament and respect for international law, voice of moderation and firm believer in the peaceful settlement of disputes, India has excellent credentials to serve on the UN Security Council. During its forthcoming term in the Security Council, India will discharge its obligations as a responsible member of the international community by remaining fully and actively engaged on all issues before the Council.

Thank you.

Question: Sir, first congratulations! It is an important day for Indian diplomacy. A 187 suggests that a lot of the coffee club countries have also supported India's seat at the UN Security Council. Do you think that this is an indication that when the time comes the same coffee club countries would also be supportive of a permanent membership for India at the Security Council? And, in relation to this question, how did Pakistan vote today?

External Affairs Minister: Taking the last question first, it was a secret ballot. So, we do not know how countries have voted. But nonetheless we had made efforts with all friendly countries including Pakistan, to vote for us. And incidentally Pakistan happens to be in the Asian Group and we were representing the Asian Group.

To respond to the other question, I think efforts are on to bring about structural reforms of not only the Security Council but the United Nations itself. It has been going on for some time. And, for the first time, I think more than 140 countries subscribed to a text-based negotiations, I think this April and May. So, when I was in New York I had a meeting with a few countries who are sponsoring the reforms in the Security Council which would include Brazil, Japan, Germany, that is, the G4 countries.

It will take quite some time before we can get the support of the permanent members of the Security Council to the stand that we have taken, that is, to reorganize the structure of the Security Council itself. It is a painstaking effort and it needs hard bargaining, negotiations, engagement with the permanent members and India certainly will continue this effort, and we will be relentless in our efforts.

Question: Minister, the fact that India, Germany, Brazil and South Africa, four of the five aspirants for the permanent membership of UNSC would be on the Council - is this fact likely to influence the way the UNSC is going to function during this two-year term? And how confident are you of persuading the world to go for major UN reforms including expansion of the UN Security Council.

External Affairs Minister: The overwhelming response that they have been able to get is certainly an indication as a fact and also a vindication of the fact that the growing profile of India is coming to be understood by the rest of the world and we will certainly continue this effort. And India will work with other likeminded countries to bring about reforms in the Security Council structure.

Question: Sir, looking at the support which we have got in the election, a 187 countries as you say just announced, what do you think of the stiff opposition which we face so far as the seat in UNSC is concerned by China and the US? Do you think that this particular position which we get here, we will be able to persuade these two nations? Secondly, in India we have 71 nations here for the Commonwealth Games here. In the language of Commonwealth Games, do you think it is a gold, silver or bronze?

External Affairs Minister: It all depends upon how responsibly and objectively we function as a member of the Security Council. Much depends

upon India's performance. Much depends upon how we conduct ourselves with a degree of objectivity that we can bring into every issue that comes up before the Security Council. Perhaps on that we should be able to convey to the rest of the countries who are yet to repose the kind of confidence, the kind of trust that overwhelming number of countries have reposed.

On the second question, I think that is for you to judge.

Question: US President Barak Obama is going to be in India in a few weeks' time. Are we expecting an unambiguous declaration of American support for our candidacy for a permanent seat in the Security Council?

External Affairs Minister: A number of bilateral issues will certainly come up for discussion between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Obama. And then they will also discuss some of these aspects of the reformation in the United Nations structure, particularly about the Security Council. So, we are looking forward to President Obama's visit to India.

Question: Sir, is it your sense that old permanent members of the UNSC are equally rigid in opposing expansion of UNSC with some countries opposing more vehemently than the others?

External Affairs Minister: The vote has taken place just now. The counting is just over. So, we will have to await the report from our Permanent Mission in New York as to how the voting took place, what could be the pattern that we can, I think those assessments will be made both by me and our colleagues in the Foreign Office and also you.

Question: Sir, this time all throughout the UNGA session we saw Pakistan raise the issue of Kashmir on various platforms, in particular your Pakistani counterpart as well. Now as a country the objective remains a permanent seat on the high table. What would you describe the approach on the issue? Secondly, with China being an all-weather friend for Pakistan, reports coming out that the Pakistan would in all possible ways block try and block such aspirations. Does that worry us?

External Affairs Minister: With reference to Pakistan, we would like cordial relations with Pakistan. We have made every effort at every stage to be good neighbours with Pakistan, and we expect that there would be reciprocity from Pakistan. I have invited Foreign Minister Qureshi to visit

India when I was in Islamabad, and he has agreed to come to India at my invitation. We will look forward to his visit to India and, therefore, we will try to enlarge the areas of cooperation between India and Pakistan and perhaps reduce the areas of differences. Then, with reference to China, we have a cordial and a good working relationship with China, and we certainly will continue in that direction to strengthen that constructive relationship that we have with China.

Question: Sir, you mentioned in your opening address about our immediate priorities being peace and stability in the neighbourhood including Afghanistan. What are your plans regarding Afghanistan? Do we see a shift in policy, an increased military role?

External Affairs Minister: Our Afghanistan stand has been always consistent and very clear. Any solution to the Afghan problem will have to be Afghan led and it has to be Afghan initiated. India will continue to support the duly elected Government of Afghanistan headed by President Karzai. We would like to strengthen his hands and then we would like the rule of law to prevail in that country. And then we in our own way are constructively engaged in Afghanistan to improve the lot of the people of that nation.

Question: For long many years we have been aspiring for a permanent seat in the Security Council. Do you think that this step will strengthen your case for a permanent seat or you wanted it as an assessment of the stature of India?

External Affairs Minister: I think this is a step forward in that direction. And as I said earlier, it all depends upon how responsibly we conduct ourselves, how objectively we take our stand on issues that come up for consideration before the Security Council.

Question: Sir, do you think India will be able to play its required role in the United Nations without a veto power?

External Affairs Minister: Veto power is very rarely used, isn't it, as we have known. It is a very big question mark whether one needs the veto power in order to be effective as a member of the Security Council.

Question: Sir, do you think this seat on the UNSC helps us leverage on the world stage to present our views vis-à-vis Afghanistan and also the

terrorism we face from Pakistan? I would like you to give us a sense of how much you think it gives us a greater voice or a greater leverage on the world stage so that we can express our own perspective on what we feel is happening in Afghanistan and secondly from the terrorism coming from Pakistan.

External Affairs Minister: All these issues will certainly be taken up as and when situations arise, and when certain eventualities or such a situation arises, then India will take the right stand.

Question: Sir, there are reports that after the Cabinet meeting today you, Mr. Moily, and Mr. Kharge stayed on for a while. Apart from Karnataka, which surely must have been discussed, if you could tell us that of course, were there any final directions from the Prime Minister on this UNSC issue?

External Affairs Minister: I was not a part of that particular 'coffee club.' I was again called by the Prime Minister, so I went inside. I do not know what happened between Mr. Moily and Mr. Kharge.

Question: Sir, 187 members have voted for India. My sources tell me that you either personally spoke or at some point of time met at least 150 of them and flashed through. Is there any express intent by any of the permanent members, have they expressed support in any manner to support India for a permanent seat?

External Affairs Minister: I think in the last one and a half years we have had discussions with a number of Foreign Ministers. Not only I have had discussions with Foreign Ministers visiting, or when we met in a multilateral forum like the United Nations, or SAARC, or ASEAN, or various other forums, but our Embassies are in constant touch with the foreign countries. Also, our Foreign Office here is in constant touch with the Embassies of various countries. So, the credit for this magic number of 187 should be shared by the Foreign Office, all those who are involved in it, and by our Embassies, and then of course the Permanent Mission in New York. I think they have done extremely well. Let us say three cheers to them.

Question: Sir, you used the term bargaining when you talked of some of the things that might be done in the future in terms of getting us a permanent seat. What exactly would we be bargaining with?

External Affairs Minister: But we do engage ourselves with various Foreign Ministers and we try to convince them of the desirability of having India as a permanent member of the Security Council, and we will continue that effort relentlessly. We are in good company of Brazil, Japan and Germany. So, as G4 we will continue to put in our efforts to drive home the point that the United Nations will have to reflect the contemporary realities of today's world. The present UN structure was conceived in 1945. We are in the first decade of the 21st century. So, the whole world has changed. It is a new global system that has emerged. New countries in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America have emerged. So, the United Nations will have to reflect these contemporary developments and we hope that we will be able to convince the powers that are.

A question was earlier asked as to amongst the permanent members how many supported. I think at this point of time UK and France have supported our candidature for a permanent seat.

Question: Sir, in your opening statement you said that India will be proactive. Also you said that on certain issues you will be aggressive. I wanted to know how you would elaborate this pro-activeness in reference with- you said that India will be more aggressive than usual in its foreign policy,- because normally on an international stage we have normally nonalignment. Will we continue to stick to this nonalignment for broader policies?

External Affairs Minister: We are in the forefront of the nonaligned movement. We were in Sharm al-Sheikh participating in the nonaligned meet. Nonalignment is the policy of the Government of India. It is one of the basic pillars of India's foreign policy and we certainly will continue with that.

Question: We all know you follow lawn tennis as a sport. Do you describe this victory as a victory into the semifinals before the finals?

External Affairs Minister: I would just say it is something like what Somdev Devvarman did in the Commonwealth Games.

Question: You started your opening remarks by saying that India's priority is peace, stability in the extended region, tackling terrorism and the issue of Pakistan. Would India ever consider pushing for UN Security Council resolution on terror against Pakistan?

External Affairs Minister: I think the question itself is very speculative in nature. I have said that India will conduct itself very responsibly because the responsibilities that have been showered on us are very difficult, onerous, and we will have to weigh every step that we take. So, I would not like to answer hypothetical questions. Depending upon how a particular issue, whether it is terrorism or something else, comes up before the Security Council, this much I can say that India will be very objective in its assessment and then its stand.

Question: Mr. Minister, with Kashmir issue being raised by Pakistan and the UN Secretary-General describing the situation as grave, do you think that despite your presence in the Security Council, Kashmir would be brought back to the centre stage in the coming days?

External Affairs Minister: Very recently the Kashmir question did come up in the United Nations. Pakistan had its say. India had its stand elaborated. So, there is no hard feeling. I think we stated the positions that the respective countries have taken and we will continue to do the same.

Question: Sir, you said India is good for the world in the United Nations Security Council. You expressed so much of faith to be in the UN Security Council. But many countries like the Arab world have lost faith in the Security Council when it comes to the Palestinian issues. As you said you will be more proactive in that. France has indicated that they may bring back the Palestinian issues to the United Nations Security Council. Do you see India playing a proactive role in this issue?

External Affairs Minister: Even on the Palestinian issue India has taken the stand in support of Palestine and we will continue with that stand. Whether we are in the Security Council or outside, our stand continues, and it is consistent with our stated policies.

Question: Question on Iran. Iran is likely to come up in the UN Security Council yet again even though we had a Resolution that was passed earlier this year. We have traditionally not supported sanctions against Iran. Yet all sanctions against Iran have been unanimous from the UN Security Council. How would you characterize India's position on Iran issue?

External Affairs Minister: On sanctions India's position is fairly well known. On Iran we have had occasions to exercise our vote on one or other occasion. So, India will certainly take a constructive view. We believe that all questions between nations will have to be resolved by mutual discussions. And India will continue to work in that direction.

Question: Previously India, not being a member of the Security Council, was not taking bold positions on such issues outside the region including Kosovo. Now can we expect that we can hear Indian position on whether Kosovo should become a separate state? And can we expect some position the breakaway Republics like Abkhazia, South Ossetia also?

External Affairs Minister: On all these questions, depending upon how they will come up before the Security Council, India will take a stand which is consistent and in keeping with the stand that we as a nation have taken.

A question was asked about Russia when I mentioned about the United Kingdom and France. Russia has expressed support for India's candidature in principle but feels that reform should be undertaken only after a broad consensus, which would mean when more than two-thirds support, has been achieved for the reforms. So, within those parameters Russia has expressed its support.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. Have a good night.



614. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur at the United Nations General Assembly.

New York, October 21, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by reaffirming India's conviction in your leadership of the 65th UN General Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to warmly thank Member States for electing India as a member of the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77.

India welcomes the theme you have chosen for the current General Assembly-"Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance".

A stronger United Nations, reflective of contemporary realities is, indeed, the need of the hour.

This would ensure that the imperatives of maintaining international peace and security are addressed and there is an integrated and coordinated follow up of the UN development agenda.

The United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s have generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development.

This common understating was emphatically reiterated at the high level events on MDGs, Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and biodiversity held in September 2010 in New York.

The MDG Declaration clearly articulated that allocation of resources, developing appropriate national and international policies and integrated follow up and implementation are an absolute imperative for the realization of our cherished millennium goals by 2015.

Interlinkages and overlaps between the various UN development summits and conferences are strong.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation would derive immense benefits and strength from a comprehensive, ambitious and equitable outcome of the Climate Change negotiations.

Similarly, the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity underway in Nagoya, Japan must fully address the various social and economic development challenges along with its core environmental concerns so as to maximize from the global action to protect biodiversity loss.

Mr. President,

Multiple UN conferences and summits focused on attainment of Internationally Agreed Development Goals must have a seamless, holistic and integrated working relationship with each other.

We must work for developing work models that ensure synergetic resource flows, coordinated assessment and planning and a holistic approach to our global development programmes.

In this context, India sees the creation of UN Women as an important step toward an integrated approach to development within the UN.

The strengthened interaction and institutional linkages between the ECOSOC and the Peace Building Commission are also equally encouraging.

Our successful follow up efforts on pivotal Conferences having significant bearing on global development goals such as the Monterrey Consensus and the June 2009 UN Conference on Global Financial and Economic crisis deserve special mention. We must sustain these efforts.

It is, however, important to remember that no one size fits all and it is imperative that national priorities of countries always have primacy in the pursuance of the development agenda by UN bodies.

Mr. President,

India fully realizes the importance of a strong global partnership supported by international and national development strategies on trade, debt, investment, technology transfer, food security, energy access,

climate change and host of other issues to create an environment conducive to development.

India will push for an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable outcome at the Climate Change negotiations; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We also look forward to a development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round.

To ensure that international policies are pro-development, concerns of developing countries in the formulation and implementation of these policies must be effectively taken on board.

Unfortunately, current institutional structures do not permit this, even though developing countries are the most affected ones.

The economic crisis highlighted the grave imbalance in the structures of global governance, including on the economic side. India, along with fellow developing countries, has been in the forefront to demand a greater voice in the Bretton Woods Institutions.

In order to make this process as inclusive as possible, the United Nations, with its unique position has a key role. But, as I mentioned earlier, it needs urgent reform.

And, no-where is this more needed in the UN than in the Security Council, which must be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories as is the desire of an overwhelming majority of UN Member-States.

I am glad that the 64th UN General Assembly decided that the text based negotiations must be immediately taken up in the 65th session. It is important that these negotiations are progressed on an urgent basis.

The United Nations system also cannot be strengthened without revitalizing the General Assembly. Here too I am glad that in the resolution on this subject adopted in the 64th session, for the first time in several years, there was some progress.

Mr. President,

The Economic and Social Council has a crucial role in fostering a comprehensive development agenda of the United Nations through an integrated and coordinated implementation of its commitments.

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 is satisfying that the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council have become important events to review efforts to achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including MDGs.

The July 2010 ECOSOC session focused on promoting greater coherence between policy and development goals, and making development partnership more participatory and transparent.

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.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to your proposals to strengthen the centrality of the UN system in global governance and its development role. You can count on our express support in this regard.

I thank you.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2010

SECTION - XI

INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

615. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, During the Informal Plenary: Exchange 2 of the Fourth Round of Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council Reform and Related Matters at the 64th UNGA .

New York, January 19, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Permit me to also compliment your efforts at guiding the process of intergovernmental negotiations.

The courage, leadership and commitment that you have displayed have played an invaluable role. We count on your continued guidance in making genuine progress at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

As we meet here today, in this first meeting in a new decade, there is a palpable sense that we are at the cusp of a possible decisive phase in the reform process.

Developments over the past month since we last met have clearly underscored the consensus that exists on urgently moving forward on UNSC reform, particularly through text-based negotiations.

Driving this momentum has, of course, been the letter co-signed by 139 countries, including my own. We appreciate that you have recognized the historic nature of this initiative and circulated it along with your letter.

The purport of the letter is simple. It seeks to empower you to move the negotiation process forward by presenting a text that can serve as the basis for negotiations.

We are encouraged that the UFC countries and others have also supported this initiative and expressed their readiness to engage in text-based negotiations.

This clearly demonstrates the across-the-board desire for taking immediate actions towards transformative change in the UNSC.

The fact that the current composition and structure of the UNSC does not permit it to address the challenges of the 21st century is beyond question.

It is imperative that any remedy to this must be commensurate with the scale and depth of the problem and truly address the shortcomings.

It is no use providing palliatives for the symptoms rather than treating the underlying malaise.

It is only through genuine and comprehensive reform that such underlying problems can be addressed.

And we all must acknowledge such a reform needs to make the UNSC reflect contemporary realities, including through an expansion in its permanent membership and non-permanent membership, and an improvement in its working methods.

This is the view that the overwhelming majority shares, and has been reflected repeatedly in the negotiations till now.

Tinkering with the margins will not lead us to our common goal of genuine reform. This has been tried in the past, without success.

It is crucial that we all come together to ensure that this key organ of the UN, and indeed the UN at large, does not become irrelevant because it could not adapt to the times.

Mr. Chairman,

The entire membership now looks to you for providing at the earliest a document that can be the basis for negotiations.

We are happy at your clarification that the next round of negotiations will be text based.

This text must faithfully reflect the progress made in the negotiations from March last year. This would be in keeping with the unanimous decision 63/565 that we adopted last September, wherein we decided to build on the progress achieved in the negotiations during the 63rd session.

And while it is useful to hold consultations on the possible contours of such a text, we must caution against procedural discussions blocking the common desire for urgent movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to respond in an interactive mode to the comments made earlier today to illustrate that we must not enter into procedural discussions that could slow down our progress.

One of my colleagues stated that the ratio of permanent to non-permanent members must remain at 1:2, and hence argued against creating 6 new permanent members. However, when the UNSC was created, there were 5 permanent members and 6 non permanent members viz. a ratio of 5:6.

A review was mandated after 10 years. Yet, in 1963, all that the mandated review was able to achieve was an enlargement of the non-permanent membership from 6 to 10.

Do we seriously believe, 27 years later, that a similar tinkering will help restore the credibility of the UNSC and achieve genuine reform?

The other issue relates to signatories of the letter co-signed by 139 countries. This needs to be placed in perspective.

This was not an initiative of a "small group of countries", but rather captured the sentiment of a large number of countries to break the impasse on UNSC reform. I personally canvassed support for it, including among members of the UFC, as my distinguished friend from Pakistan graciously admitted.

The list of signatories is still open, and any delegation that feels it was not invited is free to sign-up even now. Even after the letter was delivered, some delegations have signed and more may be forthcoming.

The third point is that the letter has sent a clear message, though it was not its original intent, that those who are opposed to reform per se should reconsider their position.

In our view, the simplest way to proceed would be through a text, with options that have some reasonable degree of support, and hence the potential to become an area of convergence.

Naturally, all the proposals made would remain on the table. Perhaps these could be presented as an annex to the negotiating text.

Mr. Chairman,

During this fourth round, you have requested us to identify areas of convergence.

It is now clear that there is complete convergence on the need for a negotiating text by the Chair. Discussions on details of proposals should be relegated to the text-based negotiating stage.

We, therefore, look forward to such a negotiating text well before the fifth round of negotiations commence.

We should be cognizant, Mr. Chairman, that after 15 years of meandering around in the OEWG process, and at the end of four rounds of intergovernmental negotiations that have clarified positions of all delegations, the membership at large is now eagerly waiting to engage in real negotiations based on a text.

This is a truly significant development in the long and arduous road of UNSC reform.

We are confident that with your continued effort, a decisive breakthrough can take place soon. It is important that we take the necessary steps to impart an irreversible momentum to the process.

My delegation has full confidence in your ability to provide the necessary catalyst through a text for negotiations.

Thank you.



**616. Intervention by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri,
Deputy Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the
Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding
Commission.**

New York, January 27, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor this year, let me wish you, the PBSO and all the other delegations gathered here a very successful new year.

Let me express my gratitude to Ambassador Heraldo Munoz for his work as Chair of the Commission for 2009, especially the whole idea of enhancing the visibility of the Commission, not only among the international community but also in the real world. Peacebuilding is a peculiarly UN-centric word but the idea and concepts are of great relevance to peace and development and hence the importance to connect it to the real world.

I would also like to join the others and congratulate the new Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Dr. Peter Wittig, the Permanent Representative of Germany as well as the new Vice Chairs, the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic and the Permanent Representative of Benin as well as other officers including the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations for assumption of their responsibilities. I am also glad to see someone with the rich qualifications and experience like Ms. Judy Cheng Hopkins at the helm of affairs at the Secretariat office.

On behalf of our delegation, I wish to assure of all possible support from India.

Mr. Chairman,

This year is a particularly important year for the PBC when we will be undertaking a review of the work of the Commission in the three years since its inception. Our delegation hopes that the review will result in adoption of necessary changes to the peacebuilding architecture which will make it more responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of countries recovering from conflicts.

We are interested in identifying means and ways that enable the PBC to fulfill, in its entirety, its mandate articulated in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/180 and Security Council Resolution S/RES/1645 of December 2005.

We should be particularly active in involving the national governments by enabling national ownership of the process. This will help deliver more on the ground and reap the benefits of the peace dividend in post-conflict societies.

Mr. Chairman,

India has a unique experience of nation-building in a large, complex and most diverse setting as we have strived to give our people a better life. This has allowed us to develop multifaceted capacities relevant to peacebuilding and development. We have shared this experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations' in its peacebuilding activities, including for development, social sector reform and rule of law and security.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress the need for ensuring that the work that we do here helps the countries in the process of transition from conflict to peacebuilding, consolidation and institutional building, in particular by helping to retain the interest of the international community in such countries, even after the peacekeeping phase has been crossed. In our view, the sine qua non of peacebuilding is to ensure that all the available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time which responds to the needs of the country concerned.

Thank You.



617. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77.

New York, January 26, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I begin on the formal part of our presence here, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to Haiti, and to all other countries whose nationals that have suffered the devastating calamity in Haiti.

Let me underscore that India stands with the people of Haiti in its time of need. We have no doubt that Haiti, with the support of the international community, will be successful in its courageous efforts to rebuild itself.

Mr. Chairman

Permit me to felicitate Your Excellency on Yemen's election as Chairman of the Group of 77. My delegation wishes you all success in your important efforts during this year. You can count on our continued support in your endeavours.

I would also like to thank Sudan for its leadership of the Group during 2009, a year that presented enormous challenges to the collective interests of developing countries.

Be it the financial and economic crisis, climate change, South-South cooperation or budgetary issues here at the United Nations, 2009 was indeed a year in which the solidarity and unity of the G-77 was tested.

We should take particular satisfaction that despite these challenges, the G-77 remained united and emerged stronger.

This is not to gloss over the undeniable divergence of interests in such a diverse Group as this. However, the success of this group has been, and will continue to be, in its ability to forge common positions based on shared interests, solidarity and a sense of common destiny.

It is important that this spirit of unity and solidarity among developing countries be maintained and strengthened. This is key to ensure the continued success of this Group.

However, we must be cautious against complacency. Despite signs of recovery in some of our economies, the impact of the crisis continues to be with us, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable amongst us. We need to continue to focus on the needs and concerns of such countries, including the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island Developing States, the African countries, among others. In this context, the G-77 must continue to be active the work of the ad-hoc working group on the financial and economic crisis.

In the area of climate change, as we move towards Mexico, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as well as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol must continue to guide our work. In this context, it is essential that the two-track approach towards the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA processes lead to an ambitious and equitable outcome. We also need to ensure that the needs for financial and technological transfer are met and the specific needs of SIDS, LDCs and the African continent are addressed. As a group, the G-77 must work diligently to protect its interests with a sense of purpose and remain together. Though the road ahead will be difficult, the unity and solidarity of the group is critical. We have no doubt, that you will well steer this process. Let me also assure you of our full support and whatever we can do to assist you in your endeavours on this important issue.

We also have the high-level meeting in September on the MDGs. This meeting, and its outcome document, will be important in charting the course ahead till 2015. It is imperative that developing country concerns are articulated in a coherent and forceful manner in this process.

We also look forward to the important meeting review to review the Mauritius Strategy for sustainable development of SIDS.

Overall, it is quite clear that 2010 will also be a very challenging year for our Group and we need to continue to work together. Let me, therefore, wish Yemen the very best, and reiterate our continued support to the G-77.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



618. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the Group of 77 on Brainstorming on Climate Change: Exchange of views on the Post-Copenhagen process and the way forward at the UNGA.

New York, February 3, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

As I am taking the floor for the first time this year in a G-77 meeting, please allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Group of 77 for 2010.

This is yet another challenging year for our Group with many a critical multilateral negotiation staring us in the face. I have no doubt your vast experience will allow you to provide the Group leadership that will allow a successful pursuance of the common interests of the developing countries. Please be assured of my delegation's full support in your efforts.

I would also like to thank you for your initiative in organizing today's meeting on the very important and topical issue of climate change. It is vital that the G-77 remains actively engaged in unity on this issue that has very significant implications for all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

India, like other developing countries, faces enormous development challenges.

Nearly 200 million of our citizens live on less than US \$1 a day and nearly 500 million do not have access to modern sources of energy. Our overriding priority, therefore, has to be eradication of poverty.

Yet, like many other developing countries, we are among the worst affected by climate change.

India, therefore, has a major interest in ensuring that climate change is addressed substantively and constructively. Hence our repeated assertions that we would like to be part of the solution.

We are voluntarily and proactively undertaking numerous measures to address climate change. We have a detailed National Action Plan on climate change.

Key elements of the Plan include enhancing solar energy production to 20,000 MW by 2022, accelerating afforestation, promoting sustainable agriculture, utilizing clean coal technologies, mandating fuel efficiency standards, establishing a nation-wide climate observatory network that will also involve the launch of our own satellite next year, and improving energy efficiency.

While our economy already has one of the lowest emissions intensity, we have set ourselves a voluntary domestic target to further reduce emissions intensity by 20-25% by 2020 on 2005 levels. This has also been conveyed to the UNFCCC Secretariat in terms of the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC.

However, Mr. Chairman, there cannot be any renegotiation or dilution of the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

In December 2007 the international community decided to start negotiations under the UNFCCC to enhance its implementation, the so-called LCA track. It was also decided to proceed apace with the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol for quantified emission reduction commitments of Annex I parties for the period beyond 2012.

It is imperative that these two tracks of negotiations, under the UNFCCC and under its Kyoto Protocol, together known as the Bali Road Map, proceed in an invigorated manner and deliver on ambitious and equitable outcomes in Mexico at the end of this year. We cannot accept attempts to simply do-away with the Kyoto Protocol, which must continue to deliver as a valid legal instrument and Parties to the Protocol should deliver on their solemn commitments under the Protocol.

Moreover, efforts to address climate change must be firmly embedded in a demonstrably equitable access to atmospheric space for every citizen of the globe, with adequate finance and technology available to all developing countries.

It is imperative that the G-77 remains united in pursuing these common objectives. The solidarity that has been the bedrock of this diverse Group must be maintained and strengthened.

Mr. Chairman,

To brainstorm on climate change negotiations post Copenhagen India organized a meeting of the Environment Ministers of Brazil, South Africa, India and China, the BASIC countries, in New Delhi on January 24, 2010. We had invited the Chair of the G-77 but unfortunately, and as you are aware, the Honorable Environment Minister of Yemen could not attend.

In their joint statement, the BASIC countries re-emphasized the importance of the G-77 working closely together and their own commitment in this regard. They underscored the centrality of the UNFCCC process and the COP decisions to carry forward the negotiations on the two tracks of the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP leading up to COP-16 and COP/MOP 6 in Mexico. They also stressed that all negotiations must be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.

In this regard, the BASIC countries called upon the COP President to convene the two negotiating groups next month and to ensure that the AWGs meet at least 5 times before the Mexico Conference.

The BASIC countries also called for urgent action by developed countries to ensure the flow of US\$ 10 billion in 2010 for financing adaptation, with focus on LDCs, SIDS and African countries.

As regards the Copenhagen Accord, while acknowledging that this was a high-level political understanding among the participants on some of the contentious issues, they hoped that it would facilitate the two-track negotiating process under the Bali Roadmap.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me quote my Prime Minister, who said at Copenhagen that whatever emerges from the negotiations must address the glaring injustice that those worst affected by climate change are the least responsible for it.

This injustice is acute to countries of Africa, to the LDCs, and to the SIDS whose very survival as viable nation states is in jeopardy. The G-77 must remain united as we strive to redress this injustice.

Thank you.



**619. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the Sixteenth Session of
the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.**

New York, February 4, 2010.

Mr. President,

We offer our felicitations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election and thank the outgoing Bureau for the work accomplished over the last two years.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Yemen on behalf of the G-77 and China.

India welcomes the Nairobi Outcome Document adopted at the High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Kenya from 1-3 December, 2009. We call for its full and effective implementation to really strengthen South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

India's approach to South-South Cooperation has been moulded by our own experience in nation building. We have, therefore, been a steadfast believer in South-South Cooperation. This constitutes a fundamental pillar of our external policy. For decades, we have endeavored to share our

experiences and knowledge with our fellow countries from the South treading similar paths of development. This has taken several forms.

As early as 1964, India recognized that capacity building is a key development need, and established the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Programme as an important means of channelizing India's technical assistance to fellow developing countries. This flagship programme covers 158 developing partner countries with over 5000 participants being offered training in 200 courses spread across 42 leading institutions each year in a wide range of areas from hi-tech like IT, S&T, pharmaceuticals to agriculture, rural development, SMEs, etc. The ITEC programme is demand-driven and response-oriented.

We are happy that today we are also able to extend our partnership in a significant manner financially. Our annual outlay on concessional lending and grants is over US\$ 1 billion, covering countries in our region, in Africa and beyond. In addition, US\$ 5 billion has been extended as lines of credit since 2003.

Apart from countries in our neighborhood, we have a rich agenda of technical cooperation with Africa, a continent with which we have age-old ties, that currently spans several initiatives including the path-breaking Pan African E-network project and the TEAM-9 initiative focused on West Africa that seeks to bridge the 'digital divide' between Africa and the rest of the world. The Government of India has extended over US\$ 3 billion concessional lines of credit to countries in Africa. During the India-Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008 in New Delhi, we had announced additional lines of credit of US\$ 5.4 billion for the next five years. Further, on the same occasion, we had proposed to undertake projects against grants in excess of US\$ 500 million over the next 5 - 6 years. These are being implemented in consultation with our African partners. We have also unilaterally agreed to duty free and quota free market access to goods from 34 Least Developed Countries in Africa.

Furthermore, India has endeavored to be of assistance in times of humanitarian crisis both in our region and beyond. Recently, as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti, we have contributed US\$ 5 million for relief measures following the earthquake.

The IBSA initiative undertaken by India, Brazil, and South Africa is another manifestation of our commitment to South-South Cooperation. IBSA is intensifying its partnership efforts in several regions across the developing world and more initiatives are in the pipeline.

Mr. President,

India is committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation.

Our cooperation with fellow developing countries is premised on the principles of voluntary partnership, free from conditionalities that are typical of ODA, and are based on national ownership and in line with national priorities of our partners. We believe that South-South cooperation is a partnership in solidarity between developing countries involving sharing of experiences, expertise, knowledge and provision of assistance based on capacity to partner. Its paradigm, therefore, is distinct from that of North-South development cooperation.

We must also be clear that South-South cooperation cannot replace the critical need for enhanced and invigorated development cooperation from the North for developing countries to overcome their considerable development challenges. This is even more important as we draw close to the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations, with its universal membership and strong mandate for development, is uniquely placed to perform a catalytic role in this process. We hope to receive strong support from the UN development system in invigorating South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation. We also hope that our developed country partners will strive to ensure that they meet their development cooperation commitments to help developing countries meet their development goals.

Thank You, Mr. President.



**620. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative on the Thematic Debate on
"Transition and Exit Strategies in Peacekeeping" at the
Security Council.**

New York, February 12, 2010.

Mr. President,

India would like to thank the French Presidency for organizing this thematic debate on the issue of Peacekeeping. This is the fourth time in seven months that the Indian delegation is speaking in the Security Council on peacekeeping, a fact that attests to the centrality of this activity at the UN.

I would, at the outset, also like to thank the French delegation for their recent efforts that have led to improvements in the consultative mechanisms of peacekeeping. My delegation is appreciative of the spirit behind these initiatives. We also note with appreciation the efforts of DPKO to reach out to Member States in the ongoing work of developing operational concepts. I am optimistic that this spirit of cooperation will find reflection in the forthcoming deliberations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the C-34.

The concept paper circulated by the French Presidency for today's debate is comprehensive and useful.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to align itself with the statement made by the delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

The Council today has to manage its primary responsibility of responding to threats to international peace and security, in an environment that has changed very substantially since 1945. The Council has to deal with situations that have complex multi-dimensional aetiologies. These cannot be labeled or categorized easily. They have also proved to be very tenacious and have defied straightforward solutions.

We are in this situation because the Council ever so often mandated operations without a clear understanding of what was required. In the rush to "do something", it got into a situation where objectives were confused. Mandates were unrealistic. Timeframes were too ambitious. A "band aid" approach was used and the resources allocated for the task, financial, logistical, and above all, human, were pegged at minimal levels. Our conclusions are reinforced by the joint DPKO-OCHA study on the Protection of Civilians, and I quote "confusion over the Council's intent is evident in the lack of policy, guidance, planning and preparedness." unquote

It is evident that the Council requires a new paradigm and new approaches if it is to discharge its responsibilities.

Mr. President,

We first need to recognize that there are no short-cuts to peacekeeping. We are not dealing with classical belligerents who are looking for a quick victory. We are dealing with forces that have a stake in continuing instability. We are dealing with forces that flourish in the absence of the rule of law and in the presence of violence and intimidation. We cannot deal with these forces unless we are committed for the long-haul. Transition and exit strategies need to be approached accordingly.

80% of UN peacekeeping resources, financial and manpower, are deployed in post-Colonial societies. The problems that they face are not unique and have been confronted in many nations in Asia and Africa. It stands to reason that successful post-colonial nation building experience is the most relevant in understanding how to approach successful management of complex peacekeeping operations.

I am proud to represent a nation which has been an active participant in UN peacekeeping since 1956 and has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to 40 UN operations. I also speak on behalf of a country is a well-established and successful democratic polity that responds to the aspirations of one of the most diverse populations of the world; a country that is among the fastest growing economies of the world.

Imperialist thinking at the height of the colonial era described all such countries as ungovernable. Facts and history speak otherwise.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not mutually exclusive. It is our understanding that both need to continue simultaneously over extended periods of time. Precipitate withdrawal of peacekeepers is a recipe for disaster and is a temptation that should be avoided at all costs.

As a peacekeeping operation gathers momentum, it requires more resources - not less. The military component will have to be supplemented, and not supplanted, by police and rule of law capacity and a capacity for development administration. By development administration capacity, we mean the ability to respond to the basic aspirations of the people beyond law and order.

It is also important to remember that UN operations are essentially in aid of national authorities and national capacities. National authorities usually have a good idea of what they require. The Council and the Secretariat must not just listen more to national governments but also listen carefully.

There is no substitute for national capacities. The only role the UN can play is to help in creating conditions where these capacities can be exercised. We believe that support for national authorities is key in two areas. One is Security Sector Reform and the other is in provisions of primary inputs for socio-economic development.

Security Sector Reform in particular, needs far greater coordination, cohesiveness and unity of purpose. The training, equipment and working methods of national police and other rule of law institutions must be structured in a manner that is consonant with the wishes of national authorities and not the priorities of donors. In the case of economic development, national authorities, as the experience of the Peacebuilding Commission indicates, are capable of developing strategies and plans. What they need is resources and social investment.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping, which is the main contribution of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security, has a budget of US\$ 7.8 billion. This is a little more than 0.5 per cent of worldwide military expenditures. The concept paper circulated by the Presidency points out,

MONUC has a ratio of 1 peacekeeper per 3500 inhabitants. This is also the equivalent of 1 peacekeeper every 120 sq.km. It needs very little imagination to grasp the utter insufficiency of 17,000 peacekeepers in the task of providing support to national authorities in an area of responsibility of the size of Western Europe.

It is evident that resources for peacekeeping are utterly inadequate.

It stands to logic that an increase in the number of quality troops is the first requirement. It also stands to logic that troops require proper equipment and enablers. We would like to see an increase in the deployment of police and rule of law capacities.

The current composition of the DPKO as it exists today does not have the capacity to plan for the nation-building activities that are central to peacebuilding. This capacity requires to be developed and will require a multi-disciplinary approach involving the development pillar of the UN and greater cooperation with countries in the global South.

Mr. President,

It is very difficult to use objective parameters to determine an exit point from complex peacekeeping operations. A peacekeeping operation will have succeeded if there is durable peace. Durable peace can only follow from a successful peace agreement. The conditions that can lead to a successful peace agreement are also difficult, if not impossible, to define. Peace processes and political settlements cannot be subjected to budgetary discipline and evaluation by administrators. The creation of peace, as we are all learning in many different parts of the world, is not a business process. It is a complicated political undertaking with many imponderables.

The Security Council is not bound by benchmarks on when and where it decides to intervene. Each decision is unique and subjective judgments are involved. Similar subjective judgments will be involved on when an operation can be wound up.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by referring to the issue of accountability. Should there not be an accountability requirement for those who mandate? Surely, their responsibility cannot end with the generation of mandates. If

unachievable mandates are generated for political expediency or if adequate resources are not made available, who should bear responsibility? A deficit in the willingness and ability to enforce mandates is leading to an erosion of credibility of the UN.

Mr. President, let me thank you again for organizing this debate. India pays tribute to peacekeepers who have fallen, most recently in Haiti, and reiterates its commitment to contribute, through its peacekeepers and its national capacities, to the promotion of peace and security and to the role of the United Nations.



**621. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the Special Committee
on Peacekeeping Operations [c-34].**

New York, February 23, 2010.

Madam Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the bureau on your election. My delegation attaches the greatest importance to the work of C-34 and will cooperate with you fully in conducting the business of this session.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to align itself broadly with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank Under Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susan Malcorra for their remarks. We take note of the report of the Secretary General on the recommendations of this Committee.

Madam Chair,

Peacekeeping is a flagship activity of the UN. The mere fact that the Security Council has organized four debates under four different Presidencies during the last seven months is an indication of the enduring relevance of this activity.

In the last two decades, Peacekeeping budgets have increased twenty-seven times; the number of peacekeepers has grown about ten-fold and the number of peacekeeping operations is at an all time high.

With no new mandates having been accorded in the past few years, this is a good time to take stock.

Madam Chair,

It is evident that despite severe problems, many induced by the decision-making process itself, peacekeeping has delivered results. There are serious shortcomings. Imperfections abound, but none of these, however, detract from the achievements of the peacekeepers.

Since the last meeting of the C-34, holding of meetings with the TCC at least a week prior to renewal of mandates is a welcome development. This new practice needs to be strengthened further. Meetings have to be predictable and structured, with pre-determined agendas. This would enable TCCs, with their often considerable presence and experience on the ground, to provide meaningful inputs. The system of consultations must also be extended to cover all stages of the mission cycle.

The base of TCCs needs to be expanded further. Enhanced efforts must be made to encourage more countries to engage with the UN peacekeeping as troop and police contributors. The permanent members of the UNSC must also demonstrate their political commitment to this endeavour by contributing troops under UN command and control.

The DPKO must also integrate the gender dimensions in all Peacekeeping missions. The effectiveness of the female Indian Formed Police Unit in Liberia provides testimony.

The Secretariat has been reaching out to Member States in relation to their ongoing work of drafting the New Horizons report and in relation to the development of operational concepts in the area of Protection of Civilians and Robust Peacekeeping. There have been a large number of developments in this area. DPKO and OCHA have commissioned a study on the Protection of Civilians led by my distinguished colleague from Tanzania. DPKO organized a conference on Robust Peacekeeping for practitioners in Wilton Park last year. Draft operational concepts have been

circulated. We have contributed to these processes and continue to remain engaged with them.

We would, however, 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. The temptation to augment the theory and practice of intervention as a convenient short-cut must be avoided at all costs. On protection of civilians we must remember that this is primarily the responsibility of the host country.

The application of international humanitarian law and human rights law to UN peacekeepers is also an area where we need to tread with caution. This is because the paradigms of IHL have largely evolved without taking into account UN peacekeeping, which is based on the guiding principles of consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. Human rights law is predicated on the paradigm of a repressive state and a helpless individual in Western political theory. The armed militias whom the peacekeepers face today can hardly be described as helpless individuals even if the label of non-state actor applies to them.

Madam Chair,

Today, the bulk of peacekeeping presence is in operations that have undergone protracted conflict. Peacekeepers find that their presence, while leading to an improvement in the situation, does not contribute to a lasting peace. This situation has arisen due to the tendency of the Security Council to move into certain conflict areas without adequate deliberation. The Council, as the DPKO-OCHA study on Protection of Civilians says, was confused. It acted first and thought later.

We must, at this juncture, avoid the temptation to add further to the repertoire of "quick-fixes." There cannot be any short cuts in such operations. Where effective and durable peace agreements cannot be arrived at, peacekeeping operations need to be prepared for the long-haul.

In this context, we must remember that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not mutually exclusive. Both may be required to continue simultaneously

over extended period of time. As a peacekeeping operation gathers momentum, it requires more resources - not less. The success of a Peacekeeping Mission depends on its capacity to shoulder the implementation of early peacebuilding activities. Thus, the military component will have to be supplemented, and not supplanted, by police and rule of law, and a capacity for development administration.

There is no substitute for national capacities. The UN's role must be to serve national priorities and to create an enabling environment where these capacities can be developed in local and national authorities as quickly as possible.

We believe that support for national authorities is especially key in two areas. One is security sector reform and other is in provisions of primary inputs for socio-economic developments. Security Sector reform, is an area where greater concentration is required across most operations. It has been our experience that Security Sector Reform, unless driven by national priorities, as against donor priorities, will not produce good results.

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. The need for clear and achievable mandates has also found mention in the draft New Horizons report. There is a steady stream of complaints from troops on the ground about unrealistic and confusing mandates and rules of engagement. It is also obvious that the resources that were provided were completely inadequate.

Should the Council not mandate responsibly? Does the responsibility of the Security Council end with the generation of a mandate? Should there not be accountability for those who mandate on the grounds of expediency and do not provide adequate guidance and resources?

These are difficult questions. But they require answers because a continuation of the current situation is likely to impact adversely on the credibility of the Council and the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that we follow a policy of zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

My delegation would also like to point out that troops are contributed by contributing countries to 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 a proud history of UN peacekeeping dating back to its inception in the 1950s. As I speak today I salute the 118 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 Haiti.

After over sixty years of nation-building in one of the most diverse circumstances, India today has the experience and expertise that could be most useful for the UN in its peacekeeping and its peacebuilding efforts.

While we have contributed nearly 100,000 troops, eminent Force Commanders and participated in more than 40 missions, we stand ready to do more in furtherance of international peace and security as a partner of the UN.

Thank You.



**622. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative at the Ad-hoc Working
Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

New York, February 26, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate the two Co-Chairs Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia and Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina on their nomination as co-facilitators for the Ad-hoc Working Group on 'Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly'. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the previous Co-Chairs from Norway and Ecuador for their significant efforts to guide the Working Group during the 63rd session of the General Assembly. I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki for his leadership and commitment to carry forward this process. For the first time in the past several years, we have a President who has been closely associated with the UN system. I am confident that under his guidance, we will be able to achieve substantive progress this year on the revitalization of the General Assembly. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of my delegation to remain actively engaged in this most important of processes for UN reform.

Mr. President,

The world today is obviously not the one of 1945. The need for change is, therefore, obvious given the vastly changed contemporary realities. It is my considered belief that among the UN Member States there is now an unprecedented desire to usher in substantive reforms. There is a palpable sense that we are at the cusp of a possible decisive phase. In this context, I am happy that the intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform are now at a defining moment with an overwhelming majority of the membership articulating itself in favour of expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. It is, therefore, imperative that the General Assembly also move for its revitalisation.

This is critical so that the General Assembly can play an effective role as the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community. India, a founding member of the UN, stands for a UN that is truly responsive to the priorities and aspirations of the Member States, particularly for the developing countries, who constitute the vast majority of the membership. Its working methods must also embody efficiency and transparency. Inability to reform runs the inherent risk of its marginalization in the international decision-making architecture.

Mr. President,

The UNGA resolution 63/309 adopted during the last session delineates the contours of the GA revitalization. The strengthening of procedures, working methods, documentation and ensuring due follow up are integral to the revitalization process. Enhanced visibility and outreach of the General Assembly are equally important. However, more important is the need to continue the focus on substantive measures to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly including in exercising control over legislation, material and manpower, and its role as the chief oversight organ of the United Nations. Being the voice of the international community, the General Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. The mandate for the appointment of the UN Secretary-General flows from Article 97 of the UN Charter, which envisages a role for both the General Assembly as well as the Security Council. However, the modalities of the appointment process have come to be governed by para 4(d) of General Assembly resolution 11(1) of 24 January 1946.

Since the adoption of resolution 11(1) over six decades ago, we live in a different world today. The need for changing the process of appointment of the Secretary-General has been recognized by all Member States. Fully cognizant of the imperative need, 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 this

process. Unfortunately, there has been no further progress. The General Assembly's role cannot be merely to rubber-stamp the recommendation of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

The revitalization process also implies that the General Assembly should take a lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations. Unfortunately, a perception has gained ground that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been undermined at the expense of the Security Council. Of special concern is the increasing role of Security Council on issues that traditionally fall within the General Assembly's competence, such as the process of standard-setting and codification of international law. Of concern also is the holding of thematic debates in the Security Council on issues that frequently fall within the purview of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council. Serious introspection is needed by Member States to correct these aberrations. The balance between the principal organs of the United Nations, as envisaged in the Charter, must be maintained and respected. And, it is important that a truly representative body such as the General Assembly have a much greater say in the international economic and financial matters.

Mr. President,

We have the structure, framework and necessary tools in place to carry forward this process. The experience of the last session is anything but indicative of the challenges that lie ahead. What we need is the political will and courage to take bold decisions particularly on substantive elements, which are the sine qua non for the revitalization of the General Assembly. We are hopeful that this time, we would not falter and would be in position to make genuine substantive progress.



**623. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 46 - Global
Road Safety Crisis at the UNGA.**

New York, March 2, 2010.

Mr. President,

India welcomes the opportunity to participate in this debate on the important issue of road safety. We would like to thank the Government of the Russian Federation for their initiative in hosting the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Moscow on 19-20th November, 2009. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Government of Oman for their consistent support for this agenda item.

We have carefully gone through the report transmitted by the Secretary General on Improving Global Road Safety. We thank the World Health Organization [WHO] for preparing the report in consultation with the regional commissions and other partners of the United Nations Road Safety collaboration.

According to this report, low-income and middle-income countries witness over 90 percent of the world's fatalities on the roads, despite accounting for only 48 percent of the world's vehicles. Apart from the personal suffering these road traffic injuries cause, these also threaten health and development gains. The importance of addressing road safety, thus, has a key development dimension. It is, therefore, encouraging that the United Nations has recognized road traffic injuries as an extensive and serious global health problem, requiring coordinated international cooperation efforts.

Mr. President,

In India, road transport is the dominant mode of transportation, accounting for 70% of freight movement and 85% of passenger traffic. We have one of the largest road networks in the world, with 3.3 million kilometers of roads. National Highways account for about 2% of the country's road network, but carry 40% of total traffic, leading to severe congestion.

Road traffic accidents claim over 80,000 victims a year, constituting a major public health problem, with considerable social and economic costs. Almost

half of those who die in road traffic crashes are "vulnerable road users" including pedestrians, cyclists or users of two-wheelers.

India is therefore acutely conscious of the imperative to address road safety and reduce the adverse consequences of traffic accidents. India's economic growth lies in part upon the rapid expansion of our infrastructure, including roads.

We are actively engaged in efforts to enhance road safety. We believe that road safety requires the coordination of three aspects: Engineering and design; Enforcement; and Education involving civil society to spread awareness. Our response entails a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach, incorporating relevant parts of government, civil society, and the private sector. Our interventions seek to cover the following phases of road traffic injury control - prevention of crashes and injuries in the first place; provision of prompt and high quality care to those injured in traffic crashes; and provision of rehabilitation and long-term care to those who need it in order to minimize disabilities. We are striving to make road safety a health, transportation, law enforcement, education and development priority.

The national highway system is being widened and strengthened under various schemes. Plans for the development of a Indian National Expressway Network in a phased manner by the year 2022 are currently underway. Many of the recommendations made in the WHO report are being used as a framework for addressing road safety.

We recognize the significance of strengthening capacity to collect, use, and share road safety information. Legislation is being reviewed comprehensively to meet the emerging requirements of road safety. Information technology is also being used in the road transport sector, including through Smart-Card based Driving Licenses and Registration Certificates. We are also taking steps to develop a Road Safety Culture in the country. The 21st annual road safety week was observed from 1-7 January 2010 throughout the country involving regional governments, voluntary organizations and vehicle manufacturers.

Mr. President,

International cooperation is imperative in assisting developing countries to effectively address issues of road safety. Availability of adequate financial resources, technical assistance, capacity building, sharing of best practices and advocacy are crucial in this regard. While we are encouraged by an increase in funding reported in the WHO report, including through private sector and civil society involvement, we agree with the report's assessment that levels of funding for road safety are still not commensurate with the scale of the problem, and increased efforts must be made to secure additional financial support for road safety projects. However, we would caution against setting universal standards based on what may have been developed in one region, and stress that specific circumstances in various parts of the world must be taken into account in addressing road safety.

We strongly support the intent to increase cooperation at the national, regional and global levels for achieving the objectives of road safety as part of the Decade of Action for Road Safety. We also look forward to a concrete Plan of Action to implement the objectives by the end of the decade, which will take into account the need of developing countries for adequate support to build capacities in this area.

Thank you, Mr. President.



624. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Implementation to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at the 54th Session of Commission on the Status of Women.

New York, March 5, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your election to chair this Commission. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election and thank the Secretary General for his reports.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Yemen, on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

Gender equality and women's empowerment lie at the heart of development and distributive justice. Empowering women is the most effective tool for development as well as for poverty reduction and an essential pre-requisite for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The agenda of development will remain incomplete in so long as it excludes more than half the world's population.

It has now been fifteen years since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted. This session of the Commission offers an opportunity to evaluate our performance in attaining gender equality and empowerment - a task that still remains incomplete in the world, in our region and in our respective countries. Our deliberations here are important not only for taking stock but also to look at ways of overcoming the considerable challenges that still remain before us.

India is resolutely committed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. It is critical that the international community lives up to its commitments of financial resources, technical cooperation and capacity-building for developing countries in meeting their national priorities in the areas of gender empowerment. As a country that has

considerable experience in nation building, we stand ready to share our expertise and knowledge with fellow developing countries.

We favour the early establishment of a comprehensive gender entity in the United Nations. This should be carefully conceived and designed to serve as a focal point for all gender related activities and programmes in the UN. It should be well-resourced. It should be designed to mainstream the interests of women and serve their cause. In this context, we are appreciative that the Joint Coordinating Committee, consisting of countries of G-77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, has submitted to the co-facilitators of the system-wide coherence process, a comprehensive, forward-looking and progressive document containing concrete and essential elements for the new Entity.

Mr. Chairman,

In India, we have a proud legacy of celebrating the role of women that stretches back to time immemorial. It is captured in our civilizational and cultural ethos, scriptures, and philosophies. For example, as far back as the third millennium BC, women's empowerment was recognized in the form of worship of Mother Goddess during the Indus Valley civilization. The terracotta figurines of the Mother Goddess, recovered in excavations, are the earliest manifestations of the power vested in women. This idea runs through the ages in Indian religions and philosophy. Centuries later, in the 19th and 20th century, women played a stellar and unique role in India's freedom struggle. Women took part in large numbers and fought shoulder to shoulder with men. No democratic revolution had ever before given women equality of status as was evidenced during India's freedom struggle. It was unprecedented and served as a point of historic departure by upholding women's rights. With the birth of the modern Indian nation-state, the principles of gender equality were further codified and enshrined in the Constitution of India, which not only guarantees equality to women, but it also advocates positive discrimination in favour of women, wherever necessary. These are reinforced through periodic amendments in legislation and policy. In 2001, we formulated the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. Its main objectives include creating a positive economic and social environment, enhancing political empowerment, providing equal access to health care, education and employment, strengthening legal

systems to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, developing programmes to change societal attitudes and harmful community practices and most importantly, building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

The ongoing Eleventh Five Year development plan of India (2007-12), which serves as our strategic framework for development, has recognized the role of women as agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change. Gender is a cross-cutting theme in all the development plans. There are a large number of programmes and schemes being implemented today for the mainstreaming of gender activities and concerns throughout the Government of India. I would like to highlight a few. The Education for All Campaign (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan) with a special focus on girls' education, aims to target the 'hardest to reach' girls through residential schools, mid day meals and other incentives. The National Literacy Mission has been recast as the Female Literacy Mission and aims to target 70 million adults in the next 5 years, out of which 60 million will be women. Health constitutes another 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. There is perceptible improvement in the social-economic status of women today as a result of decades of development programmes implemented on the ground. A major milestone has been the Self-Help Group (SHG) movement. We have over 2.2 million Self Help Groups at the grass roots level throughout the country, which translates into more than 33 million households. There has been a decline in the infant and maternal mortality rates with the IMR at 53 (2008) and MMR at 254 (2006). While we are the first to acknowledge that we still have distance to cover in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals we have set for ourselves, we are heartened by the progress we have made so far.

Mr. Chairman,

India is conscious of the significance of political empowerment in the overall empowerment of women. We are happy that today women leaders occupy the highest positions in several countries, including India. In India, we took

the historic initiative of reserving one-third of the seats in local bodies 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 wield decision making authority at the very cutting edge. Parliament now has bills before it to raise this percentage to 50%.

Political empowerment of women in India received a further shot in the arm with the recent Cabinet decision to agree to table a bill for 33% reservation of seats for women in the Parliament.

Mr. Chairman,

More than eighty years ago, Mahatma Gandhi had declared in the Indian context that as long as women did not take part in public life there was no salvation for the country. This is equally true for every corner of the globe. As we gather here to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, let us use this opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goals of gender equality and empowerment. The time for genuine and full empowerment of women is here and now. This is an idea whose time has truly come, but whose realisation we must all now work to ensure at the earliest. I would like to end by quoting from one of our ancient scriptures: *Yatra naryastu puhyante ramante tatra devataha* (Manusmriti 3.56) Where women are worshipped, there the Gods reside.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



625. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting of the Plenary of the United Nations General Assembly to Hear a Briefing by the Secretary-General on his Recent Visit to Chile, at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

New York, March 10, 2010.

Mr. President,

The Government and the people of India are deeply saddened by the loss of human life and damage that resulted from the earthquake in Chile on 27 February. As a country familiar with the consequences of natural disasters, we fully understand the trauma and suffering that our Chilean brethren are living through.

Mr. President,

Immediately on hearing the news of the earthquake, the Government of India initiated measures to show our solidarity with the people of Chile. Last week, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Chilean President, Dr. Michelle Bachelet that the Government of India would be making a modest cash contribution of US\$ 5 million for relief and rehabilitation work following the earthquake.

My delegation would, therefore, like to join others in conveying our sincere condolences to the family members of those who have lost their lives on account of the earthquake. We also express our sympathy and support for the injured. We have no doubt that the people of Chile have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster.

In conclusion, let me thank the Secretary General for his very comprehensive, timely and useful briefing. We appreciate the leadership he has displayed in coordinating the UN's response to the Chilean earthquake. This is truly commendable.



626. Statement by Ambassador M.S. Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India on the Situation in Afghanistan and UNAMA at the Security Council.

New York, March 18, 2010.

Mr. President, Please allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would also like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan and the UN Assistance Mission in that country. This is of immediate and abiding interest for India, both as a close neighbour and a civilizational partner of Afghanistan. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary-General and are appreciative of the briefing by the Under Secretary General Alain Le Roy. We also thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement. We welcome the appointment of new SRSG Staffan De Mistura. He has taken over at a particularly challenging time for the UN in Afghanistan with major concerns regarding security of its personnel requiring to be addressed. Mr. President, The international approach to Afghanistan in recent months, in particular the London Conference of January 2010, has focused on security, reintegration, development, governance and regional and international cooperation. The forthcoming political processes - the Loya Jirga, the Kabul Conference and the parliamentary elections scheduled later this year would be important milestones in this context. For these processes to be enduring, Afghan ownership should go hand in hand with Afghan leadership.

Both on the military and the civilian efforts, while working complimentary and within indicative timelines, the international community must reaffirm its long-term commitment to stability, peace and development in Afghanistan. Without tangible and sustained improvements on the security front, it would be too much to expect the Afghan Government to exercise greater responsibility. Indeed, improved security could create an enabling environment for an accelerated progress on development and governance issues. This is also critical in expanding the footprint of the Afghan Government and ensuring the greater ownership of these processes by the Afghan people.

Mr. President,

The latest report of the Secretary General highlights that the deterioration in security situation has continued, with 2009 being the most volatile year since the fall of Taliban in 2001. Despite reinforced presence of International Security Assistance Force, asymmetric warfare and complex terrorist attacks have increased. There have been a spate of such recent attacks all over Afghanistan, including in urban centres such as Kabul and Kandahar, killing innocent Afghans and foreigners, including Indian experts and workers involved in our development partnership. Those behind these attacks do not want peace and progress in Afghanistan. Such acts of terrorism will not deter us, but will only strengthen our resolve to fulfill our pledges towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan and to cementing our traditional friendship with the Afghan people. In the interest of stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan, it is essential to ensure that support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorist organizations are ended forthwith. Security and stabilization of Afghanistan will remain a distant goal unless we are able to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism, which includes elements of Al Qaida, Taliban, LeT and other terrorists and extremists groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan borders. Therefore, in addition to the strengthening of the International Security Assistance Force, it is critical that the Afghan National Security Forces are enlarged and developed in a professional manner, at a much faster pace. They should be provided appropriate resources, combat equipment, enablers and training before considering any plan for a phased, province-by-province transition to Afghan led security. We welcome the expansion of the capacities of the Afghan National Security Forces and also appreciate the efforts being made by third countries to strengthen the capacities of the Afghan National Security Forces.

Mr. President,

Against the backdrop of today's worrying security situation, the issue of reintegration should be tackled with prudence, the benefit of hindsight, foresight and caution. We believe that any integration process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led, and should include only those who

abjure violence, give up armed struggle and terrorism and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism, and human rights and women's rights, as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. The process must be inclusive and transparent.

Mr. President,

A sustainable strategy for stabilization of Afghanistan must focus on development and governance issues. In order to strengthen governance and institution-building, priority should be accorded to building adequate capacity to deliver on developmental objectives. Presently, the overall civilian approach continues to remain fragmented. The Secretary General's report strikingly points out, even after the last eight years of engagement in Afghanistan, 80% of international community assistance still bypasses the Afghan Government and is not closely aligned with Government priorities. This trend must be reversed and our efforts must concentrate on strengthening of Afghan Government institutions, particularly through the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board which has endorsed new initiatives in agriculture, private sector development, technical assistance and capacity building.

Mr. President,

India's efforts towards stabilization of Afghanistan have focused on socio-economic development. The principal objective of India's development partnership, covering the entire country and straddling all sectors of development, is to build indigenous Afghan capacities and institutions. This will enable an effective state system to improve the delivery of goods and services to Afghan people and contribute to stability. Our assistance, now over US\$ 1.3 billion, is spread over a large number of provinces in Afghanistan. In addition to several small and medium development projects, India has built the Zaranj-Delaram road and the power transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul. We are also constructing Afghanistan's new Parliament building, a symbol of our common commitment to pluralism and democracy. At the recent London Conference, we have announced new initiatives in the agriculture sector and in institutional capacity building.

Mr. President,

Perseverance and tenacity are critical to effectively confront the challenges facing

Afghanistan and for ushering peace and security in the region. There are no quick-fix solutions and it is imperative that the international community remains engaged in Afghanistan in a sustained manner providing both on the security side as also on providing developmental and national building support for as long as it takes. We support the good work of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. We need to be clear that a stable Afghanistan is in the interest not only for all of us in its neighborhood but for the international community as a whole. Thank you.



627. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, during the Plenary Session of the Fourth High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at the UNGA.

New York, March 24, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset, permit me to associate with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77.

We are happy that the 4th High-level dialogue on Financing for Development has finally been held after repeated delays. Our preference, of course, remains that this event be held either during the main session of the UN General Assembly, or along with the meeting of ECOSOC, BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD.

Such a format facilitates high-level participation in this important event. We hope that future sessions of the High-level Dialogue will be structured in that manner.

Mr. President,

The core concept of the Monterrey consensus i.e. ensuring enhanced and predictable financial resource flows for developing countries in order to assist them in pursuing their development agenda, is all the more relevant today.

As has been mentioned repeatedly, the multiple global crises have had a severe adverse impact of financing abilities of developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable amongst us.

These countries were in no way responsible for the crises, but in many ways, they have been the hardest hit. Even as we see recovery in a few countries, most developing countries continue to face the consequences of a reversal of capital flow to their countries. ODA flows have been far below commitments, private capital has flown out, access to capital markets are more limited, remittances have reduced, exports have fallen, debt repayments have become difficult, and balance of payments situations have worsened. The consequent impact on development efforts, and on social sector investment, is evident. As a recent report of the Secretary-General notes, in most countries, the number of people living in extreme poverty has actually gone up between 1990 and 2005! This issue merits special consideration in our meeting. The subsequent crises have made the situation worse. It is imperative that the international community makes good this loss of capital. Apart from fulfillment of ODA commitments, there is an urgent need to provide additional funding so that countries can implement appropriate countercyclical policies. Onerous conditionalities on disbursement of funds are unhelpful. We have been urging multilateral development banks to finance infrastructure investment and investing in green and clean technologies, which are an ideal form of countercyclical activity. And we have been supportive of proposals to expand their capital bases, if necessary. It is necessary to ensure enhanced market access of developing countries. Large agricultural subsidies by developed countries must be addressed meaningfully. Encouragement by source countries to Foreign Direct Investment would also be useful in resuming flow of capital to the developing world.

Mr. President,

Systemic issues are the other area that deserves enhanced attention of the international community. Indeed, this is perhaps at the heart of genuine implementation of the Financing for Development process. The need for comprehensive reform in the international financial and monetary architecture has been well recognized after the economic

crisis. India has been working with other countries, including at the G-20, to ensure that international financial institutions reflect current realities in their structure, composition and mandates.

It is crucial that institutions created at Bretton Woods have a greater voice, role and effective participation of developing countries. Membership of norm setting bodies must be more broad-based. Regulatory mechanisms must be improved. Some progress has been made in this regard. However, much more remains to be done. We need to accelerate progress in this area. Mr. President, The Financing for Development process, as embodied in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Review Conference, is a crucial element of the global partnership for development. We must ensure its full implementation, rather than making more and more commitments. Despite some changes in the follow-up mechanism instituted at Monterrey, it is clear that a more structured and periodic follow-up mechanism would immensely benefit this important process. We hope that genuine progress can be made shortly in this regard.

Thank you.



628. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

New York, 26 March 2010.

Madam Co-Chair,

At the very beginning, let me express appreciation for the decision taken by you (Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia) and Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina (the other Co-chair) to discuss implementation of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization and the working methods of the General Assembly including operational and technical issues like voting and balloting.

Madam Co-Chair,

The world today is obviously not the one of 1945. The need for change is, therefore, evident given the vastly changed contemporary realities.

Since the very beginning, India has been of the firm belief that that the General Assembly will only be empowered if its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit.

With this background, let me proceed to share our views on the two issues at hand in a brief manner.

Madam Co-Chair,

The resolutions of the General Assembly in general and those on revitalization in particular 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 international system. Of course, we can engage in stock-taking exercises on the reasons behind the delays in the implementation. But 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.

Madam Co-Chair,

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.

Madam Co-Chair,

In conclusion, let me reiterate that our 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. We will continue our active support and continue to be there to help you in these efforts.

Thank you.



629. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the "International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti" at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters.

New York, March 31, 2010.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The Government and the people of India were shocked and deeply grieved at the loss of human life and damage that resulted from the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010. India is familiar with the consequences of natural disasters and therefore understands very well the trauma and the suffering that Haitians are living through.

Immediately following the earthquake, the President and Prime Minister of India conveyed to Haitian leaders our condolences and solemn pledges to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their moment of sorrow. The Government and the people of India also paid homage to men and women of the United Nations family, including one of our own, who were struck down at their posts.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the excellent work done by the UN family under the leadership of the Secretary-General in coordinating the international response to the humanitarian and other needs in Haiti. In this context it is important to recognize the sterling efforts of MINUSTAH, both on its civil side as well as on the military and police side, despite the tremendous losses that they themselves faced. We also welcome the appointment of Mr. Edmond Mulet as the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Haiti.

We are particularly pleased that the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was put to good use in the earliest stages of recovery work and we commend the Secretary-General for this important decision. India attaches importance to this facility to which we have made significant

contributions since its inception and to which we are committed to contribute US \$ 500,000/- each over three year period till 2011.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Soon after the earthquake, India announced a cash contribution of US \$ 5 million towards relief measures as a token of solidarity with the people of Haiti and transferred the entire amount to the Government of Haiti on 2 February, 2010.

Moreover, in response to a request for additional peacekeepers following adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1908 in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India is sending two additional Formed Police Units to Haiti to strengthen MINUSTAH.

We have also joined Brazil and South Africa in deciding to expand our IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa Trust Fund, waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and its scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA plans to spend over US\$ 2 million in this effort and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti this year.

The Government of India is in touch with the representatives of the Government of Haiti to explore the possibility of reconstructing one of the main Government building in Haiti destroyed by the earthquake. We look forward to coordinating the details with the Haitian authorities and will be guided by their wisdom and advice.

We have no doubt that the people of Haiti have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster and build a stronger Haiti. The Government and people of India will do what we can to help in this major national effort.

Thank you.



630. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 4 - General Debate of National Experience in Population Matters: Health, Morbidity, Mortality and Development at the 43rd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development.

New York, April 13, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please let me allow to share our grief with the Government and people of Poland on their tragic loss. We would like to express our support to them in this hour of need as well as challenge, which the nation faces.

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our full support and cooperation in the deliberations of the Commission.

We would like thank the Secretary General for all his reports under various agenda items of the Commission. I would also like to express our appreciation to all the distinguished keynote speakers who have made excellent and insightful presentations during this session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Yemen, on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year, we commemorated the 15th anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994 to mark the unprecedented global consensus and integration of diverse aspects of population, development and human rights.

This Programme of Action laid a comprehensive 20 year roadmap, recognizing the complex interplay amongst economic and sustainable development with population, gender equality and empowerment of women, urbanization and migration. This, in fact, provided the necessary impetus for the formulation of the MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

This year's special theme of the Commission, "health, morbidity, mortality and development", is particularly timely as we look forward to the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs in September, later this year.

Health indicators account for 3 out of the 8 MDGs. Moreover, health has direct implication on the realization of rest of the MDGs. Last year's ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration rightly brought forward this issue succinctly and clearly.

The fact that implementation of ICPD Programme of Action has a direct implication on the realization of the MDGs cannot be overemphasized. The international community needs to be seized of this priority and further deepen its efforts in order to achieve the targets which it has set forth itself.

While there are indications that some of the health related MDGs may not be achieved by 2015; that should not deter us from reinforcing political will as well as national, regional and global efforts to attain them.

India is committed to the realization of the ICPD's Programme of Action as well as the MDGs. Our progress has been steady. The Government of India continues to attach highest importance to the realization of these goals, by a strong inclusive growth philosophy, i.e., promoting development with social justice. There has been a steady increase in budgetary allocation to health, along with other related sectors.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me highlight some of our major programmes and achievements in the field of health.

Since its launch in 2005, our flagship National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been one of the biggest interventions of its kind in the health sector in the world.

With the aim to cover more than 600 million people, especially women and children in rural areas, this Mission has successfully provided

equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary healthcare to them.

One of its main components - the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, includes an ambitious Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a safe motherhood intervention programme, to promote institutional delivery with specific focus on poor pregnant women.

Our comprehensive programme for child development, namely, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is today the worlds' largest early child development programme covering over 78 million children as well as pregnant and lactating mothers.

So far, NRHM has benefited more than 10 million women and has emerged as a major successful intervention in reducing maternal and infant mortality. Reports of the latest survey have shown that Infant Mortality Rate has reduced to 55 per 1000 live births in 2007 and Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined from 437 in 1992-93 to 254 in 2004-06.

Despite all the progress, we remain acutely cognizant of the challenges we face in realizing the health MDGs by 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

International cooperation has not been forthcoming when we speak about achieving the health related goals. Provision of financial resources, transfer of technology, technical assistance, access to medicines or capacity building especially to the developing countries has not reach optimum levels. We must not forget that success of MDGs in each and every country is an imperative for the international community as a whole.

Our international community must continue to play its cooperative and mutually supportive role. In this regard, India has been proactive in sharing its development experience, including in the health and related sectors, with fellow developing countries.

One significant example has been the linking major hospitals in Africa with super-specialty hospitals in India through a pan-African e-network project for providing quality tele-medicine.

India is also uniquely positioned as a source of cost-effective generic medicines, which are critical to public health strategies in many developing countries by ensuring easy and ready availability of affordable vaccines and medicines to vulnerable people. We call on all countries to support rather than hinder or create barrier to such legitimate efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

21st century is seeing a gradual shift of burden of disease from communicable to non-communicable diseases. As we continue our efforts to tackle communicable diseases, the prevalence of preventable non-communicable disease is proportionately increasing.

While focusing on these new challenges, we should not dilute our ongoing efforts in the fight against communicable disease, till it is eliminated. We should particularly be wary of any diversion of scare resource from the efforts towards achieving MDGs; instead we should devise and encourage new, additional and innovative financing to tackle non-communicable diseases.

Mr. Chairman,

Let us continue our efforts in sustaining and strengthening our national health systems in a comprehensive manner, with primary health care at its core.

Investment in the health of a society is investment in the overall well being of a society. Development will not be sustainable if it is not created by a health population. Mahatma Gandhi has once said, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver". After all, prosperity will follow the healthy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



631. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" at the U. N. Security Council.

New York, April 16, 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's debate on "post-conflict peacebuilding" and for the concept note. At the outset, let me echo the Secretary General's assertion, in his report last year, on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict. The imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the country level cannot be overemphasized. Security is a key pillar for peacebuilding. It is equally important to focus on building economic opportunity, particularly for the youth alongwith political and social stability. This requires a holistic approach that is sensitive to the economic, social and political milieu of the post-conflict situation. This is also critical so that there is a real stake for the country in the peacebuilding efforts. It also means that even in cases where it is difficult to locate national ownership, international peacebuilding efforts are geared towards strengthening the capacity of a post-conflict State to govern effectively and to govern well. Capacity building also assumes importance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided. My delegation is, therefore, of the view that the international community, acting through the instrumentality of the PBC, must always strive to ensure that there is effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages. Another key issue is that of financing. Let us be clear and acknowledge the fact that lack of funding continues to be a major impediment to the success of peacebuilding initiatives. It goes without saying that other elements such as human resources, technical assistance, managerial assistance, assistance in kind and other programmes of assistance through provision of appropriate technologies are also important.

Given the sensitive nature of the peacebuilding tasks such as security sector reforms and development administration, there must be a high degree of coordination within the UN system. Work in the country-specific configurations has been a positive dimension. In particular, the Council would do well to really consult major troop and police contributing countries, both individually and through the instrumentality of the PBC, while formulating and revising mandates of UN missions.

Mr. President,

India has shared its unique nation-building experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the UN in its various peacebuilding activities. Ever since the creation of the PBC in December 2005, India has actively participated in its working as a member of its Organisational Committee and by contributing to the resources of the Peacebuilding Fund. We will continue this active association with the PBC and the PBF with a view to enable these institutions to fulfill in their entirety the tasks as assigned to them by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Further, we are of the view that the Fund should act as a catalyst for good governance. In this regard, we note with approval the creation of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities in fulfillment of the "agenda for action" outlined by the Secretary General in his 2009 Report on Peacebuilding in the aftermath of Conflict.

Mr. President,

We need to be cognizant that peacebuilding is still a concept in its infancy and is continuously evolving. The international community has taken on board the idea of peacebuilding to fulfil the important need of handling post-conflict situations. It is therefore, imperative that we ensure that peacebuilding and the institutions that constitute the peacebuilding architecture are successful.

Thank you.



632. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India During the Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council on the Implementation of the Measures Set Out in the Note by the President of the Security Council [s/2006/507].

New York, 22 April, 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's debate on an issue to which we attach great importance. We thank the Japanese Presidency for the concept paper and for its continued stewardship of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions since 2009. The very fact that the Security Council is holding an open debate on the issue of its working methods is in and of itself of some significance. While we acknowledge the prerogative of the Council to set its working methods, we have always argued that since the Council acts on behalf of the UN membership, it is both natural and legitimate for the latter to discuss the Council's working methods.

India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council, which is an integral part of the broader imperative of comprehensive reform and expansion of the membership of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. The overwhelming majority of the membership of the United Nations has already reiterated its support for such reforms.

Mr. President,

The Council will render great service to the cause of maintaining international peace and security by deepening and enriching its consultations with troop and police contributing countries in the devising, revision and implementation of mandates of the UN's peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. In addition, such constructive consultations can and will have a salutary impact on the on-going efforts towards enhancing the transparency and effectiveness of the Council's work.

Mr. President,

Another area that cries out for urgent reforms relates to the Council's annual report to the General Assembly. At present, the annual report continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents. It is important the General Assembly be aware not only of what decisions were taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-away for the membership of the General Assembly. Further, it is important for the Council to submit, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly, in accordance with article 24 (3) of the Charter, for consideration of the Assembly in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the Charter.

Mr. President,

Apart from the specific areas of reform that I have already mentioned, my delegation believes that the Council should urgently undertake the following measures. First, as a general rule the Council must meet in sessions open to all UN member states. Second, implement Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter by consulting with non-Council members on a regular basis, especially members with a special interest in the substantive matter under consideration by the Council. Third, grant non-Council members access to the Council's subsidiary organs, including, the right to participate, as appropriate. Fourth, make available to non-Council members draft resolutions and presidential statements, as well as other draft documents that are tabled at informal consultations of the whole of the Council for action on its agenda items, as soon as such documents are tabled, or earlier, if so authorized by the author of the draft.

Fifth, hold frequent, timely and substantive briefings for non-Council members on the matters discussed in the Council and its subsidiary organs, including briefings on its ad hoc missions, their terms of reference and the findings of such missions. Sixth, hold regular consultations with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

Mr. President,

My delegation is supportive of the on-going efforts, including and particularly those of the S5 grouping, to bring about improvements in the Council's

working methods. Such efforts have succeeded in keeping the issue of working methods high on the reform agenda. Yet we must acknowledge that real progress has been minimal, despite years of efforts. 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. We invite the S-5 and others to work closely and actively and in lock-step with the wider international community seeking comprehensive reforms of the Council. In the absence of such a comprehensive reform, a fundamental improvement in the working methods would either escape us as it has for more than sixty years or, even if miraculously achieved, would not last without the institutional memory, continuing commitment and peer example of new permanent members. Thank you.



**633. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative of India at the Meeting of
the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the
General Assembly.**

New York, April 26, 2010.

Madam Co-Chair,

Let me start by expressing appreciation for the decision taken by you (Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia) and our distinguished colleague from Argentina, Ambassador Jorge Argüello (the other Co-Chair) to dedicate one entire meeting to discuss the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship to other principal organs of the United Nations.

Today's discussion is both important and timely. Whilst this issue has been engaging our attention for many years, the time has come for the General Assembly, the G-192 to take remedial action. Not to do so would not only further fuel the prevailing apathy but also strengthen trends to look for solutions elsewhere both within and outside the UN system.

Madam Co-Chair,

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 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, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

Madam Co-chair,

A perception that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been undermined, in particular by the Security Council has gained ground. First, the Council is increasingly encroaching on issues that traditionally fall

within the Assembly's competence, such as the process of standard-setting and codification of international law and by holding of thematic debates on issues that frequently fall within the purview of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC. Second, the Council's annual report continues to be a mere statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents which merely informs without educating, illustrates without elucidating. We associate ourselves with such concerns.

As is to be expected, such concerns have led to calls for urgently recalibrating the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Council would do well to eschew the tendency to give extremely creative and permissive interpretations to the consideration of what constitutes a threat to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII. And in terms of its reporting obligations, the Council should not only inform the Assembly of the decisions taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership.

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. Foremost in this regard is the need to properly appreciate and then correctly situate the Assembly within the plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal with global issues. 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.

Madam Co-Chair,

I would now like to address two other important issues of relevance to our meeting here today, namely the oversight role of Assembly vis-à-vis the UN staff and as reflected in the working of the Fifth Committee. 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. Regarding the working of the Fifth Committee, we are of the view that as long as the brooding omnipresence of jobs-related concerns continue to be a major pre-occupation for the international community, the Assembly's oversight of the allocation of financial resources towards development-related activities should remain sacrosanct. Clearly, the role of the Assembly as the interface between Member-States and the Secretariat should be reinforced so that the policies and priorities set by Members are better reflected and accounted for within the UN machinery.

Madam Co-Chair,

In conclusion, let me re-emphasise 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 our constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank You.



634. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on the Committee on Information.

New York, April 27, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili of Permanent Mission of Georgia on his election as Vice Chair of the Committee. We welcome the reports of the Secretary-General on the three-fold activities of the Department of Public Information, namely strategic communications, new as well as outreach services. India aligns itself with the statement made by the Chair of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

This debate provides an occasion to reiterate the central concerns of Member States over the process of dissemination of information. For us, the defining characteristic of the work of this Committee lies in its relationship with the Department of Public Information, and the ensuing cooperative effort to continually improve upon the delivery of relevant information inputs to millions of potential users across the world.

The DPI's role is pivotal as it has to strategically communicate the message of the United Nations with the greatest public impact in a situation where the UN confronts a variety of complex challenges and opportunities. Let me illustrate this with some encouraging facts. According to the report on news services, between July 2009 and January 2010 more than 1,100 press releases containing statements by and messages from the Secretary-General and other officials and departments as well as 682 summaries of press briefings of the Secretary-General's spokesperson and other press conferences here at UN Headquarters were disseminated. This represents a quantum jump in comparison to the figures for the corresponding period in earlier years.

However, it must also be pointed out that such impressive improvements are occurring in the midst of 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 DPI here at the UN headquarters, I cannot sit in as a silent observer in a press conference at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium!

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee's focus has to be on how to make the work of the Department of Information 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. To achieve this, the widest possible range of technologies needs to be harnessed. 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.

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 roughly 80 local languages and note with satisfaction that UN radio programmes are being made in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, among other languages. This promotion of multilingualism by the DPI in its activities needs to be further widened and intensified, including in particular parity among 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. A related issue is the question of UN Information Centers, which are crucial in enhancing the public image of the UN and in disseminating its message, particularly in the developing world. We agree with the views expressed by many that our goal should be to strengthen, rather than weaken, these information outposts of the United Nations. Hub and spoke models may appeal in certain managerial contexts, but make little sense in a people-intensive sector such as the media. We would encourage the

Department to work closely with host countries in these efforts. We would also support adequate budgetary resources being made available to strengthen the public outreach and ensure the effective functioning of Information Centres in developing countries. We would like to commend the useful and creative work being undertaken by UNIC in New Delhi, including in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

The information being 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. Moreover, 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 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. To provide just one example with which I am somewhat familiar, Indian soldiers serving as UN peacekeepers have consistently carved a very special place for themselves in the hearts and minds of the local population in their area of operations as a result of their healing touch via enthusiastic involvement in providing medical and veterinary support, promoting local community development projects aimed at soil conservation and water harvesting, provision of free vocational training, etc. It is such stories of goodwill and down to earth cooperation that the world needs to hear more of!

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you of India's full backing as you guide the work of this Committee, as well as to the DPI as it projects the UN story and builds support for the Organization and its noble aims.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



635. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Charged' Affaires a. i. of India at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Role and Responsibilities of the General Assembly in the Process of Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the UN.

New York, 28 April 2010.

Madam Co-Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. At the outset, let me thank the two Co-Chairs for their efforts. I recall that at an earlier occasion when we discussed the revitalization of the General Assembly, I had called for energized participation. We would have liked to have greater participation by member-states in today's meeting.

We welcome the decision to hold this meeting to discuss the role and responsibilities of the General Assembly in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. 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.

Madam Co-Chair,

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.

Madam Co-Chair,

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.

Madam Co-Chair,

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.

Madam Co-Chair,

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.

In conclusion, Madam Co-Chair 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.



636. Extempore remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India on Agenda Item No. 126 - "Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War : Special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the war" at General Assembly Hall.

New York, May 6, 2010.

Madam President,

World War II was one of the most devastating conflicts witnessed in human history and it is imperative that we remember all the victims of this war and pay homage to them and to their memory.

We are, therefore, grateful to the General Assembly for convening this session and to the delegation of the Russian Federation for having piloted the resolution.

As I stand here, I salute the valiant young men and women and populations of all the countries who fought and ensured that we live in a world free from fascism. It is also absolutely imperative that we use this opportunity to pledge and ensure our commitment to the most

fundamental principle and purpose of the United Nations that is to ensure that successive generations are saved from the scourge of war.

Madam President,

We are commemorating the end of the Second World War in the western theatre. In this context, as we pay homage, tribute and salute soldiers and populations from all the countries in Europe and across the Atlantic. it is very important to also note and remember the huge contributions and sacrifices made by people in other parts of the world.

This is certainly true of my country. The Indian Army at the start of the World War II was a mere 200,000 men. This swelled to 2.5 million men, the largest volunteer force ever raised in history and it participated in most of the crucial campaigns of World War II, suffering nearly 35,000 fatalities and over a 100,000 injured. Sacrifices of our valorous young men and their families have ensured that we live in a world free of fascism.

Madam President,

India had participated in the San Francisco Conference and, as a founding member of the United Nations is strongly committed to the purposes and principles of the UN and its Charter. I am further honoured to restate our absolute determination to be part of the international community committed to save the successive generations from the scourge of war and be with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you Madam President,



637. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, at the Informal Meeting on the 2010 Review of the Peacebuilding Commission at the General Assembly Hall.

New York, May 10, 2010.

Madam Co-Facilitator, Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

Thank you for convening today's informal meeting and for the "Emerging Issues" paper which is both comprehensive and focused. This can form a very useful basis for the on-going review of the Peacebuilding Commission. Let me at the outset, Madam Co-Facilitator align my delegation with the statement delivered by my distinguished colleague from Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Since my statement was prepared before you invited delegations to focus on specific individual issues, I request your indulgence as I deliver a comprehensive statement that addresses all relevant issues.

Co-Facilitators,

I wish to begin by echoing the Secretary General's assertion, in his report last year, on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict. The imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the country level cannot be overemphasized. Even in cases where it is difficult to locate national ownership, international peacebuilding efforts should be geared towards strengthening the capacity of a post-conflict State to govern effectively and to govern well. Security clearly is the key pillar for peacebuilding. Capacity building also assumes importance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided.

It is equally important to focus on building economic opportunity, particularly for the youth along with political and social stability. In most situations, unemployment amongst youth is a major factor for perpetuation of the underlying causes of conflict. Peace cannot therefore be achieved and consolidated unless and until employment opportunities

are available in the economy. The impact of employment-generation activities would be both positive and immediate. The international community must pay greater attention, facilitate and strengthen the ability of the national authorities concerned in promoting employment generation. Co-Facilitators, my delegation is of the view that the international community, acting through the instrumentality of the PBC, must always strive to ensure that there is effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages. In this regard, it is important that the on-going review result in re-orienting the current peacebuilding architecture in such a manner that would enable the Organizational Committee of the PBC to play a more decisive role in formulating the Commission's approach towards post-conflict situations. Also, country-specific configurations must not run ahead of the national government concerned in setting targets. On the question of the type of UN presence most conducive to ensuring a broader, coherent and integrated approach to peacebuilding, my delegation believes that there cannot be any fractured or piecemeal approach to the maintenance of international peace and security. The international community must therefore, in the interests of ensuring continuity and credibility of the transition process, give greater say to the major troop and police contributing countries in the various peacekeeping operations. In particular, the Security Council should heed the advice of these countries both individually and through the instrumentality of the PBC while formulating and revising mandates of UN missions.

Co-Facilitators,

The international community needs to constantly improve the governance structures of the peacebuilding architecture. Such improvements must primarily seek to ensure that all the available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time. This we believe is the *sine qua non* of peacebuilding. In this regard, the PBF should be truly transformed into an effective mechanism for translating the international community's resolve into prompt and responsive financing. Such financing would then be able to encourage the rest of

the actors in the peacebuilding architecture to make complementary contributions.

Co-Facilitators,

It is not always possible to transplant models of internal political reconciliation specific to one region and one context to a different region and context. And the international community must not show undue eagerness for such arrangements in its hurry to bring peace. The most evident corollary to this approach is to further encourage regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa to play a more important role both in peacekeeping and peacebuilding issues within Africa. The peacebuilding architecture must institutionalize structures and processes to this end. Co-Facilitators, Peacebuilding is a peculiarly UN-centric word. It is very important to connect it to the real world. We need to properly communicate to the international community the nature and content of the Commission's work. In this context, peacebuilding is essentially an activity based on consolidation. Even when carried out in parallel with peacekeeping, it is distinct from the latter and therefore it is critical that the phrases we use do not obliterate such distinctions. The efforts of the various strategies of the peacebuilding architecture must be to strengthen a representative and effective Government in the country concerned. Eventually, it is the Government of the country that is answerable if it is unable to deliver on peace consolidation strategies; and that answer must be given to the people it represents. It is also the Government of that country that will need to manage processes beyond the country's engagement with the PBC.

Co-Facilitators,

I would be remiss if I did not stress on two very important imperatives. First, while the work of the PBC should draw on the synergies of three principal organs of the United Nations, namely the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council when they are handling post-conflict situations, the experience till date has shown that we are still some distance away from such a harmonized partnership. In particular, the General Assembly and the ECOSOC should step up its dialogue and coordination with the PBC and its various

constituents. This would ensure that the Commission is able to successfully play its assigned role of "an intergovernmental advisory body" that handles post-conflict situations. Second, the PBC should not take on the task of advising States on post-conflict peace consolidation; instead it should help the State concerned identify and utilize genuine international expertise in addressing such sensitive issues.

In conclusion, Co-Facilitators, let me reiterate that India has a unique experience of nation-building in a large, complex and most diverse setting as we have strived to give our people a better way of life. This has allowed us to develop multifaceted capacities relevant to peacebuilding and development. We have shared this experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding activities, including for development, social sector reform and rule of law and security.



638. Intervention by Vijai Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, on the occasion of SIDS Day/ Preparatory Meeting for the 5-year review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation during CSD-18.

New York, May 10, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77. It is heartening that the CSD has established a practice of holding a SIDS Day during each review session. The fact that today's meeting will lay the groundwork for the September 2010 review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation makes our discussion even more relevant. It is satisfying that our meeting has been preceded by a comprehensive preparatory

process, including regional meetings in Vanuatu, Maldives and Grenada, as well as an inter-regional meeting. Full participation of SIDS in the review process is key to the event.

Mr. Chairman, We thank the Secretary-General for the detailed reports on the subject, which provide updated information for a meaningful review of the progress made. We note that the SIDS have progressed well on MDGs related to socio-economic parameters including health. However, there is reason for concern as economic growth, which is vital for poverty eradication and for achieving MDGs on a sustained basis, has not kept up with the pace required. The debt situation of some SIDS has also deteriorated sharply.

The Secretary-General's reports have correctly highlighted the intrinsic vulnerabilities of SIDS and the income distribution inequalities, not captured in the statistics on per capita GDP and Human Development Indices. At the same time, it is apparent that the global Financial crisis, the other external shocks and the adverse impacts of climate change have had a significant adverse impact on the sustainable development efforts of SIDS. We concur with the assessment in the Secretary-General's reports that the Economic Vulnerability Index of SIDS demonstrates that incomes do not automatically translate into greater coping ability. There is need for more objective criteria to evaluate vulnerability. We look forward to the results of the vulnerability-resilience methodology being developed by DESA. The thematic issues of this CSD meet - transport, mining and sustainable consumption & production - are particularly relevant for the developmental effort of the SIDS given their narrow resource base and remoteness. The high cost of transport of goods to SIDS, for example, is clearly a result of small volumes and long distances.

Mr. Chairman,

India recognizes fully the special challenges faced by SIDS in the pursuit of sustainable development. We know the issues on account of the large number of small islands in India and low lying coastal areas. Also, because we have, in recent times, revisited our two-decade-old coastal

management system in light of the challenges from climate change induced sea level rise and the growing pressures on both biodiversity and on the unique benefits that coastal ecosystems confer. We in India have looked at new approaches to secure the livelihoods and habitats of the coastal people through space-technology aids, tighter standards of environmental protection, cumulative assessments at higher levels of sophistication and resolution, and the strengthening of our knowledge base on impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation. As part of South-South cooperation, India has been privileged to share its development experience and technological resource with SIDS in the belief that human and institutional capacity-building is key to sustainable development. We have also assisted in implementing projects in the areas identified by SIDS. Our cooperation has been in diverse sectors, including adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, information and communication, waste management, remote sensing, hydrographic survey, telemedicine, public transport, education, irrigation systems, food and agriculture, and fisheries. Overall, India has committed project aid of US \$ 70 million to SIDS, in addition to US \$ 350 million in concessional loans and credit lines.

Such efforts by sister developing countries cannot substitute the commitments made by our developed country partners that remain unfulfilled for providing financial and technological resources, building capacities and providing market access. This should be remedied, and we hope that the meeting today will help provide the necessary momentum in this regard. Let me say, as I conclude, that I have felt very privileged to speak at this important meeting. Thank you.



639. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council at the UN Security Council.

New York, May 11, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council. I would also like to thank the three distinguished Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540 for their painstaking efforts in steering the work of their respective Committees. This periodic stocktaking is timely and critical. We are happy to participate in today's open debate.

Mr. President,

Terrorism poses an extremely serious threat to all states and all societies. It threatens democracy and democratic values. It aims to destroy lives and reverse development. The backdrop of the latest terrorism related incidents once again underscore that terrorism is a global threat and requires a coordinated and concerted global response. There are deep concerns about the potential nexus between clandestine proliferation and terrorism and the ever-present danger of such weapons or vulnerable nuclear materials falling into the hands of non-state actors. To effectively combat the scourge of terrorism, it must be resolutely opposed, resisted and overcome through undiluted commitment and effort by the international community. International solidarity and shared determination are absolutely imperative to combat this scourge effectively. 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.

Mr. President,

India has an abiding interest in expeditiously concluding the long-pending Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

An early adoption of CCIT is in the interests of all Member States and would provide impetus to multilateral and collective action to countering international terrorism efforts. Almost, all the elements of the proposed CCIT have passed muster by legal experts. What is required now is the necessary political will to ensure the early adoption of the CCIT.

Mr. President,

We support the anti-terrorism mechanisms established by the United Nations, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267, related to sanctions against Al-Qaeda/ Taliban; United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, which led to the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee; and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which addressed the issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We also support the subsequent resolutions that renewed, strengthened or amended these three original resolutions. India's regulatory and legislative framework is fully geared to implementing the obligations under these resolutions. We look forward to greater efforts to bring together inter related aspects of the operational mechanism of the 1267 Committee, 1540 Committee and the Counter Terrorism Committee and dovetailing these with the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It is our earnest hope that all these efforts within the UN body will be integrated more closely with the core tasks being taken forward by specialized bodies such as the UNODC, Interpol, ICAO, IMO etc. We strongly affirm the importance of collective effort to focus on technical assistance in helping a State implementing the mandate of the Counter Terrorism Committee and 1540 Committee and the related instruments. We are willing to extend assistance, bilaterally as well as multilaterally, in the larger effort to counter the threat of terrorism.

Mr. President,

For strengthening and effective implementation of counter-terrorism measures, the Security Council has focused on upgrading the existing mandates to ensure effective compliance with its resolutions. These efforts need to be supplemented with a more collaborative approach of extending assistance, utilizing available regional expertise and appropriate technologies.

The latest UNSC Resolution, 1904, has attempted to streamline the functioning of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee. We support measures to strengthen the review process of the listings in the Consolidated List through the Office of the Ombudsperson with a view to increasing fairness and transparency of the sanctions regime. At the same time, Mr. President, 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 that we can ill-afford in our united fight against terrorism. We would encourage the Committee to continue to work towards improving both the content and functionality of its website. We fully support the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate's efforts to play a more effective role in countering terrorism. We welcome the Committee's efforts to organize thematic briefings, streamlining its working methods and give more focus to substantive and analytic work. We have taken note of the latest progress made by the 1540 Committee towards the comprehensive review of status of implementation of Resolution 1540. We support efforts to prepare guidelines for handling assistance requests by countries and to find means to address the most commonly found gaps in the implementation of Resolution 1540. It is important that these activities are performed at the request of Member States and keeping in mind their varying national capacities, procedures and systems.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we will continue to work closely with the counter terrorism mechanisms established pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540. We welcome efforts to use open dialogue as a means to build closer cooperation within the international system. What we need is the necessary political will accompanied with concerted and resolute action to effectively combat the scourge of terrorism.

Thank you.



640. Intervention by Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, in the Round Table: Mining for Sustainable Development—High Level Segment-CSD 18.

New York, May 12, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77.

Mining in India is an important contributor to the country's GDP and is also a significant source of employment generation. The total value of mineral production during the year 2009-10 in India stood at roughly US\$ 27 billion.

Mr. Chairman,

It is well recognised that mining, unless properly regulated, can have adverse environmental and social consequences. On one hand, mining disturbs the soil, water and ecological regimes and on the other hand, unless accompanied by proactive measures to promote inclusiveness, it can lead to the alienation of the local population and assume socially unacceptable dimensions. This brings me to the first of the three major issues related to the sustainability of mining operations.

Indian experience has shown that Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) solutions are not as easy as they seem and unless properly designed and implemented, can have law and order implications as well. India has come up with a comprehensive National R&R Policy in the year 2007 and the newer R&R plans like that of Jharia (2009) incorporate self-contained new townships for the displaced population and also a detailed programme for skill upgradation.

Mr. Chairman,

The second issue is, how do you plan upfront for sustainable mining operations? India has managed to evolve a fairly robust system of environmental clearances as well as forest land diversion related clearances. However, the real challenge lies in monitoring and enforcing

the conditions stipulated in these clearances. Since mining activities are mostly carried out in remote and far flung areas, institutional innovation and creation of empowered monitoring authorities to take care of such concerns, has to be ensured on a priority basis.

Mr. Chairman,

The third issue related to mining is land degradation. A country like India has about 0.7% of its land mass under mines. Despite detailed guidelines of the Indian Bureau of Mines, restoration of land after mines closure remains a big challenge. A two pronged strategy is needed to address this issue: one, capacity building of mining companies along with greater stress on Corporate Social Responsibility.; and two, enacting a more effective regulatory regime. Application of GIS/GPS based monitoring mechanisms and related technologies could prove to be very useful and this needs to be encouraged through greater flow of technology and resources to the developing world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



641. Intervention by Rajiva Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, in the Round Table on "Strategies for Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Management", High level Segment - CSD 18.

New York, May 13, 2010.

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates:

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77. The deliberations in this conference reflect the global community's shared interest to make this planet safe for the present and future generations. Chemicals represent a vital element of economic development encompassing virtually the entire spectrum of human activity. Indian chemical industry manufactures more than 70,000 commercial products and contributes significantly towards industrial and economic growth accounting for 3% of our GDP. Sound management of chemicals, therefore, is essential to achieving long term growth, including eradication of poverty and improvement of quality of life of our people.

Mr. Chairperson,

Solid waste generation is predominantly an industrial and urban problem, which has exacerbated over the years due to changing lifestyles and increasing consumerism, resulting from rapid urbanization. Presently about 200 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste of industrial and mining origin, 6.23 million tonnes of hazardous waste, 57 million tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW), and about 350 million tonnes of other waste from agricultural sources are generated in the country. India has developed a robust, overarching legislative framework for sound management of chemicals and waste. I would like to focus my thoughts on some of the issues, which in my view are basic to meeting the objectives of a sound management of chemicals and waste. The first issue is how to integrate the informal sector into the formalized regime as in India a large number of informal sectors are involved for collection and segregation of e-waste. The second issue is to explore alternative utilization of Hazardous Waste instead of traditional disposal on land

and thus maximizing their optimal use. India has about 36,000 industrial units generating hazardous waste. Waste having high calorific value is being co-processed in cement industries and the experience has been encouraging. The utilization of such waste is being attempted for other sectors like power and steel industry as well.

The third issue relates to the positive results in India in setting up of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) for Hazardous Waste in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As on date we have 25 such facilities and 8 are under construction. The fourth issue relates to food security and public health. Use of chemicals and pesticides is critical to food security. There is an equally important public health dimension to the use of chemicals. We use DDT for malaria control and are conscious of the harmful effects of DDT. Many Countries, including India feel compelled to continue using DDT as it has overriding utility from public health perspective. The fifth issue relates to listing of new chemicals within the purview of ban and restrictions under the multilateral environmental agreements. We need to follow a calibrated and scientific approach and not be overzealous to quickly bring more chemicals into the purview. The sixth issue relates to prevention, mitigation and management of chemical accidents. India has developed an IT enabled Web Based Chemical Emergency Planning and Response System comprising digitized maps and location specific data of the maximum accident hazard units. This has improved our emergency preparedness. To facilitate flow of chemical accidents information, an online web based Chemical Accident Information and Reporting System (CAIRS) has been developed. The seventh issue is regarding the limited availability of financial resources and the need for technical capacity building for Chemical and Waste management for developing countries. Only limited financial resources are available for implementation of the obligation under the Stockholm Convention. This needs to be supplemented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



642. Extempore Remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations during the informal meeting of the General Assembly Plenary.

New York, May 14, 2010.

Thank you very much, Madam Under-Secretary General. I am indeed very grateful to you. I thought I would depart from what my colleagues have written because I have been following the trend of what is being discussed today and I thought let me try and make a few brief points, noting the time constraints.

Madam Undersecretary General, Panelists, thank you very much for your deliberations today. We much appreciate what all of you have brought to the table, here at the United Nations, for us to mull over here on the issue of piracy off the Somali coast.

It is important for us to acknowledge that there are political, legal, social and economic aspects and that these need to be addressed. There should be no issue on that. I think we are all one on that.

I think we also need to recognize that what is happening is that the pirates are becoming much more sophisticated. The pirates' capacities are increasing, these are also increasing as a result of the acts that they undertake for a variety of reasons which are well-known to us. This makes the situation extremely worrying because of its capacity to impact global trade. The impact on trade in our region is, in any case, is immense. We suffer the consequences of this. India is also faced with the fact that a large proportion of the seafarer community comes from our country. This has social consequences for us, apart merely from the fact that our nationals are caught-up.

We certainly and fully respect what UNCLOS has to say, jurisdictions of flag states and all other rules and regulations which fall in this ambit. But I think the need of the hour for all of us today is to find solutions where States have the preponderance of being able to take action which is through collaboration. Individually, they are always going to be ahead of us, because of the kind of motivations that drive the pirates including the lure but we as

the Member States of UN and as States have capacities which are huge but which need to be tapped and brought into collaborative action. It is therefore extremely important that we look at what we can do for this collaboration both on the legal framework side as well as in terms of practical collaboration. We, therefore, would be very supportive of these deliberations to see what we can do, what are the kind of innovations that we can look at, evolutions if necessary in terms of international law.

And I think, it is extremely important that we also look at issues on strengthening capacities of countries in the region to deal not only with the situation as it prevails but also the situation as with regard to the question of handling the people who get caught, when you capture pirates, when you bring them to the shore and their trials. It is quite clear this is well beyond the capacities of many of the States with whom we are also trying to have arrangements and so on and so forth.

I want to stop here, Madam Under Secretary-General, and say that we of course are very supportive of various international arrangements which are already in place and which are being worked on, in the International Maritime Bureau, the ReCAP and, in particular the activities of its Piracy Reporting Center as well as the multifaceted initiatives recently taken by the IMO.

We also believe very strongly in the role of the UN and I am very happy that you have convened the meeting here at the United Nations. This gives all of us, the global community, the ability to be able to participate, to understand, to contribute and have the United Nations in a pivotal role to be able to see what we can do as a global community to address this particular issue which is of very serious concern to everyone.

Thank you very much.



643 Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Briefing by the World Bank on the World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development.

New York, May 17, 2010.

Thank you very much Mr. President for giving me this opportunity.

Let me at the outset, express my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for this useful interaction.

The briefing provided on the progress till date on the World Development Report 2011 highlights the inter-linkages between "conflict, security and development." This opportunity for interaction between member-states and the World Bank, coming as it has in the midst of the on-going review of the Peacebuilding Commission, is particularly welcome.

I have had the privilege of interacting with two of the panelists some time back at a weekend retreat. I am, therefore, aware of the high quality of their presentation. The other two panelists have also contributed immensely to the rich discussions today.

Having paid compliments, we need to have a reality check regarding the issues at hand. There are a few stark facts that stare us in the face. All countries except Haiti on the Peacebuilding Commission's agenda are in Africa. And the continent of Africa, in spite of all the lofty pronouncements of the international community, continues to face endemic problems.

The mandates of the various bodies that make up the global governance architecture were devised sixty years ago. There are many of us who believe that unless this architecture is changed to reflect current realities, the contributions that these bodies can make will be somewhat limited.

In the context of the World Bank, we cannot think of any other way for its useful contribution to global issues other than by focusing on the issue of poverty alleviation which lies at the core of problems in Africa.

Along with poverty alleviation, the other requiring the Bank's attention is youth unemployment. This is particularly relevant as we are dealing with fragile states that have the potential of lapsing back to conflict unless adequate steps are taken to address the immediate challenges at hand.

Several interventions before me, including that by the Permanent Representative of Ireland referred to the nature of interaction between the UN and the World Bank. In my view, nice exchanges of pleasantries, documents, analysis by themselves will not take us very far. We need to see where resources that would benefit these countries can be mobilized. We see that in similar discussions, there is fatigue and ennui in Africa about the UN's role. Why is it so? Is it because the development quotient or development dividend has not been forthcoming in the UN's activities there?

Now I would like to move to my speaking notes.

The issues of conflict prevention in a globalised world do not merely cover situations wherein we have a repressive states and helpless individuals. We have conflicts created by the result of the acquisition of war-fighting capabilities and techniques by non-state actors.

Let us be clear, that when countries are confronted with such challenges, the international community should be able to provide the necessary resources to enable them to deal with the situation. I have repeatedly stressed the imperative of national ownership. Even in cases where it is difficult to locate national ownership, international peacebuilding efforts should be geared towards strengthening the capacity of a post-conflict State to govern effectively and to govern well. Creating economic opportunities and capacity building needs to be flagged.

We need to constantly improve the governance structures of the peacebuilding architecture. Such improvements must primarily seek to ensure that all the available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations are properly harnessed in the shortest possible time. This we believe is the sine qua non of peacebuilding. In this regard, we welcome the role that the World Bank has been playing and call for its continued association with the Peacebuilding Commission.

I would like to touch briefly on Afghanistan which is one of the countries that you are dealing with in your study. India has remained committed to assisting Afghanistan in its development efforts in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the people of Afghanistan. India's development partnership with Afghanistan, currently to the tune of more than US\$ 1.3 billion, is focused on the areas of infrastructure development, human resource development and capacity building, food assistance and small development projects that bring immediate benefit to the people at the grass-roots level. Bilateral cooperation apart, India is also actively partnering with the UNDP, especially in capacity building for the Afghan public service as well as for building of national institutions.

In the case of Haiti, soon after the devastating earthquake, India announced a cash contribution of US \$ 5 million towards relief measures as a token of solidarity with the people of Haiti and transferred the entire amount to the Government of Haiti on 2 February, 2010. Moreover, in response to a request for additional peacekeepers following adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1908 in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India is sending two additional Formed Police Units to Haiti to strengthen MINUSTAH. We have also joined Brazil and South Africa in deciding to expand our IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa Trust Fund, waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and its scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA plans to spend over US\$ 2 million in this effort and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti this year.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that India would be very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding activities.



644. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Items 48 and 114: Consideration of the Secretary General's Report on "Human Security" at the UNGA.

New York, May 21, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking all the panelists as well as participants for their presentations and useful insights on the emerging concept of "Human Security". We would like to recognise the personal interest of the Permanent Representative of Japan in pursuing this debate in the UN and thank the Secretary General for his report A/64/701.

Mr. President, The concept of human security from a layman's perspective might appear quite obvious and is perhaps well captured in the World Summit Outcome document paragraph 143 as freedom from fear, freedom from want and right to live with dignity for all individual in order to fully develop their potential. However, as noted in paragraph 143 there is a need to clearly define the concept of human security in the multilateral context. The basic framework for this discussion was, of course, provided in the same paragraph by referring to the three mutually interlinked issues of security, livelihood, and dignity, with individual at its centre. In our discussions on the definition, it is important to ensure that human security is clearly situated within the parameters of non-aggression, non-interference in the domestic affairs of States, right to national self-defence and State sovereignty, which is the bedrock of international relations and domestic governance. The definition needs to recognize that the primary responsibility for human security rests with States and Governments. Obviously there can be no place for interventionism in the concept of human security.

The concept must be people centric and should go beyond the narrow framework of protection of population from physical security like war and conflict to a much broad framework to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development as an important pillar.

Mr. President, We recognise the complexity associated with this concept and its multidimensional linkages at national, regional and international level. Major international challenges of today, in-fact, require the tackling of persistent and chronic social and economic challenges, which confront States. At the UN we have pledged to address these challenges in numerous ways, but most importantly by focusing on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SG's report also meticulously establishes the direct linkage of exacerbation of these challenges by the recent global crises, including the financial and economic crisis, energy price fluctuations, food security challenges as well as the adverse ramifications of climate change. These challenges, of course, are no longer confined within national boundaries. In this regard, it is imperative to stress the need for genuine international cooperation, which recognizes the inherent constraints many developing countries face especially in mobilizing internal and external resources for the socio-economic and developmental activities.

Mr. President, In India we are committed to ensure fundamental rights and dignity to every citizen. In recent years the thrust of our socio-economic development has, moreover, focused on "inclusive growth", i.e. bringing the fruits of economic development to all sections of our society, particularly in rural India and among the vulnerable. It is our belief that a comprehensive approach to human security is the only way that this concept would help every human being explore his/her potential to the maximum, while pursuing a life of dignity in a safe and healthy environment.

Thank You Mr. President.



645. Remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, June 2, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Let me at the outset express my deep gratitude to you and your team in producing the negotiation text.

You are aware that India has been a firm supporter of actual negotiations for reform of the Security Council. To this end we actively supported the demand requesting you to produce a text on which the negotiations could start. The involvement of 140 Member-States in raising this demand clearly shows the overwhelming nature of the support in the international community for real reform of the Security Council. We applaud the effort undertaken by you and your team in producing the negotiation text.

Mr. Chairman,

Your negotiation text is a good basis for starting serious inter-governmental negotiations. It is imperative that all of us engage in these negotiations going beyond the general statements of our positions and intent. Equally important is the need for the process of Council reform to remain the exclusive preserve of the UN member-states at these inter-governmental negotiations. Efforts that in any way detract from these negotiations need to be eschewed.

As regards the text, it is, of course, obvious that in the first instance we need to make it shorter and focus it on the middle-ground, i.e. where the views of the overwhelming majority lie on the key aspects of reform.

Mr. Chairman, the voices in this room today and as we proceed to discuss the five specific elements in detail over the coming weeks, we believe, would give you a clear idea of where this middle ground is. In the view of my delegation, the following are significant.

First, the overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their clear preference for expansion of the Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories. There cannot be any reform without expansion in both the categories of membership. Equally, expansion only in the non-permanent category or any of its other variants does not constitute reform and is merely the perpetuation of the current inefficiency by the same ineffective means in vogue since 1963.

Second, on the size of the Council, there is convergence on the need for expansion from the current fifteen to a figure in the mid-twenties. Also, most of the positions have called for a mandatory review after a period ranging from eight to fifteen years.

Third, the G4 position on the 'question of the veto' is unambiguous and constructive. We stress the need for an outcome that ensures the democratization of decision-making within the Council. India is willing to engage with all concerned with an open mind on this key issue.

Fourth, India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council, which is an integral part of the broader imperative of comprehensive reform and expansion of the membership of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Fifth, on the issue of regional representation, we lay great store by the principle of equitable geographical distribution. India supports a Charter-based distribution of seats that addresses the lack of representation of African, Latin American and Caribbean countries and the lack of adequate representation of Asian countries in the permanent membership; as well as the lack of adequate representation of developing countries, including least developed, landlocked countries and small island states in the non-permanent membership.

Sixth, India calls for the General Assembly and the Security Council as two principal organs of the United Nations to respect each other's distinct roles, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and strive to secure the effective functioning of the United Nations as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, let me restate the obvious. Unless and until we are either resigned by fate or circumscribed by design to an unrepresentative, ineffective and underperforming Security Council, we must hasten to achieve results. We owe it primarily to ourselves and to our succeeding generations to bring about genuine reform at the earliest. To this end, India, alongwith its partners in the G4, L.69 and other like-minded countries and groupings is committed to play its due role in a spirit of accommodation and flexibility. We call on the others to do so likewise and thus rise up to the challenge.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



646. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 44-Implementaton of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS at the UNGA.

New York, June 9, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for convening this plenary meeting on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on this important issue. We have taken note of the various recommendations which are contained in the report.

This report provides us with a good overview of the global HIV/AIDS scene prior to next year's comprehensive review of the achievements of 2001 Declaration of Commitment as well as 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

At the outset, let me extend my support to the draft decision which you have put before us under this agenda item. We look forward to the consultations which will be held later this year to discuss the modalities and organizational arrangements for the next year's comprehensive review of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. President,

In 2001 and later in 2006, we embarked upon an ambitious task of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. This, along with the target set forth in MDG 6, namely, halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2015, acted as the guiding principles in our joint efforts to combat this pandemic. While some progress has been made, however, targets still appear quite far.

Moreover, this year, we will also be reviewing the progress made in all the MDGs in September at the High-level Plenary meeting of the General Assembly. This will give us yet another opportunity to reaffirm our political will and commitment to reach the goals we have set forth ourselves.

Mr. President,

The SG's report points to mixed progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, worldwide. On the positive side, as of December 2008, four million people in low and middle income countries were receiving anti-retroviral therapy - 10 times more than that of five years ago—and new HIV infections decreased by 17% between 2001 and 2008.

However, on the other hand, it can be seen that the epidemic continues to outpace the HIV response; and for every two people starting antiretroviral therapy, five are getting newly infected. Unfortunately, the

HIV pandemic continues to remain one of the leading causes of death among reproductive age women worldwide.

Mr. President,

In India, in terms of prevalence, adult HIV rate is as low as 0.36%, nonetheless, in absolute terms, it is estimated that the HIV positive population is around 2.46 million. The primary objective of our national programme to combat HIV/AIDS, i.e., the National AIDS Control Programme, is in line with MDG 6 of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2015.

One of the important feature of this programme is to scale up its efforts through Targeted Interventions for High Risk Groups, strategizing comprehensive Information, Education and Communication packages for specific segments, and scaling up of the service delivery component.

Mr. President,

For us, the fight against HIV/AIDS has socio-economic and developmental dimensions, not merely a public health dimension. We have also mainstreamed HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment in all government schemes and activities and have actively involved corporate sector, NGOs and other stakeholders as a partner, towards this end. The need for a holistic approach that includes effective prevention strategies and access to low-cost affordable treatment for all cannot be overemphasized, for the effective combat of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Having realized that politic commitment is of paramount importance to combat HIV/AIDS, our National Council on AIDS is chaired by the Prime Minister and the State Councils by the respective Chief Ministers.

Mr. President,

There is a need for greater cooperation and coordination at international level to fight this challenge in a concerted manner. India has also been at the forefront of global efforts on AIDS research and has been working in collaboration with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in this regard.

One of the major obstacles in the achievement of universal treatment is the high cost of anti-retroviral drugs. Indian pharmaceutical industry has been filling this critical gap by reducing the costs of these life saving generic drugs by producing high quality affordable drugs for its use in India and also in other developing countries. These efforts need to be fully recognized and supported by the international community. This has become all the more critical as universal access to anti retroviral treatment become mainstreamed in public health policies of governments. Further, availability of second generation anti retroviral drugs will not have any meaningful impact, if low cost generic versions are not made available in the market.

Mr. President,

Fight against HIV/AIDS is one of the keys to achieving the MDGs by 2015. We have come a long way since we committed ourselves to goals related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic but the task at hand continues to remain difficult and formidable. Let me reiterate our full commitment to effectively control HIV/AIDS pandemic in a comprehensive, multi-pronged and multi-sectoral manner, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you, Mr. President



647. Remarks by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, 11 June 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I did not have the privilege of delivering our statement at the meeting on 2 June 2010 as I was sent by my Government to represent my country elsewhere. If I had been here that day, I would have expressed appreciation for your leadership of the process and extended my support for the approach you have outlined for carrying our work forward. I was particularly pleased to note that you had invoked former American President John F. Kennedy in describing the potential inherent in the negotiation text. Specifically, you enquired: Ask not what the text can do for you but what you can do for the text.

If the text had been animate it would have cried out for help, for trimming out all the fat and for making it lean and thin. In other words, it would have liked to be reduced from the current 28/29 pages to something like two or two and a half pages. In my view, this is not difficult to accomplish.

I am happy to hear the views of Italy which said that they have been flexible. Let me also add that we are ready to show flexibility. Whatever be the criteria we use to shorten the text-and my good friend Maged [PR of Egypt], with his usual brilliance has made even the NAM position look like that of the African Group-we can work together to reduce the overlaps and repetitions and shorten the text.

Mr. Chairman,

You have given us a carefully constructed document. You have been fair in reflecting all positions and proposals in the text. We also understand why you are asking us, the member-states to indicate the

support for those proposals that should remain in the text and why you have refrained from passing judgment on the support that each proposal commands. But what we now have is a good and constructive process that needs to become more robust. For reducing the length of the text from the present 28 to something like two and a half pages, we must go through the current process.

I heard the statement from the US side which mentioned that they do not support the subordination of either principal organ by the other. And this is precisely our position as well.

Mr. Chairman,

In India's view, the General Assembly should lead in setting the global agenda and ensuring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter.

I say this, of course, with the full knowledge of Article 12 that the GA should refrain from making recommendations on specific disputes or situations dealing with international peace and security that are before the Council but also being cognizant that the GA has risen to the occasion when the Security Council was grid-locked. I refer in particular to the Uniting for Peace resolution.

As I have stated earlier, Mr. Chairman, a perception that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been undermined, in particular by the Security Council, has gained ground. There are good reasons for this perception.

First, the Council is increasingly taking up issues traditionally dealt by the GA by accepting very wide and innovative interpretations to the threat of international peace and security by holding of thematic debates on issues that frequently fall within the purview of the Assembly or ECOSOC. Such encroachment has also affected the Assembly's competence in process of standard-setting and codification of international law.

Second, the Council has given short shrift to the Assembly by continuing to produce annual report that are a mere statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents which merely inform without educating, illustrate without elucidating.

We therefore associate ourselves with such concerns and would like to see a recalibration of the relationship between the GA and the Security Council.

In this we believe the Council would do well to eschew the tendency to give in to creative and permissive interpretations to the consideration of what constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

And in terms of its reporting obligations, the Council should not only inform the Assembly of the decisions, but also of the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership.

At the same time, however, we believe that remedial measures would be incomplete 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 strengthened procedures. What is really needed is the political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly keeping in mind the fact that today there is a plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal with global issues.

Further, ownership of the Assembly's decisions 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, all the member-states are also partly to blame, not just those who serve permanently on the Council.

And in this context, I must share with you that I sense a certain degree of apathy among delegations when they are attending the Assembly. There also seems to be a lacklustre atmosphere when the Security Council is meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Having clarified our general views on the matter let me turn to the specific proposals noted in the negotiation text.

In our assessment, there is a clear convergence on the need for all organs to stick to their Charter mandates, regular consultations between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council as well as enhanced institutional linkages between the two organs and substantive annual and special reports by the Security Council to the General Assembly.

There are, however, also divergences. These are really on the issue of the GA's jurisdiction with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In our view, therefore, it would be useful for the negotiation process if the Chair could produce a shorter version of the text which reflects the large middle ground of convergences along with a clear listing of the divergences. And should you, Chair, have any difficulty in doing so-and many of the other colleagues with whom I have had consultations are also of the same view-we the delegations can step in and produce such a text.

Thank you.



648. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, During the Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council on the Agenda Item "Children and Armed Conflict".

New York, June 16, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating Mexico on its assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of June 2010.

Mr. President,

The use of children in situations of armed conflict is an abhorrent practice that militates against fundamental principles of humanity. There can be no excuse for subjecting children to the depravity and ravages of armed conflict.

I am participating in this debate today because the Secretary General's latest report on "Children and armed conflict" mentions instances of recruitment and use of children and systematic attacks on schools by Maoist armed groups in some parts of central and eastern India.

At the outset I should make it clear that the violence being perpetrated by these groups, though completely abhorrent and condemnable, certainly does not make this a zone of armed conflict as defined by international law. We, therefore, cannot accept reporting on these incidents as falling within the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. Having clarified this specific point, I would like to state that the Government of India is seized of such abhorrent acts targeting innocent children by these armed groups. We strongly condemn these despicable acts of Naxal violence and are fully committed to controlling such diabolical activities. The Government of India, along with the concerned state governments, has developed a holistic strategy to address Naxal issues by focusing on security, development, administration and the public perception. We have initiated awareness raising programmes through media and mass contact, including by the police through their community policing programmes. The entire government machinery has been dutifully implementing the extant laws, including laws that prohibit child labour. Mr. President, India is a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. We are, of course, fully committed to meet our obligations under these instruments.

Thank you, Mr. President.



649. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, June 16, 2010.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor in this third session of the text based negotiations. At the start of these negotiations, on 2 June, you had encouraged us to draw inspiration from the words of former American President John F. Kennedy by posing the question "Ask not what the text can do for you but what you can do for the text". In our view, the critical issue that we need to face upto now is to recognize that the text, as I said last time, is crying out for help; that it needs to be trimmed of all the fat and for making it lean and thin. What I heard this morning renews my faith in human nature and the atmosphere of goodwill in which we are conducting our deliberations. My distinguished colleague from Pakistan outlined his position and also explained how his position was different from that of the G4 even though the size of an enlarged Council, as proposed by the UFC and the G4, were similar. The limited difference is in the number of permanent members that the two proposals call for. My distinguished colleague from Pakistan seems to believe that having more permanent members would make the Council more opaque and elitist! I also heard other arguments stating that only a smaller number would make an effective Council. If we were to carry this reasoning to its logical conclusion, the Council would be at its effective best when it has only one member! The issue is not whether a Council with five permanent members and ten elected ones is more efficient than one with 25 members with a few more permanent members. We should go into the causes for the Council being ineffective, as composed today, which is why we are having these negotiations.

I can appreciate the difficulty in the Secretariat prioritizing amongst delegations if 23 flags go up simultaneously. I understand the reason for the PR of Sierra Leone conveying his disagreement with the procedure that was followed today. It may, therefore, be useful to revert to a speaker's list. Let me also take the liberty of adding another small request. It would be especially useful for some of our delegations to be informed in advance of the programme of work or a timetable for the conduct of the remainder of the negotiations. Other than these small issues, I think our text-based negotiations are proceeding well and discussions on issues have been of a substantive nature. At the same time, I must stress that everything is not hunky-dory. While I can understand why you said that proposals cannot be removed from the text till removal is acceptable to the member-state which proposed their insertion. I feel it necessary to point out the danger inherent in such an approach. Unless explained, this approach appears to allow an unintended inference to be drawn, that is, those who propose ideas which are of a somewhat extremist nature, on the fringe, would also be vested with a veto. In other words, if someone wants to wreck these negotiations, all that they have to do is to get up and say that they want the Council to be expanded from the current 15 to 49, then proceed to give a one hour lecture on why democracy is better than dictatorship, why bigger numbers are better than smaller numbers. Your position on revisions would give such delegations the right to insist on their proposals for eternity. Surely, that cannot be the message that the Chair wishes to signal. But, since words have meanings, it would be better to place matters in perspective. In our view, the Chair should eliminate those options that do not reflect the middle-ground. If this is not feasible, at least we should be able to quantify the support that different options have received, either in the body of the text or in footnotes. Not to do so could invite a number of rash proposals and circumscribe the already limited flexibility and autonomy that I believe the Chair enjoys. We also need to ensure that we move speedily in our negotiations and not take another six months between the conclusion of this round of negotiations and the announcement of the next revised text. In other words, we need a programme of work with an automatic and immediate issuance of Rev. 2 as we go into the next phase. Mr. Chairman, Let me now turn to the

subject at hand. We are willing to work with other delegations in a spirit of flexibility and compromise in order to shorten the text. I must add that we see a great deal of convergence on both issues that are the subject of discussions today.

Mr. Chairman,

On the size of an enlarged Council, most proposals veer towards expansion from the current 15 to 25 or 26 and the similarly defined number of "mid-20s." We would suggest that this middle-ground be reflected in the next revised text and the other proposals at the extremities be dropped as part of a process of natural elimination.

Mr. Chairman,

We also associate ourselves with the growing clamour for early reform of the working methods of the Council. This is an integral part of the broader imperative of comprehensive reform and expansion of the membership of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. On working methods, the large middle ground consists of four sets of proposals for improvement of working methods. First, the call for the full implementation of Articles 31 and 32 of the UN dealing with the participation of non-Council member states whose interests are involved in a discussion on any question or dispute under consideration by the Council. Second, a great deal of support for enhancing transparency and accountability as well as increased access to non-Council members, including through more open briefings by UN officials, more open debates and meetings and the like. I heard one of our colleagues, who spoke earlier, say that it is quite intriguing that while the Secretariat can sit in closed consultations of the Council, member-states whose interests are involved cannot do so! Third, calls for enhancing the Security Council's consultations with TCCs and PCCs. And finally, there is convergence on the need to improve the working of the subsidiary bodies of the Council. Having identified these areas of convergence, I must place on record, our backing for other measures such as the call for formalizing the rules of procedure of the Council, wider and early circulation of draft Resolutions and draft Presidential Statements, enhancing the coordination and cooperation with regional organizations, rationalizing the use of the Council's powers under

Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the Charter with the aim of best achieving the objective of the maintenance of international peace and security.

There are, Mr. Chairman, however, also divergences that pertain mainly to the jurisdictional basis of the improvements in the working methods. What does this mean? Everyone is in favour of improving the Council's working methods. But I did hear a few statements, bordering on the arrogant, which seemed to imply that since the Council belonged to them they would decide its working methods. This would be unacceptable in any other organization. If we had a Charter that was not founded on the democratic principle of one country, one vote there could have been scope for such an argument. But the name of the game here is different. No one is as yet questioning the continuance of those who are on the Council. When talking about improvements in working methods, where discussions involve the interests of the member-states and where the decisions taken by the Council will inevitably have a bearing and impact on those who are not members of the Council, there is great merit in the wider membership having a say in the process. We acknowledge that members of the Council are in the driving seat, but it must also be acknowledged that the decisions taken in the Council affect the rest of the UN membership and so the involvement of the latter is also a must. Equally, one must look into the interlinkages in the relationships the Council has with the General Assembly and the ECOSOC. We are of the view that this matter does not pose an insurmountable obstacle and can be sorted out through discussions in a spirit of flexibility and compromise. It would be useful for the negotiation process if the Chair could produce a shorter version of the text which reflects the middle ground of convergence along with a clear listing of the differences. In this context, I would like to extend an invitation to the S-5 and others to work actively and in lock-step with the wider international community seeking comprehensive reforms of the Council. Because I believe that in the absence of such comprehensive reform, a fundamental improvement in the working methods would either escape us as has been the case for more than sixty years or, even if miraculously achieved, would not last without the institutional memory, continuing commitment and contribution of new permanent members. Thank you.



**650. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative of India at the Meeting of
the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the
General Assembly.**

New York, June 18, 2010.

Madam Co-Chair,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the leadership displayed by you (Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia) and your co-chair (Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina) in guiding our deliberations on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. It is a measure of your commitment to the work of the Revitalization of the General Assembly that you have chosen to guide us here just now even as Slovenia is playing an important match in the World Cup. When last heard, you were doing quite well in the game, and you are doing equally well in this process of the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

Madam,

I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki for his leadership and commitment to carry forward this process. I did not have the privilege to listen to him address us earlier today, as I was in another meeting. But I believe he spoke from the heart and made a very passionate case for addressing some of these issues. The fact that he has chosen to do this even as his successor has been elected shows that this is not a personal issue for our PGA, but is a requirement for the institution, the office of the PGA. I would like to place on record our appreciation for his doing so.

Madam, in so far as my delegation is concerned, we view this exercise as 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. Why do I say this? Essentially, Madam because there is a perception that in the world of real politic, the General Assembly has had its authority either circumscribed or eroded by another of the

principal organs. It is not my intention to deal with the causes of this here. My delegation strongly believes that we need to revitalize, and by revitalization, I mean restore as was originally intended, preserve and strengthen the role of the General Assembly. And that in turn, raises issues which are both of a kind that deal with the aura and dignity of the General Assembly and the office of the PGA, and those which are of a substantive nature. In so far as the recommendations made by the PGA are concerned, and I would like to go through them ad seriatum, they appear to me to be eminently reasonable and doable. Let me now start with the first of the recommendations. The first recommendation relates to the budget allocation for the PGA's office. If, as I am given to understand, the present budget has seen no increase since 1998, it stands to reason that more than a decade later, this issue should be addressed. In order to address this issue, we would require some information. I am told that one of the previous speakers, my distinguished colleague from Kazakhstan, referred to an amount of US\$ 250,000 as being the annual budget allocation. Clearly, this is inadequate and I don't believe that the office of the PGA can function within such a small budget. But equally, I don't believe that the office of the PGA has been run solely on this amount. There must be a system of extra-budgetary support. I heard some earlier statements mention that some individual governments have been making resources available. And as the PGA said, this may be possible in the instant case, but tomorrow it may not be possible in case of a country which either does not have the resources or the inclination to make the required resources available. Surely, the office of the PGA which is one of the most important institutions in the UN system should not be made vulnerable to ad hoc or unpredictable sources of funding. We, therefore, strongly support this recommendation. We would like to know what the system of extra-budgetary support has been so far and how it has been operating in the past. Now, I come to the second of the recommendations, namely that the geographical balance of General Assembly membership should be reflected in the composition of the Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly. I admire and salute the spirit of this recommendation. We have always looked at this in a particular way, i.e., the incoming PGA must have the autonomy and flexibility to choose his or her own team. It is not surprising, therefore, that when Father d'Escoto was the PGA, he had a lot of people who were readily associated with him. I also note that the PGA has said that not one of the

members of the Cabinet currently is from his country. This is admirable. Selecting people according to geographical balance, if you are selecting people for one year poses some problems. Surely, people who are selected would not easily accept appointment for only one year. If we are selecting according to the criterion that the UN is supposed to follow, and here I choose my words carefully, I am not suggesting that it does not follow, the system is supposed to follow, a merit based system based on geographical balance. How many people will you get who would agree to serve only for a period of one year? That leads me to another issue, that is, to have continuity in the PGA's office. If you want to have people there on the basis of geographical balance, then they must be allowed to stay longer. But, if you do that you are not going to be able to give the PGA the flexibility to bring along the persons with whom he or she is comfortable.

That brings me to the next issue of institutional memory. The recommendation states that one or more staff members could be retained from the preceding office in the incoming President's Cabinet. The total number of posts available is so limited that one cannot but come to the conclusion that this is a basket which allows very little scope for experimentation. If there are two D2s in the office of the PGA, and you extend both of them into the life of the next Presidency, then clearly the next PGA will not be able to have his team in place. Therefore, I ask myself a question, is institutional memory going to be predicated on continuity in the workforce or any other criterion? My delegation would welcome a certain degree of continuity between the incoming and outgoing Presidents and their Cabinets; some of the eminent persons in the current PGA's office could transition into the next one based on arrangements to be worked out by the two Presidents. What do we do in our national administrations? We have something called the 'handing-over note' which could be area-specific, subject specific and also resource specific. This problem can be resolved with the computer, memory chip and a handing over note. But then as I said, if the two Presidents want to innovate on the issue of institutional memory we would have no problems with that. I now come to issues that I regard as having to do with the aura and dignity of the office. Surely, the system must provide for the basic requirements of protocol and security. It goes without saying that any eminent person who rises to the position of the PGA should never have the feeling that the system short-changed him and so on and so forth. There are, however, some issues on the number

of the security people who will travel with the PGA on his foreign tours. Again, I think we should be flexible on this. There are some countries where the PGA's security personnel will not be able to do very much. There are countries, for instance, where the receiving government will not allow the visiting security personnel to carry side arms or other weapons, because the receiving governments take responsibility for the security. When the PGA travels, he is received with full protocol honours, he meets the Head of State and/or Government, the Foreign Minister, and the receiving governments provide security. So as I said, we need something which is a sensible augmentation, but not one such that the travel budget of the security component takes away a sizeable chunk of the overall budget of the PGA's office. We would welcome further information and would be happy to support specific recommendations in this respect. There was talk about a Trust Fund having been established. I am very happy to hear that. I was under the impression that such a Fund already existed and that it received extra-budgetary assistance. Here again, I would like further information so that we can look at the issue in greater detail. Let me now come to one very basic issue. Before I do that let me unambiguously clarify our position that we are in favour of strengthening the office of the PGA. 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. I also believe that 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.

I would now like to turn my attention to the second issue, namely visibility and enhanced public awareness of the work of the General Assembly. On this, 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. Of late, I have heard a lament that the UN is being by-passed. If indeed that is the case, then we need to do some soul-searching as to why that is happening. 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. We are of the view that if we proceed on the basis of these principles we can discern without any difficulty the resources we need to provide and the measures we need to take towards our goal.

Madam Co-Chair,

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 very much.



**651 Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri,
Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item
104 - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [High
Level Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime] at
the UNGA.**

New York, June 21, 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak at this commemorative meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

At the outset, I would also like to join others to express appreciation for all the panelists, who shared with us their views and brought to light different perspectives on how to promote a coherent multilateral approach to transnational organized crime.

Mr. President,

Ten years ago, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols dealing with trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants as well as the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, it represented a significant advance in the battle against transnational organized crime. Since then 154 countries have ratified the Convention.

I have the pleasure today to convey to you, and through you to this august Assembly that the Government of India have also decided to ratify the Convention and its three Protocols.

India is also committed to working through various regional and international cooperation mechanisms towards a world free of transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money laundering, illegal arms transactions, human trafficking and people smuggling and above all, terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has been a victim of terrorism for decades and we have lost countless innocent lives to heinous terrorist attacks. Terrorism has also affected most other countries and, indeed, is the scourge of our times. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom, endangering the international community and humankind as a whole.

While the Transnational Organized Crime Convention makes for strengthened cooperation among law enforcement apparatuses of countries, it is critical that we strengthen the specific multilateral terrorism targeting legal framework. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) has reached a point where the legal issues have been well resolved. We now need to give the necessary political push so that the Convention is urgently adopted.

Mr. President,

We recognize that international cooperation in criminal matters is the cornerstone of efforts of States to prevent, prosecute and punish transnational crime. It is important that we clearly acknowledge the critical role of cooperation among States in the fight against transnational crime, and particularly transnational organized crime, and take steps for enhancing and reinforcing international cooperation at all levels.

The international community, including the UN, must also be willing to contribute and help States that seek financial and technical assistance in

their efforts at capacity-building and training and in putting in place the administrative and legal framework, institutional reforms that are required for fighting transnational organized crime.

Mr. President,

We are also concerned at the growing scale worldwide of trafficking of persons and complexities involved in dealing with this issue. While national efforts to eliminate trafficking are essential, it is also critical to have greater cohesion in the international community's efforts in addressing this issue. In this context, the establishment of institutional arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels has become indispensable.

The international community must also come together for a coordinated and far-sighted global approach. A United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons is presently being debated at the General Assembly. It is important that we bring the debate to an early conclusion and adopt the plan.

Mr. President,

The stepped up pace of globalization in recent years has seen vastly increased movement of people, goods and services across borders. There have also been very significant improvements in information and communication technology. While these have overall benefit to humankind, we need to reckon with the fact that these have also provided a platform for organized crime to increase its transnational footprint.

In this context, we are deeply concerned about new areas of transnational crimes like cyber-crime, economic fraud and identity-related crimes and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities. In our view, these developments demand that we agree to take a wider look at transnational organized crime encompassing these new and emerging threats while also dealing with crime prevention, criminal justice and treatment of offenders.

At this 10th anniversary of the Convention, it is critical that we commit ourselves to translate our obligations into actions with an even greater degree of cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**652. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on the Thematic Debate on
"UN Peacekeeping: Looking into the Future" at the UNGA.**

New York, June 22, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you for organizing this thematic debate in the General Assembly. Your decision to convene a debate on peacekeeping addresses a long-standing gap. It is a strong political signal about the importance that all Member States attach to this activity. It also signals their intent to engage constructively and substantively. It would be pertinent, in this regard, to note that the Security Council has, during the past year, organized at least four debates under four different Presidencies on peacekeeping and on related thematic issues.

We have heard with interest the remarks of their Excellencies the Ministers and those of the Secretary General and Mr Brahimi.

Mr. President,

Coming from a country that has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every peacekeeping operation in the past six decades, we believe that the subject of this special session, that of "Building Partnerships and Securing Capabilities" captures the essence of the challenge that peacekeeping now faces. It signifies, among other things, that much has changed since 1956, the year in which the first major peacekeeping operation was launched.

To begin with, the formula of 1945 is obsolete. Global capacities, be they economic, military or in other areas, are distributed in a significantly different pattern. The talk of partnership and capabilities reflects the changes that have occurred and the need for these changes to be accommodated in the global division of labour in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Under the current formula, those member states that are not represented in the Security Council, are supposed to get their say in peacekeeping

through the Fourth and Fifth Committees. Troop Contributing Countries, in addition, are statutorily consulted through the triangular meetings convened by the Security Council.

The productive deliberations of the last C-34 notwithstanding, my delegation is pained to point out that attempts are often made to by-pass the C-34 on substantive matters. Recent efforts to fundamentally alter the peacekeeping support structure without entering into a substantive engagement with the C-34 and TCCs are a case in point.

My delegation acknowledges that improvements have been made in the timing of triangular meetings. We have suggested a number of simple changes to make these meetings more useful and relevant. Predictability in terms of timing and circulation of agendas are two of these measures. The system of consultations must also be extended to cover all stages of the mission cycle.

Peacekeeping, in our assessment, will remain the major UN activity for the next few years. It will need more partners, not less; more capabilities, not less. The tendency in some quarters, in the name of expediency, to avoid intergovernmental discussions is counter-productive. There is no shortage of capacities in today's world. The challenge that the United Nations faces is in its efforts to harness these capacities. My delegation submits that greater involvement of member states, not lesser, is the best way of obtaining these capacities for the common benefit of all.

Mr. President,

Two-thirds of UN peacekeeping resources are presently devoted to operations that are at least five years old. The international community must find the capabilities that are required to ensure that the gains that have been painfully accrued by peacekeepers in these mature operations are not squandered while facing the challenges of an altered operating environment.

My delegation would like to stress that Peacebuilding is a far more complicated endeavour than peacekeeping. The number of stakeholders is higher. The requirement for resources is also higher. It requires much greater coordination and joint activity with national authorities than is currently the norm. National needs, not priorities driven by external and

donor interests, should be the yardstick used to approach peacebuilding. DPKO, which is currently a military-driven organization, will have to transform itself in the face of these challenges. It will need more policemen and more rule of law and development administration personnel in future. Member states will need to focus on the division of responsibilities between DPKO and UN Country Teams in order to prevent duplication and waste. 80% of peacekeeping resources are devoted to areas with a legacy of colonialism. Peacebuilding must take into account the experience and insights of countries that have undergone successful post-colonial national building exercises. Failure to do so would lead to sub-optimal results.

Mr. President,

A debate on peacekeeping must address the normative and legislative aspects. Indian troops have been at the forefront in protecting civilians in the ground. India has also engaged constructively in the legislative debate on human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Charter, with good reason, distinguishes between the actions of the Council under Chapters VI and VII. We, as members of the General Assembly, have the responsibility of being vigilant against back-door methods to obliterate the Council's responsibility to attempt peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. President,

India strongly favours a greater female presence in peacekeeping. The effectiveness of a female Indian Formed Police Unit in Liberia is testimony to the power of an example in empowering the weak and the vulnerable.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that we are in favour of a policy of zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

Mr. President,

In ending I salute 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 Haiti.

Thank You.



653. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, 28 June 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Today's key issue, namely "regional representation" has particular relevance in the contemporary international system. I say this because of the sheer inability of the UN system to grasp the significance of the changes in the international landscape since World War II.

In this context, I am reminded of the prescient remarks of His Excellency President Nicolas Sarkozy during this keynote address at Columbia University in March this year. He said and I quote,

"Do you young students at Columbia know that not a single African country is a permanent member of the Security Council? [And yet the continent has] a billion inhabitants!

Do you know that not a single Arab country-[although the Arab world has] about a hundred million inhabitants-is a permanent member of the Security Council?

Do you know that India-with a billion inhabitants, and becoming the world's most populous nation in 30 years' time-is not a permanent member of the Security Council?

That Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is not a permanent member of the Security Council? Why? Because 60 years ago they lost the war. Is that reasonable?

Do you know that not a single Latin American country is a permanent member of the Security Council?

How can anyone expect us to resolve major crises, major wars and major conflicts within the framework of the UN without Africa, without three-quarters of Asia, without Latin America, without a single Arab country? Is that reasonable? Is that sensible? Is it even imaginable? Who can believe that?" Unquote.

Mr. Chairman,

If we want to be judged fairly by our succeeding generations, I believe we must rise up to the occasion in addressing these anomalies.

The UN Charter is unambiguous in providing for permanent members by name and not by rotating nomination by regional organizations. This should serve as our guide on the issue of regional representation.

Permanent members are expected to act in such a manner that transcends narrow national interests when dealing with issues relating to international peace and security. It is, therefore, important that the category of permanent membership reflect contemporary realities and include adequate representation from all regions of the world.

Non-permanent members must also bring to bear similar qualities not encumbered by limited and short-term national or regional considerations. But here we have the possibility to look for innovative solutions that ensure representation of cross regional groups such as the AOSIS on the Security Council on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman,

The various proposals under the heading of "regional representation" in the negotiation text bear the imprint of the relevant Charter provisions. It also reflects the general thinking of the international community in this regard. It therefore lends itself to revision without any major difficulties.

The large middle ground consists of four areas of convergence.

First, is the call for additional permanent seats - two from Africa and Asia, at-least one from GRULAC and one for WEOG. Additionally, there are calls for more non-permanent seats for all existing regional groups.

Second, most of the proposals call for continuing with the existing categories of regional groupings, namely Africa, Asia, GRULAC, WEOG and EEG.

Proposals that call for enhanced representation in the Council on the basis of other groupings could also be suitably reflected in Rev 2.

Third, the concept of "equitable geographical distribution" finds traction across the wide spectrum of proposals

Fourth, in terms of the criteria for enhancing representation in the Council, there is a clamour for more developing countries in both categories of membership. Further, the aspect of "contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and to other purposes of the organization" finds wide acceptance. Other criterion such as "country specific qualifications"; "representation of different civilizations and cultures"; "rotation"; and "sub-regional representation" have also been proposed.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the view of my delegation that Rev 2 could merge the relevant portions under this key issue of "regional representation" on the basis of the provisions of the UN Charter making use of the four convergences that I have just mentioned.

We further believe that the Chair should eliminate those options that do not reflect the middle-ground. If this is not feasible, at least we should be able to quantify the support that different options have received, either in the body of the text or in footnotes.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that the Indian delegation is willing to work with other delegations in a spirit of flexibility and compromise in order to shorten the text.

Thank you.



654. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council.

New York, June 30, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary-General and are appreciative of the briefing by the SRSG Staffan de Mistura. We also thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement.

Mr. President,

As we move forward, the international approach towards Afghanistan, including the London Conference has focused on areas of security, reintegration, development, governance, and regional and international cooperation. We support the efforts of the Afghan Government to reintegrate those individuals who are willing to abjure violence, do not have ties with terrorist groups, and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. The process must be inclusive and transparent.

The forthcoming Kabul Conference and the parliamentary elections scheduled in September later this year would be important milestones in consolidating the progress made so far.

Mr. President,

Complimentary to the military effort, a sustainable strategy for stabilization of Afghanistan must focus on development and governance issues. In this context, UNAMA's focus on its priorities, in particular support for elections, regional cooperation and aid coherence would be helpful in achieving greater synergy and coordination of efforts with the Afghan government.

Success of all our endeavours could only be enduring if their ownership vests in the Afghan Government and people. In this context, closely intertwined is the need for tangible and sustained improvement in the security situation. This is also absolutely critical in expanding the foot-print

of the Afghan government and towards creating an enabling environment for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

As we discuss today, an overall deterioration in the security environment underscores the significant challenges that confront Afghanistan. The UNSG report notes that there has been a 94% increase in incidents involving IEDs during the first four months of 2010, a 45% rise in killings of civilians by insurgents, and an increase in complex suicide attacks. I join others Mr. President, in expressing our condolences to the UN staff member killed yesterday.

Despite reinforced International Security Assistance Force's presence, continuous deterioration in the security situation is a stark reminder that the challenge from a resurgent Taliban and Al Qaeda is real, and it is one that threatens us all. The well-springs that sustain such terror still show no signs of being drained. Civilians, humanitarian personnel, international and UN staff and diplomatic personnel- including our Mission in Kabul have been repeatedly targeted in terrorist attacks.

There is a broad recognition that the increase in terrorist actions in Afghanistan is due to the support and sanctuaries available beyond its borders. Security and stabilization of Afghanistan will remain a distant goal unless we are able to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism, which includes elements of Al Qaida, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders.

We fully support efforts towards expansion of capacities of the Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Army. They should be provided appropriate resources, combat equipment, enablers and training before considering any plans for progressive handover of security responsibilities.

Mr. President,

The security of Afghanistan and what happens there impacts us, as a country in the region, as a close neighbor and a civilizational partner whose ties with the Afghan people stretch into antiquity.

A stable and settled Afghanistan, where the rank and file of the Taliban has given up violence against the government, and the people, cut all links with terrorism, subscribe to the values of the Afghan Constitution and its laws,

and where development is the hard rationale, is what we seek and quest for. It is important also that for such a structure to be durable and enduring, Afghanistan's neighbours, and regional partners, will need to be in the picture - both by consultation and by adherence to the principle of non-interference in the country's affairs, ensuring that it thrives as a trade and transit hub for the region, and by eradicating transnational terrorism.

While moving forward on the sensitive issues on reintegration and reconciliation, we need to guard against impulses to arrive at quick-fix solutions. Against the backdrop of today's worrying security situation, these issues need to be tackled with prudence, the benefit of hindsight, foresight and caution.

Mr. President,

In India's efforts towards stabilization of Afghanistan, the focus has been on developmental and humanitarian work to assist the Afghan people as they build a peaceful, stable, inclusive, democratic and pluralistic nation. We have sought to assist Afghanistan within our means. Our US \$ 1.3 billion assistance programme is aimed at building infrastructure, capacity building in critical areas of governance, health, education, agriculture etc. and generating employment. Last year, over 300,000 Afghans, mainly women and children, were provided free medical treatment at the Indian Medical Missions in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif. The economy of battle-scarred Nimroz province was transformed with the building of the Zaranj-Delaram highway and the homes of the people of Kabul have been lit after more than a decade by the Pul-e-Khumri transmission line from the Uzbek border.

Mr. President,

The international community as a whole has made a great contribution in assisting Afghanistan to stand on its feet. We welcome these efforts and are fully supportive of them. We support the good work done by UNAMA. For lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan, it is critical that the international community remains engaged in Afghanistan both on the security side as well as on development and capacity building efforts.

Thank you.



655. Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Agenda Item 114: Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit [Adoption of Resolution A./64/L.56 on System Wide Coherence] at the UNGA

New York, July 2, 2010.

Mr. President,

It is my privilege to address the General Assembly as we adopt today the landmark decision to create UN WOMEN, a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations. My congratulations to you, Mr. President, for your leadership on this transformational reform at the UN. I say this with particular pride as India has the distinction of giving the General Assembly its first woman President, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. I am naturally happy that my delegation under the leadership of Hardeep Singh Puri played a very active role in the success of the negotiations. My congratulations also to the Co-Facilitators, the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary-General and all others involved in the process.

Mr. President,

India is home to more than half a billion women. Our Constitution enshrines gender equality and affirmative action to ensure women's empowerment and this has been a key focus of our socio-economic policies. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has said, and I QUOTE "No society can claim to be a part of the modern civilized world unless it treats its women on par with men." UNQUOTE India has also taken major strides in the area of political empowerment of women. Today, more than a million women elected representatives participate in political decision-making at the grassroots level. A move to provide similar reservation of seats for women in the Indian Parliament is in advanced stage of the legislative process, already having received the approval of the Upper House of our Parliament.

Mr. President, India welcomes the creation of the UN WOMEN as a significant victory for the cause of women worldwide. It is a reflection of

our collective commitment to the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Our decision here today also takes a step towards restoring the faith of those Member-States, including mine, who often regard the UN as an anachronistic body resistant to organizational reform and innovation. We, of course, hope that it creates a momentum for much-needed reform in other areas as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to pledge India's full support to UN WOMEN. We urge early operationalisation of the entity so that the international community can work with renewed vigour and commitment for gender equality and the empowerment of women. In conclusion, I would like to recall the words of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance and the leader of my party, and I QUOTE "Complete gender equality, nothing less, must be our over-riding goal. There must be neither compromise nor complacency. The struggle is joined. It must be brought to full fruition." UNQUOTE

I thank you, Mr. President.



656. Statement by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs at the High Level Segment of the 2010 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations.

New York, July 2, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by expressing my delegation's deep appreciation for your leadership and the work of your team in navigating the ECOSOC process this year towards a meaningful destination.

Mr. President,

Concerted action on the part of the world's largest economies in the G-20 was able to avert a major economic melt-down following the financial crisis of 2008. But the shoots of recovery that we are seeing can easily be upset by shocks and fluctuations as the Euro-zone crisis has shown. In such

circumstances, it is important that we ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable. This is also critical for achieving the MDGs for which we have just five years more. Firm and time bound commitments, including on the provision of resources, transfer of technology and capacity building, are the need of the hour on MDGs. India has a strong interest in the world economy doing well as this is key enabler for us to pursue growth and bring the fruits of development to all sections of our society. We also need to focus on medium and long-term structural issues of global governance. The reforms at the Bretton Woods Institutions need to be urgently completed. And, at the UN the Security Council must reflect contemporary realities and expand in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Mr. President,

The Annual Ministerial Review this year focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is timely as our MDG aspirations will remain unfulfilled if significant progress is not made on empowerment and equality of women and on their health and education. India's National Policy for the Empowerment of Women seeks enhancing economic and political empowerment and providing equal access to health care, education and employment for women.

Nearly half of the 46 million rural household beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, one of the world's largest cash for work programmes, are women. Similarly there are over 2 million women's Self Help Groups under the Swarnjayanti Gram Rozgar Yojna, a huge rural employment programme. In education, we have recently launched Saakshar Bharat, a national programme for female literacy, to impart functional literacy to around 60 million adult women. Moreover, our newly enacted Right to Education Act, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Girls will be its obvious focus. Our figures on maternal and infant mortality continue to be unacceptably high. Our efforts in reducing maternal and infant mortality through various schemes including the Janani Suraksha Yojna, a cash assistance programme, are beginning to yield results. We are particularly concerned at the low child sex ratio in our country, the disparity between female and male literacy rates, the

exceptionally high maternal mortality rates, the far lower women's work participation rate as compared to men and issues of violence against women. There is perceptible improvement in the social-economic status of women in India today as a result of our sustained efforts. We are, however, mindful of the enormous challenges we have still to overcome.

Mr. President, We are justifiably proud that today in India women are participating in greater numbers in the political process and in our decision making structures. Visibly, they occupy some of the highest political positions in the country including as our President, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the House of Representatives in our Parliament and the Leader of the ruling coalition.

However, less visible but equally important, we have more than a million elected women representatives in local government. This is a fruit of our policy to institutionalize women's participation at local government level by reserving one third of seats in the village panchayats more than 17 years ago. And, recently we have tabled a bill to raise these seats to 50%. Legislative action is also on the anvil to institutionalise women's participation in Parliament and State legislatures.

Mr. President, The last ten years have seen a continuous chorus of calls for reforms at the UN. I am very happy that one of the most important such efforts, the setting up of an entity to provide leadership and to mainstream women's issues in a coherent and focused manner at the UN, has finally borne fruit. This is a transformational moment for the UN and I am glad that the Indian delegation played an active role in resolving key contentious issues and ensuring forward movement. As I noted earlier in my address, achievement of MDGs hinges crucially on women being specially targeted so that they become equal beneficiaries of the gains of development. It is imperative that UN WOMEN operationalizes itself on an urgent basis and receives our full backing. There is far too much work to do.

Thank You.



**657. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri,
Deputy Permanent Representative, on the Thematic
Debate on "Protection of Civilians" at the UN SC.**

New York, July 7, 2010.

Madam President,

India would like to thank the Nigerian Presidency for organizing this thematic debate on the Protection of Civilians. In our understanding, this is a theme that falls within the broader rubric of peacekeeping, which with more than 100,000 peacekeepers and a US\$ 8 billion budget, remains the most visible operational activity of the United Nations. The fact that both the Security Council and the General Assembly have organized thematic debates on peacekeeping within two weeks of each other is a reflection of the centrality of peacekeeping to both the Council and to the Assembly.

This is the second time in less than a year that the Council is debating the issue of Protection of Civilians. There has been considerable movement in the normative sphere in the intervening period during these debates. Protection of Civilians and other associated concepts have been discussed in detail by the Member States during the deliberations of the C-34. Work is also underway on developing operational doctrines that will actually bring succour to the weak and the helpless in the face of violence and conflict. The debate is no longer on "if" we protect civilians; it is about the "how" of protecting them.

My delegation is in favour of intergovernmental discussions to develop the normative and operational framework for Protection of Civilians. We stand ready and willing, as our record establishes, to engage. We would, however, like to caution against the tendency, evident in recent debates on important strategies, to pay lip-service to or even by-pass the consultative process that is built into a multilateral-decision making structure. These attempts will fail and will undermine the trust and credibility that are integral to the efficient and effective functioning of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support.

Madam President,

International humanitarian law, particularly those provisions that protect civilians, arose to deal with the terrible suffering of civilians in war. The Security Council, in its wisdom, attempted to apply some of the provisions of these laws to intra-state conflict. Unfortunately, the situation on the ground in the areas where the UN operates is not entirely satisfactory. Civilians continue to suffer today. It is the non-belligerents who continue to bear the brunt of violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The operational reasons behind the UN's inability to fully translate the Security Council's intent to protect civilians on the ground have been spelt out with clarity and precision by the Independent Study commissioned by DPKO last year. It is clear that the major share of the blame lies with the Security Council itself. It has been unable, over more than a decade, to develop a clear understanding of the nature and extent of the problem; has been unable to give clear directions to the DPKO about what it wants and what and how DPKO should operate; and has not taken into account the experience and inputs of countries whose troops are actually on the ground. As the report succinctly states, the "confusion over the Council's intent is evident in the lack of policy, guidance, planning and preparedness."

Representing a country which has been an active participant in UN peacekeeping since 1956 and has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to 40 UN operations, my delegation cannot claim to be surprised by the findings.

Madam President,

More than 8,000 Indian peacekeepers are on the ground, as I speak here, protecting civilians in some of the most challenging operational environments. They operate in situations where violence is low-intensity and often confusing, where belligerents are not necessarily combatants under international humanitarian law, where information is deficient, and where resources and infrastructure are woefully inadequate. Working within these deficiencies, our men and women are trying their utmost to prevent conflict and stabilize post-conflict situations.

Madam President,

My delegation finds that peacekeepers on the ground find it difficult to connect to the debates taking place here. They find that there is insufficient appreciation of the operational challenges of actually executing the mandates of the Security Council. They find that there is an emphasis on normative aspects rather than on implementation. They find that they are being asked to do more and more with less.

80% of peacekeeping resources today are devoted to operations that are more than 5 years old. These operations are being called upon to transition into peacebuilding even as they have not entirely overcome the challenges of peacekeeping. In this context, the normative debate associated with protection of civilians stands the risk of becoming a debate on the strategy to fight yesterday's battle.

Madam President,

We are meeting in the shadow of a demand for reduced UN presence in certain key operational areas. It is unlikely that this demand arises out of the success of the United Nations. It is more likely that the United Nations is now of limited relevance in responding to the challenges facing national authorities as they struggle to consolidate peace. There is no better way of protecting civilians than by consolidating peace.

Debates on issues such as "strategic" consent will not be found helpful by national authorities. This is not what host countries want when they are struggling to build institutions and stimulate economic growth.

Attempts to obfuscate the difference between Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the charter do not serve the ideal of peacekeeping. There is a time and a place for both and back-door efforts to evade the Council's special responsibilities, while retaining its privileges, will affect the credibility of the institution.

Madam President,

There is only so much that peacekeepers and the DPKO can do. It is important to remember - at all times - that the primary responsibility of

maintaining peace under a Chapter VI operation is that of the host government. The role of the United Nations is to support these authorities in accordance with their priorities and relevant to ground realities.

We hear from national authorities that the Office of the Rule of Law is now as important as that of the military component in protecting civilians. We also hear that an augmented police presence is required while the Security Sector is being reformed. Security Sector Reform 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 host governments require, not an exercise in collating what donors can give. Security Sector Reform will fail to consolidate the hard earned gains of peacekeeping unless it is based on organic growth and related to the realities of the developing world.

There are countries that have overcome post-colonial challenges similar to those we are concerned with today. There are nations that have faced these obstacles in democratic and open settings while giving primacy to Human Rights and the rule of law. We need to look at such examples.

Madam President,

The success of the Indian female Formed Police Unit in Liberia is testimony to the power of an example that is relevant to ground realities.

In conclusion, Madam President, let me thank you again for organizing this debate. India is committed to contribute, through its peacekeepers and its national capacities, to the promotion of peace and security and to the role of the United Nations.

Thank you.



658. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, July 7, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by reiterating my delegation's appreciation of the way in which you have conducted this process of text-based negotiations. The statements that have been delivered till date by the overwhelming majority have also reflected the universal interest in the membership for real change.

Coming to the subject matter of today's negotiations, namely of "the question of the veto", I would like to elaborate our understanding of the various strands of the issue at hand.

Mr. Chairman,

In the negotiations leading to the creation of the United Nations Organisation, it was the firm and fervent belief of the victors of World War II that their continued presence in the Security Council had to be complemented by their unanimity in decision on matters of war and peace. These two attributes, namely uninterrupted representation on the Council and right of veto, came to define what we today refer to as the P5.

The veto had a particular relevance at the time that the UN was set up and during the cold war, serving a useful purpose. At the same time however, our assessment must be tempered by recalling the well-known fact that there have been instances where the use of the veto could have been avoided.

Today's world, however, is different. We, therefore, believe that there would be and, indeed, there should be much less scope for the use of the veto in addressing issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. This is also borne by the far less use of the veto in recent times, and the fact that even when it was used, a far greater play to the use of diplomacy could, perhaps, have avoided its usage.

Mr. Chairman,

A bird's eye viewing of the various proposals at hand shows that a very small minority wants the veto to be abolished altogether.

The large majority, however, prescribe some restrictions or limitations on the use of veto. These include provisions that state that the veto should not be used under certain circumstances like genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law; war crimes, ethnic cleansing and terrorism, as well as on recommendations under Articles 4(2), 5, 6, 94(2) and 97 and on a matter under Article 96(1); situations of gross human rights violations; R2P situations and the like.

Another group of restraints on the use of the veto consist of those that call for an explanation on the use of veto; those that provide for overruling or setting aside a veto by the UNGA under certain circumstances or by the Security Council itself; and those that call for relevant improvements in working methods.

In so far as those that want the veto to be retained, this category itself consists of two approaches: (i) those that argue that the new permanent members should have the right of veto; and (ii) those that argue that new permanent members should not have this right.

Mr. Chairman,

In the view of my delegation, there is an urgent need to arrive at an innovative solution as we cannot allow the veto to have a veto over the process of Council reform itself.

The membership will recall that the G4 had begun with the position that all new permanent members must enjoy all the rights and prerogatives of the

existing permanent members from the day the new permanent members assume their roles. However, to ensure that the veto does not veto Council reform, the G4 has put forth a revised approach that consists of two elements.

First, that the new permanent members should have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members.

Second, that the new permanent members shall not exercise the right of veto until the question of the extension of the right of veto to new permanent members has been decided upon in the framework of the review mandated fifteen years after the entry into force of the Council reform.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the issue of veto, just like other issues, lends itself to considerable shortening of the text in Rev 2. Let me reiterate that the Indian delegation is willing to work with you and other delegations to shorten the text.

Thank you.



659. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the 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, July 12, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Today's debate goes to the very essence of Council reform. To use a simple analogy, if the final product of Council reform were a building, then the key issue of "categories of membership" would be the foundation, the column, the wall, the lintel, the arch, the vault, the dome, and the roof all rolled into one. And Mr. Chairman, when I say this, I merely echo the views of the

overwhelming majority of the UN membership, who are unambiguous that there must be an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of Security Council membership. But why does this overwhelming majority want expansion in both categories? Differences in articulation apart, the basic argument has two strands. One, that Security Council continues to reflect the geopolitical realities of 1945 rather than 2010. Two, the remedy to the current state of affairs is to make the Council reflect the contemporary geopolitical realities, critical for its legitimacy but also for the efficiency and effectiveness with which it carries out its primary task of maintenance of international peace and security. Mr. Chairman, India's clear position is that comprehensive reform of the Security Council implies expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. In this regard, India's stance reflects that of the overwhelming majority of the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

There are some who take the position that repeated elections are the panacea to the Council's weaknesses. Some argue that improvements in the working methods are the be all and end all of the reform process. Some try to apportion ratios to the different strands of the negotiations and call for carrying the reform process forward on the basis of calibrating these ratios. To the proponents of all these arguments, I have to clearly state that the G4 and L.69 positions have incorporated these valuable points and gone two steps further. The G4 and L.69 proposals have recognized that correlation is not causation and has gone in for both the curative and preventive approaches along with provisions for further action as may be required in time through a review.

Mr. Chairman,

The large majority of these proposals, including those from the African Group, the L.69, the CARICOM and the G-4 call for an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. This is also the running strand in proposals with some variations. Liechtenstein has called for "six additional members" which "shall be elected to serve on a permanent

basis for renewable terms of [8/10 years]"while going onto add that such candidates "shall not be eligible to serve as nonpermanent members in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2, of the UN Charter for the following [8/10] calendar years." Moreover, barring a handful, even other proposals that favour expansion only in the non-permanent category also call for some form of an intermediate model or solution. Most of the proposals, of course, provide for a review clause. Mr. Chairman, The negotiation text thus presents us with what is essentially a three-fold choice with review clauses where appropriate:

- i. continuation of existing categories while expanding the size of both of them
- ii. creation of a third new category of seats; and
- iii. for having only one category of non-permanent seats.

It is the view of my delegation that Rev 2 could merge the relevant portions under this key issue of "categories of membership" on the basis of the three-fold choice that I have just mentioned. We further believe that the Chair should eliminate those options that do not reflect the middle-ground. If this is not feasible, at least we should be able to quantify the support that different options have received, either in the body of the text or in its footnotes.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that the Indian delegation is willing to work with other delegations in a spirit of flexibility and compromise in order to shorten this text. Thank you



660. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

New York, July 13, 2010.

Madam Co-Chair,

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the leadership displayed by you (Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia) and your co-chair (Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina) in guiding our deliberations on the Revitalization of the General Assembly till this important stage. I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki for his leadership and commitment to carry forward this process.

Madam Co-Chair,

Let me at the outset, align myself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the NAM. The report and resolution which are at the draft stage are works in progress and we look forward to active interaction with the rest of the UN membership on this important and vital matter. I take the floor to restate India's positions on the various themes. It is our expectation that these views will find their fullest expression in the report and resolution that the General Assembly finally adopts.

Madam Co-Chair,

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 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, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat. Madam Co-Chair, On the role and authority

of the General Assembly, we are of the view that the Security Council would do well to eschew the tendency to give extremely creative and permissive interpretations to the consideration of what constitutes a threat to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII. And in terms of its reporting obligations, the Council should not only inform the Assembly of the decisions taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership. At the same time the Assembly must also take remedial measures that extend beyond merely strengthening procedures. Foremost in this regard is the need to properly appreciate and then correctly situate the Assembly within the plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal with global issues. We also call for enhancing the oversight role of the Assembly vis-à-vis the UN staff and as reflected in the working of the Fifth Committee. We welcome the provisions in the draft resolution under the heading of "role and authority of the General Assembly" and look forward to close and constructive cooperation with others in the days to come so that we get a solution that truly strengthens the role of the General Assembly.

On the issue of the Role and Responsibilities of the General Assembly in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, we are of the view 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. We live in a different period of international relations. 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.

Madam Co-Chair,

I am personally acutely conscious of the fact that setting extremely ambitious targets will not necessarily result in forward movement. Actual progress takes place in small incremental steps and in this regard I would like to stress the need for applying some of these procedures suggested in the case of appointments to heads of specialized agencies. We could consider such interaction of the candidates with the General Assembly at least for a limited purpose of outlining their programme as they envisage, if appointed. On the matter of the office of the President of the General Assembly, we call for providing the resources that are in keeping with the aura and dignity of that high office. Particularly, we need to address the inadequacy of the current annual budget allocation of US\$ 250,000. We would also like to know what the system of extra-budgetary support has been so far and how it has been operating in the past. We call upon the UN system to provide for the basic requirements of protocol and security. We also support other appropriate measures that will strengthen this august office. Provisions in the draft resolution under the heading of "strengthening the office of the President of the General Assembly" are reflective of the consensus thinking which is emerging through deliberations. We welcome other delegations to support the same.

Madam Co-Chair,

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. Finally, we are of the view that resolutions of the General Assembly in general and those on revitalization in particular have special significance both for the member states and the international community. In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Indian delegation attaches importance to the ongoing 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. We will continue our active support and continue to be there to help you in these efforts. And let me once again express appreciation for the work that you are doing and we hope that your efforts would result in a landmark resolution this year under your leadership. Thank you.



661. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India At the Security Council Debate On Peacekeeping.

New York, August 6, 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this discussion on Peacekeeping.

As one of the most active participants in UN peacekeeping operations, India attaches great significance to UN Peacekeeping and its key role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The context of UN Peacekeeping is changing and this changing scenario is demanding changes in our response. It is, therefore, good that we are having across the board discussions on UN peacekeeping in different fora. Our delegation has engaged constructively and made meaningful contributions to the evolution of the policy discourse on UN peacekeeping.

Mr. President,

Our experience in UN peacekeeping is unparalleled and our credentials can be matched by few others. We have been present in virtually every UN peacekeeping operation. Today we are present in significant numbers in UNIFIL, UNMIS, MONUSCO, MINUSTAH, UNMIL, UNDOF and UNMIT. In response to a request from the UN we have tripled our police contribution to MINUSTAH.

Indeed, as I speak here, more than 8000 Indian soldiers and police-personnel are deployed in UN Peacekeeping. It is they who are converting the Council's word into action, and, they do so in exceedingly challenging circumstances and situations.

I am happy that in the long tradition of supporting UN Peacekeeping by providing senior leadership, we have just seconded Lt Gen Chander Prakash Wadhwa from the Indian Army to be the Force Commander in MONUSCO. I am happy that he is here in the Council today.

Mr. President,

The role of women in peacekeeping has been a key focus for the Security Council. We have tried to be in the forefront to meet the Council's aspirations in this too. I draw your attention here to the Indian Female FPU in Liberia which has not only brought credit to UN Peacekeeping but have also added possible new and very much required dimensions to the scope to the efforts of UN peacekeeping. We are also working on the possibility of increasing such Female peacekeepers.

Mr. President,

The nature of the Security Council's mandates and the manner in which they are generated is an area of that requires a good look at. In today's context, mandates have been found to be too broad and detached from realities on the ground.

It is important that mandates are clear and achievable and in keeping with the available capabilities and resources. This is particularly true for uniformed personnel, who by virtue of their organizational cultures, are used to clear instructions and objectives. Unrealistic mandates also lead to situations where the Mission starts asking contingents to undertake

tasks and utilize COE in a manner that is inconsistent with the legal framework of their deployment agreed between the contributing countries and the UN.

This, of course, demands substantively engaging the countries who contribute manpower and resources to the Peacekeeping Operations and we can only reiterate the critical imperative that such consultations with troop contributing countries are to be substantive, meaningful and provide the bedrock to Council's mandates on Peacekeeping. Though there have been improvements on this front, much remains to be done. For example, we are yet to be briefed in detail about recent developments in the UNIFIL operational area despite our troops being there. We have also had occasions in recent times regarding some specific events in a UN operations in West Africa, where we have peacekeepers on the ground and have command and control issues, in terms of keeping us in the loop in New York.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping for long was essentially about blue helmets and establishing a measure of security. In the type of crises that we face today we need much broader array of responses than the pure security one. Today's peacekeepers have come to play a critical role in humanitarian emergencies around the world and are often thrust in the midst of civil wars. Frequently they are called upon to protect civilian populations when they have been uprooted from their homes. Law and order challenges have added a civilian dimension to the peacekeeping operations. Disarming the combatants and reforming the security sector have become essential to the peacekeeping strategy.

In such circumstances we need to be particularly concerned in ensuring operational support to the troops on the ground. Lack of equipments, spares, and inadequate living conditions are few critical areas that rarely receive attention. Forces are not given sufficient time to prepare for operations on the ground. It is also important that there is clear recognition that better Peacekeeping would requires more resources, human and material including command.

Mr. President,

In closing, I salute the peacekeepers from my country and fellow nations who have laid their lives for the UN Missions. India reiterates its commitment to work with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you Mr. President.



**662. Intervention By Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri
Permanent Representative at the Informal Interactive
Dialogue of the UN General Assembly on "Early
Warning, Assessment and the Responsibility to
Protect".**

New York, August 9, 2010.

Madam President, I would like to begin by thanking you for convening this discussion and the Secretary General for his report entitled "Early Warning, Assessment and Responsibility to Protect". I would also like to add my voice in expressing appreciation for the contributions of the panelists. I am particularly pleased to see my friend Bertie Ramcharan, on whose experience and expertise I have had the privilege of drawing on for many years. This is an important subject, one to which we attach the highest importance. This is borne out by the excellent attendance, holiday atmospherics notwithstanding.

Madam President, We are not dealing here with merely a conflict resolution, with events which in the ordinary course of events, result in violence or even death. Here, we are dealing with crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing, which are the result of deliberate, systematic and serious violations of human rights. Clearly the "Responsibility to Protect" must arise in the context of State sovereignty. But we are dealing with situations where the fulfillment of these responsibilities is no longer possible; either the State has failed or is unable to protect or for whatever reason.

And clearly the international community does not want to be an innocent by-stander when crimes of such kind, that we are discussing, are going to be committed. That, I believe, is the crux of the issue. The essential bedrock for ensuring that States always act to protect their populations comes from an abiding commitment to human rights, especially the very basic right, the right to life and fundamental freedoms. Sovereignty entails responsibility, and the "Responsibility to Protect" its population is one of the foremost responsibilities of every State. Internationally, Madam President, we have developed a series of instruments to promote and protect human rights. These form a fundamental pillar of the United Nations and it is incumbent on each one of us, as Members of the United Nations, to do our utmost to inculcate a culture of human rights world-wide.

Madam President,

I come from a country where our founding fathers envisioned that the only way to secure the future of our nation was to anchor it in the values rooted in promotion and protection of human rights, and the establishment of the rule of law, supported by an independent and strong judiciary, with an abiding commitment to uphold human rights, guaranteed in the Constitution. The right to life is one of the rights from which no derogation is permitted even at the time of emergencies. This is a cardinal obligation under our Constitution. The international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has 164 State Parties, also has this as its core obligation.

Madam President,

In the World Summit Outcome document, the Heads of State and Government were unanimous on the issue that each individual State has the "Responsibility to Protect" its population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. This responsibility entails prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Our Leaders agreed to help States, as necessary and appropriate, in building their capacity to protect their populations from these four mass atrocities. Our leaders also agreed to support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability. Clearly the international community cannot be a helpless by-stander in the event of commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

In his report, the Secretary-General has identified two information and assessment gaps for early warning. The first is insufficient sharing of information in the UN system and the other is the non-viewing of this information "through the lens of the Responsibility to Protect". An institutional collaboration between the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, including options for a joint office, has been proposed to overcome this gap. The report of the SG also asks the latter to develop the doctrinal aspects of R2P. Based on information from "various UN sources in the field", this UN Secretariat collaborative mechanism is to trigger early warning alarm bells for the Secretary-General. A Policy Committee is also proposed to allow the SG to invoke internal procedures to expedite UN response.

Madam President,

I always ask myself a basic question or a set of questions when new mechanisms are proposed. And here I come back to my friend Bertie Ramcharan. He has been in the field and in the UN headquarters. He was the acting High Commissioner of Human Rights when I was Permanent Representative in Geneva. He said, in his presentation, that a friend had approached him before we started. He neither mentioned me nor did he say exactly what I had enquired of him. I asked him a simple question, I said, if we had the proposal or the proposed mechanism suggested by the Secretary General in para 18 of his report in place, could Srebrenica and Rwanda have been avoided? And his answer to me was, as usual, full of diplomatic skill, very cautious. I do not want to betray what he said to me. I have been agonizing on this lone question for the last 3 days, including with my younger colleagues. I got them to do some research for me. And I come to the conclusion, somewhat unfortunate, that if you had exactly this mechanism in place, as proposed in paragraph 18, which I support incidentally, those events might not have been averted. I am not going to oppose the mechanism, but I am going to recommend that it be supplemented with other safeguards, because I think the mechanism, by itself is not going to work. What happened in Srebrenica? You had the information. There were qualified personnel in the field and at headquarters. I am told that they were on leave. Is that or is that not a fact? You could not find the Under Secretary General; you could not find his Special Assistant.

I am not suggesting that that kind of unfortunate occurrence will take place again. But it could. Therefore, I am suggesting that to rely on an early warning system which is just based on a few individuals and that also in the Secretariat, involves taking too many chances. You need to supplement that, as one of the distinguished panelists said - through civil society and through Member States. I personally believe that you cannot have an early warning system which does not have the Member States as an integral filtering point in the process. That is the truth that is staring us in the face. I did a little bit of research but before I come to the research on what happened, I look at the Secretary General's own report in para 7, under section III refers to gaps in capacity, and it says "in the case of Rwanda, the Independent Inquiry noted that there was not sufficient focus for institutional resources or early warning or risk analysis" at headquarters and that there was "an institutional weakness in the analytical capacity of the United Nations". And, the crux of this is that the analytical capacities of the United Nations need to be comprehensively improved. Otherwise, you will continue to receive issues and reports which have not been thought through and suffer from an insufficient database or analytical capacities, which will later be questioned. In the case of Rwanda, it is not that someone had not asked for help. Because of shortage of time, I must go back to a public source and it says here, "the UN finally conceded that acts of genocide may have been committed on May 17, 1994. By that time the Red Cross estimated that 500,000 Rwandans had been killed. The UN agreed to send 5,500 troops, mostly from African countries, to Rwanda. This is the original number of troops requested by General Dallaire before the killing escalated". This, Madam President, is the hard truth that there was a person who asked for help, the International community did not have either the determination or the resolve to act before the atrocities were committed and the rest is an unfortunate chapter. We need not revisit those facts today. It will not serve our purpose here. In the case of Srebrenica, on the other hand, it is a slightly different situation. There it was a system again based on a few individuals. That needs to be rectified.

Madam President, The development of the conceptual, political and institutional dimensions of the responsibility to protect cannot be left to any individual, no matter how competent or committed.

This can only be a Member-States driven process and must essentially build on existing international instruments, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Geneva Conventions and, indeed, the human rights regime. Here it is critical to remember that even the cautious go-ahead for developing R2P in 2005 emphasized the use of appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means to help protect populations. The responsibility to protect should in no way be seen as providing a pretext for humanitarian intervention or unilateral action. To do so would not only give R2P a bad name but also defeat its very purpose. This was foreshadowed in Bertie's point on the political aspect and, it was foreshadowed, I think in what my Cuban colleague said and this will come in many other statements. Let us remember that a solution to the avoidance of the four mass atrocities ultimately lies in strengthening the capacity and ability of States through various means so that they can effectively fulfill their human rights obligations rather than in devising a Secretariat driven mechanism without a focus on the promotion and protection of human rights and without the involvement of States. The SG's proposal to collect information from "various UN sources in the field" and its analyses by a select few in the Secretariat "through the lens of responsibility to protect" must be supplemented through a process of involving member States. It is critical that Member States are integrally included in the information gathering and analysis process, and we do not set up a mechanism that starts acting as a "fishing expedition" for R2P. This could become the case given the R2P stakes of such a Secretariat mechanism, especially if its source of information was "various UN sources in the field" and their analysis was "through the lens of responsibility to protect". Let us also be clear, as I said earlier, that some of the events noted in the SG's report of 2009 did not reveal that those tragic events happened behind closed doors. The non-action was also not due to lack of warning, resources or the barrier of state sovereignty or lack of authority to act but because of strategic, political or economic considerations of those on whom the present international architecture had placed the onus to act.

That international architecture has not undergone much change in the last 45 years. And I don't want to take the time of this group on why the international architecture should be changed.

But let me just make one final submission. That given the present less than perfect architecture, let us find ways and means of interspersing layers of other supplementary safeguards so that the early warning system, which is absolutely necessary, is comprehensive. It should be able to rise to the situation, and that this system draws on support from all information sources, including civil society, if you want to, but certainly the Member States. It must draw on the experience and wisdom of those involved in the region and in the sub-region, to which people have referred to, so that when the analysis takes place, the analysis is based not on half-baked presumptions. The system must act, not in order to act as a "fishing expedition", but as a genuine R2P so that the international community knows what it is getting into in that situation. Thank you very much.



663. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to consider the Humanitarian Situation resulting from the Floods in Pakistan.

New York, August 20, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for your personal initiative in organizing this meeting and proposing the resolution for focused action by the international community on the humanitarian situation arising from the floods in Pakistan.

Yesterday, while we commemorated the World Humanitarian Day, Pakistan and the international community are confronted with another calamity, one of the biggest natural calamities of our recent times.

I would also like to express deep appreciation for the Secretary-General's initiative in visiting the flood ravaged areas of Pakistan and his strenuous efforts to mobilize international assistance for Pakistan at this time of need.

The high-level participation that we have witnessed in this meeting is a testimony of the solidarity and commitment of the international community to being where one of our Member-States requires help.

Mr. President,

India and Pakistan share the same history, same topography, landmass and the river systems that irrigate both sides of the border. Our region is prone to natural disasters and the vagaries of nature continue to take a heavy toll of human lives and material losses in our region. We are familiar with the devastation and human suffering they cause and the trauma they leave behind long after the initial impact. However, in this particular case, the wide-spread devastation is unprecedented and has never ever been witnessed before in recent history. Even some parts of India bordering Pakistan have also been affected by these floods.

Kindly allow me to convey to the people and the Government of Pakistan the heartfelt condolences of the people and the Government of India on the lives that have been tragically lost in this disaster

Kindly allow me, Mr. President, also to convey the deepest sympathy of the people and the Government of India for those who have been injured and traumatized by this calamity and for the material losses that the people and the country have suffered. Our hearts and our prayers are with the near and dear of those who have died and to those who have suffered and continue to suffer. We share the pain and agony and fully understand the trauma and suffering that our Pakistani brethren are living through.

Mr. President,

Even as we meet today, the humanitarian catastrophe is still unfolding. The extent of devastation is unparalleled. Over 10% of the entire country's population has been affected and there has been extensive damage to livestock, crops and the infrastructure.

The magnitude of the tragedy makes it incumbent on the international community to pool its energies and resources and to assist Pakistan in its efforts to rebuild and rehabilitate the devastated region. As a member of the international community and, more significantly as a close neighbor, India recognizes its responsibility in contributing to this global effort to extend

its support to Pakistan in its hour of need. We cannot remain unaffected by this humanitarian catastrophe.

We are willing to do all that is in our power to assist Pakistan in facing the consequences of floods. We extend our wholehearted support to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts for relief and rehabilitation of the adversely affected population.

Our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh called his counterpart from Pakistan yesterday and our External Affairs Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna had also spoken earlier to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and expressed our sorrow and condolences to Pakistan. As a gesture of our solidarity and sympathy, we have offered assistance of US \$ 5 million, in the first instance, for provision of relief supplies from India to be prioritized by the Government of Pakistan in their battle to respond to the crisis. We have offered that the relief supplies could be handed over to the Pakistani authorities at the border for further distribution by the Pakistani authorities. Given our geographical proximity, provision of relief supplies from India would save precious time and provide much needed relief to the flood victims at the earliest. It is our expectation, Mr. President, that the relief supplies would start moving very shortly.

Our Prime Minister has also said that the Government of India is ready to do more to assist in the relief effort. He has also underscored that all of South Asia should rise to the occasion and extend every possible help to the people of Pakistan affected by the tragedy.

As and when Pakistan is able to articulate its requirements for medium to long-term recovery, we will, within our abilities and in accordance with the needs of Pakistan, be privileged to be of assistance.

Mr. President,

While national authorities are, and should be, at the forefront of humanitarian response, international solidarity and assistance guided by humanitarian principles, can play a key role. We believe that the United Nations should coordinate this humanitarian assistance so that it is channeled according to national priorities. This meeting would, therefore, be vital input in developing the framework of response of the international community to the situation which is unfolding.

Before I conclude, I reiterate India's willingness and readiness to contribute to this global effort. What Pakistan needs today is a sustained and long-term commitment of the international community for providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected population. I am confident that the international community would not be found wanting in supporting the Government of Pakistan in its relief and rehabilitation efforts. I have no doubt that the people of Pakistan have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster.



664. Statement by Anupam Ray, Acting Permanent Representative - on Debate on the Situation in Somalia [Piracy] at the Security Council.

New York, August 25, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for organizing this meeting. We welcome the report of the Secretary General submitted pursuant to the Security Council Resolution 1918 of 27 April 2010 on the possible judicial mechanisms for prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

The problem of piracy, particularly in the Gulf of Aden and in the Indian Ocean, and the threat it poses to the safety of shipping lanes and maritime trade, is a matter of grave concern to us. Piracy has not only had a destabilizing effect on global and regional trade and security, it has also brought much suffering to sea farers and their families.

India has committed its full support to international anti-piracy efforts. Our naval ship deployed in the Gulf of Aden has successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escorts to merchant marine in these waters. India is also a founder member of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

Several military groups and independent navies are operating off the Horn of Africa and in the Gulf of Aden. Despite this, the number of pirate attacks in the region continues to be high though their success rates have declined. 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 the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). India has, therefore, called for better coordination of international efforts for escorting merchant ships and patrolling in the region, preferably under aegis of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Ensuring sound and prompt prosecution of piracy suspects and their imprisonment subsequent to trial is critical to prevent impunity and to deter further attacks. Naval operations against pirates cannot fully succeed if the suspects apprehended by navies are released without proper prosecution as such persons tend to return to piracy. Several approaches, including recourse to bilateral MoUs with countries in the region for prosecution and incarceration, have been tried. These, however, have not been entirely successful because of lack of capacities and resources to prosecute and incarcerate. There are legal issues of jurisdiction too.

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

Mr. President,

The seven options mentioned in the Secretary General's Report were also discussed in Working Group 2 dealing with legal issues of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). Let me, at the outset, make it clear that while we are examining all the seven options, our preference at the moment is for option Number One. In our view, the international community must further strengthen the ongoing assistance

programmes of the United Nations extended to regional states to build capacities for prosecution and imprisonment of pirates. These programmes, as noted in the UNSG's report, have achieved some success. UN assistance could focus on the three main components of legal reform, capacity building for prosecution and improvement of prison infrastructure for the host regional States.

Besides being cost effective, this approach 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. While the financial assistance provided to the regional states for capacity building could be drawn from the International Trust Fund, the remaining funding needs could be met from the UN assessed contributions.

It is important to note that universal jurisdiction over Piracy has been accepted under international law for many centuries. All States may both arrest and punish pirates, provided of course that they have been apprehended on the high seas (including EEZ) or within the territory of the State concerned. As highlighted in the Secretary General's report, a State can assume jurisdiction over acts of piracy carried out in open seas and EEZ, in cases where they have an interest, for example where their flag vessel has been attacked, or their nationals are victims. In this regard, it may also be noted that the General Assembly has called upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate the apprehension and the prosecution of suspected pirates.

Mr. President,

India has a strong interest in ensuring the security of maritime traffic off the Somali coast and the Gulf of Aden. As a country with a coastline of over 7,500 kms, bulk of India's trade is transported through the sea route. In addition, more than 11% of seafarers engaged by international shipping companies are Indian nationals, some of whom have been taken hostage by Somali pirates. India would be happy to contribute to any international efforts aimed at increasing effective cooperation among States to tackle the growing threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Thank you.



665. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 115 United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy at the UNGA.

New York, September 8, 2010.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador H. E. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, PR of Bangladesh for his outstanding efforts in facilitating consultations on resolution on the second review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy that we are going to adopt later today. We also thank the Secretary General for his report contained in Doc A/64/818 on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the strategy, highlighting the efforts of the UN system in this regard.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the most abhorrent and heinous crime against humanity as a whole. Indeed it is a scourge of our time. It continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat not only to global security but also to the core values of the United Nations. It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, as criminal and unjustifiable and therefore reiterate that no cause, no matter how seemingly just, can excuse terrorism. Being a victim of terrorism and worst sufferer for the last many decades, India has an abiding interest in greater and more meaningful international cooperation to counter and combat terrorism.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a landmark in the fight against terrorism. The four pillars of the strategy deal with the menace of terrorism in a balanced manner addressing all aspects - contributory as well as preventive.

The institutionalization of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2009 has contributed in strengthening UN efforts to counter terrorism by providing an umbrella under which different UN entities can

effectively implement the Strategy in a coordinated and coherent manner. We are confident that the institutionalization of CTITF will streamline the overall work of the UN system in countering terrorism.

Since the primary responsibility for the implementation of the strategy rests with member States, we hope that this institutionalization process would also provide a useful platform for practical engagement of the CTITF with member states guided by their individual needs.

Mr. President,

The UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is a unique universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The strategy is intended to play a pivotal role in guiding counter terrorism efforts undertaken at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy need to be implemented in an integrated manner in all its four pillars. The various UN and other specialized agencies have to ensure that counter terrorism approaches and measures cater to regional, national and international as well as functional specificities to facilitate multi-dimensional technical assistance needs. In this regard the CTITF has to play a crucial role in ensuring coordinated and coherent efforts across the UN system to counter terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has firmly put in place policy, strategic, administrative, operational and legal framework to implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in all its four pillars.

We are willing to share our experiences in the implementation of the Strategy and provide assistance bilaterally or multilaterally as necessary and needed in the larger efforts to counter the threat of terrorism at the global regional, sub-regional or national levels. We are also willing to share relevant information with competent UN agencies as and when the need arise.

Mr. President,

The second review resolution on the implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is an important step forward. Stressing on the primary responsibility of States to implement the Strategy, it lays emphasis on the

implementation of the Strategy by the UN system in a coordinated and coherent manner and on the need to avoid duplication in efforts undertaken by various UN entities.

We are happy to see that the resolution encourages member states to get involved in the work of the CTITF not merely for receiving regular quarterly briefings from the task force on its work but also to provide CTITF with policy guidance and feed back on its work. This interactive mechanism would be immensely beneficial both for the member State as well as the UN system in their joint efforts to combat terrorism.

We are happy to note the plans of CTITF to bring its work to a wider audience through the development of a comprehensive web site. This is a significant effort as the work of the CTITF is not only relevant to member States and the UN entities but also for the civil society at large. Encouragement of member States in the work of CTITF will further add value to the legitimacy and credibility of UN efforts to counter terrorism.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General has very aptly pointed out in paragraph 139 of his report that the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and conclude the convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism efforts.

I wish to reassure you that we will actively engage with CTITF and all relevant entities of the UN to effectively contribute to UN efforts in countering terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. President.



666. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the launch of the Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan.

New York, September 17, 2010.

Mr. Secretary General,

Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs,

My distinguished colleague, H.E. the Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening this meeting for the launch of the 'Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan'.

Pakistan has been severely affected by the massive floods and the humanitarian catastrophe continues to unfold. The extent of devastation is unprecedented in its geographical spread and around 21 million people are still adversely affected. There has been extensive damage to crops, live stock and infrastructure. The challenge is particularly enormous as 80% of the floods-affected population is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood.

We applaud and support the good work done by the UN agencies, the international community, the NGOs and the civil society present in the field. Their role has been critical in bringing much-needed relief and succour to the vulnerable population. I am happy to note that the UN agencies are ramping up complimentary programmes such as emergency food and nutritional assistance, distribution of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of damaged lands and infrastructure and micro financing.

Mr. Secretary General,

India is familiar with the consequences of natural disasters and therefore understands very well the trauma and the suffering that our Pakistani brethren are going through.

We cannot remain unconcerned with this grave humanitarian crisis of enormous magnitude in our immediate neighbourhood. As a member of the international community and more significantly as a close neighbour, India recognizes its responsibility to support Pakistan.

Our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Foreign Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna have spoken to their counterparts in Pakistan and offered assistance.

Earlier today I had the honour to hand over to you Mr. Secretary General in the presence of H.E. the Permanent Representative of Pakistan a cheque for US \$ 20 Million for the UN's Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan. A further US \$ 5 million is being contributed by the Government of India to the World Food Programme for its relief efforts in Pakistan.

Natural disasters, Mr. Secretary General, know no boundaries. This contribution is a small but significant gesture from the highest levels of the Indian Government conveying the message that the people of India stand by the people of Pakistan in their hour of need. We are committed to assisting the people of Pakistan in all possible ways in these difficult times.

Mr. Secretary General,

I have no doubt that the people of Pakistan have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster. However, the magnitude of the tragedy makes it incumbent on the international community to pool its energies and resources and to assist Pakistan in its efforts to rebuild and rehabilitate the devastated region. Generous support from the international community to the 'Revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan' would be critical in providing necessary impetus to ongoing relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Thank you.



667. Statement by Mr. S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High-level Plenary Meeting on Millennium Development Goals.

New York, 22 September, 2010.

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to be present at this august gathering and to speak on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an aspiration which so fittingly captures the global vision and promise for humanity in the 21st century.

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your stewardship, guidance and support to the expansive development agenda of the United Nations including the MDGs.

Mr. President,

In his message on the UN World Public Service Day five years ago, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said:

"The Millennium Development Goals that we have set for ourselves cannot be met unless governments are pro-active. No government in any civilized society can ignore the basic needs of people. The goal of the development process must be to include every last member of our society in that process".

As we take stock of the MDGs, we note that the world as a whole has made substantial gains but the progress is uneven and short of expectations.

This is particularly visible in the so called forgotten MDGs, MDGs that deal with women and children's health. We are, therefore, happy that the Secretary-General has set out a Global Strategy on women and children's health.

Natural disasters have also taken a toll on MDG achievements. The death and destruction in Haiti and Pakistan have been on an unprecedented scale.

As a fellow developing country that has itself taken a huge toll from such disasters, we responded duty-bound in solidarity to assist the Governments and people in the affected countries to the best of our ability and in keeping with their priorities.

Mr. President,

A growing concern is the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and regions in our country. Rain-fed agriculture accounts for sixty percent of crop area in India. Climate change has aggravated the situation in traditionally drought and flood prone regions in the country. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was designed to provide relief to affected farming communities in the country.

We in India are alive to the challenges of climate, and remain committed to mounting appropriate national and regional responses. Our national action plan on Climate Change will increase the share of clean and renewable energy in our energy mix, increase energy efficiency across the economy and expand our forest cover.

Mr. President,

With just five years to go for the MDG target year and our record of mixed success, it is imperative that we significantly step up our individual and collective commitments and efforts for the realization of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

Our collective efforts have certainly borne fruit on the goal of poverty eradication at the global level.

But, more than 60 million people slipped back into poverty in 2009 following the economic and financial crisis of 2008. This has certainly had a regressive impact on the MDGs.

It is, therefore, important that we ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable. This is also critical for achieving the MDGs and for us to be able to effectively address the challenges of food and energy security, climate change and natural disasters.

In so far as India is concerned, our economy has shown resilience and is expected to grow by 8.5% in 2010-11, and over 9% in 2011-12.

The UN Secretary General's report on MDGs notes that India's efforts on poverty reduction have been a major contributor for reduction in global poverty levels and some 188 million people in India would be out of poverty by 2015.

We need to, however, be cognizant that the largest concentration of poor in the world continues to remain in India and South Asia. The long distance we still have to travel to put poverty behind us in India should not be underestimated.

Our efforts, therefore, are to push for growth while at the same time ensuring that the fruits of growth reach out across our society, i.e. inclusive growth. This, indeed, is the main objective of India's 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.

By law, all Indian children in the age group of 6 to 14 years must now 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.

To ensure that children remain in school and that this also benefits them nutritionally, we also run the largest school-lunch programme in the world.

This is being supplemented by Saakshar Bharat a special programme focused on female literacy launched in 2009.

Enormous strides have been made in the empowerment of women.

India has embarked on perhaps the most ambitious affirmative action 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.

Mr. President,

India faces enormous challenges in the areas of women's and children's health. The Government of India has adopted a multi pronged strategy under the National Rural Health Mission in 2005 to provide health care in the rural areas which is accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable. This Mission is fully focused on improving our standing on maternal and child health indicators. Under the umbrella of this Mission, recently, in order to accelerate progress, new initiatives have been identified, namely, Name Based Tracking of Pregnant Women, Maternal Death Review, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health, Differential Planning, and Annual Health Survey. Our JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA, a dedicated safe motherhood programme, has so far benefited 28 million women.

As a result of on-going efforts, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India has come down from 301 over 2001-2003 to 254 over 2004-2006, a decline of 47 points over a period of three years. Though, we are still some distance away from the target of 109 by 2015, going by the rate of decline in the past and comprehensive efforts being made across the country, it appears that India is on the right track with regard to MDG-5. We are also trying to take similar strides on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

India has made notable progress on combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. The HIV epidemic has reached a plateau in India and we now have a prevalence rate down to 0.34 %.

Mr. President,

India has made valuable use of technology to bring benefits of development to our people. The tele-density in India has increased from 0.67% in 1991 to 37 % in 2009. Our innovative and low cost technology solutions in the field of IT and telecommunication have brought development benefits, not just in India, but also to people in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

In August 2010, we launched the second phase of the Pan-African e-Network project. The network project will link all the 53 countries in Africa with centres of excellence in India for telemedicine and tele-education services. More than 1700 students from African countries have already registered with different Indian universities for various courses and regular tele-medical consultations have also started between African doctors and Indian specialists.

Mr. President,

The lack of progress on building a robust global partnership needs to be urgently addressed. Unmet financial commitments by developed country partners have widened the financing for development gap. We call upon them to fulfill the long made 0.7% of GNI commitment.

Equally urgent is the need to transfer technology and undertake capacity building in developing countries.

The quantum leap in South-South Cooperation has significantly complemented global resources targeted at development agenda, but it cannot be a substitute for the North-South cooperation.

We are happy that today India's development partnership with countries in the South goes beyond technical cooperation. Our annual outlay on concessional lending and grants is over US\$ 1 billion, covering countries in our region, in Africa and beyond. In addition, US\$ 5 billion has been extended as lines of credit since 2003.

We are committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation, both on the development side as well as in support of humanitarian needs.

Mr. President,

India is seized of the MDG challenges that lie ahead of us. Our commitment remains resolute.

Our national goal of inclusive growth and the larger idea of a more humane and just global society that underlines the Millennium

Declaration would continue to inspire us to work untiringly to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

In the final march towards the attainment of the MDG, let us be inspired by the belief of Mahatma Gandhi in the limitless potential of human achievement, he said:

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."

This should be the driving force for nations across the world and to this we dedicate ourselves.

Thank you.



668. Statement by Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister, Environment & Forests, at the Panel on "The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets", High Level Meeting of the 65th session of the General Assembly on Biodiversity.

New York, September 22, 2010.

Hon'ble Co-Chairmen and distinguished delegates,

It is indeed an honour for me to speak at the first ever high level event on biodiversity of the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th Session.

This now sets the stage for moving biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity to the central place in global environmental discourse and arena, a place that it rightfully deserves, 18 years after the birth of this Convention at the Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and years after its sister Convention on climate change has been getting all the headlines.

The Convention on Biological Diversity, through its three goals, sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings, while pursuing economic development. The three objectives - conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

While the global community can take some pride in making strides towards implementation of the first two objectives, it is regrettable that the third objective relating to access and benefit sharing, or ABS as it is called, remains largely unfulfilled.

May I take this opportunity to urge the Ministers of member states to provide the much needed urgent political impetus at this stage of negotiations, to be able to arrive at a practicable and implementable ABS protocol which provides for a balance between access and compliance provisions and which holds the sanctity of domestic legislation? As a major victim of bio-piracy in different ways, India believes that the ABS Protocol is a key missing pillar of the CBD.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are considered largely as public goods, their loss therefore goes unaccounted for in the present economic system, and therefore can continue unabated. We hope and expect that the TEEB study, led by Pavan Sukhdev, the final report of which would be launched at CoP-10, would be able to address this anomaly. The key messages from the TEEB reports being released in phases, including the one for local and regional policy makers, which I had the honour to release in New Delhi earlier this month, have already sharpened awareness on the value of biodiversity. I hope in due course, this study may facilitate development of cost-effective policy responses and better informed decisions.

My government is committed to inclusion of biodiversity as an integral part of the growth process, since this is the only path whereby we can sustain high economic growth. The debate today is no longer on development versus environment, since biodiversity is an essential ingredient of inclusive growth. GDP must be redefined as Green Domestic Product and not stand for Gross Domestic Product.

Another important matter that is awaiting the final approval is the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The IPBES, proposed to be set on the lines of IPCC, aims to provide a science-policy interface on biodiversity, especially in the backdrop of the looming ecological crisis owing to widespread loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The expectation is that this step too will motivate political action.

India as you know is a megadiverse country with very strong science base in terms of manpower and institutions. We would therefore be happy to host the secretariat of IPBES, as and when it is established. The IPBES secretariat could be modelled on the lines of the Global Development Network (GDN), the headquarters of which are located in New Delhi.

As you may be aware, India has offered to host the eleventh CoP to the CBD to be held in the 20th anniversary of the Rio Summit in 2012. We are looking forward to your support in this endeavour.

A few days back, at the invitation of the UNGA President, Switzerland, the eleven past, present and future Presidencies of CoP have adopted a Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action, which I had the honour to cochair. We have recognised the inextricable linkages between the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss, and have specifically proposed that implementation of voluntary REDD/REDD+ mechanisms should be done to enrich biodiversity. We look forward to clinching a forestry agreement at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at Cancun.

There are also extremely important issues relating to the linkages between the CBD and the TRIPS Agreement under the WTO that need to be addressed and finalized soon.

Thank you.



669. Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, at the High Level Meeting on 'Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations.'

New York, September 24, 2010.

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,
Distinguished colleagues,

India welcomes the Secretary General's initiative to convene this meeting. We believe that its main purpose is to send a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda. India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

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. Such negotiations, which we support, are without prejudice to India's principled position on other agenda items, in particular the priority issue of nuclear disarmament. We share the disappointment expressed here by a number of speakers that the CD has been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. We reaffirm our support for the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, recognized as such by the international community. We also support the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its Programme of work in early 2011.

Mr. Chairman,

India remains committed to the objective and vision of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Action Plan of 1988 for ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. It is a painful reality that this has remained a distant goal, not least due to the continued opposition to negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament. It may be recalled that the Final Document of the First Special session on Disarmament accorded

nuclear disarmament the highest priority. We call for intensification of dialogue amongst UN member states for strengthening the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

While it is not possible for this short meeting to deliberate on all issues nor take decisions on the disarmament agenda, the Chair's summary that the UN Secretary General will make at its conclusion, will, we hope, add 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.



670. Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High Level Meeting on Sudan [Read out by Ambassador Harsh V Shringla, Joint Secretary] at the UNGA.

New York, September 24, 2010.

Mr. Secretary General, Foreign Ministers, Excellencies,

At the outset permit me to compliment you for convening this very timely Conference on Sudan. The United Nations has been at the forefront of the international community's attempts to stabilise the situation in Sudan. As one of the prime contributors to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), India shares the principles and purposes behind the United Nations involvement in the country. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to contribute fully to the shared goals we have for this troubled region.

Sudan today is on the threshold of profound change. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the warring Sudanese parties has brought peace, after a prolonged and bitter civil war, to Sudan. The culmination of the CPA process will take place in a few months with the referendum of 9

January 2011 when the people of Southern Sudan will decide whether they favour unity of the country or opt for secession. We are happy to note that the referendum process is on track and is expected to be concluded by the stipulated date. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Government of National Unity in Khartoum and the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba for their statesmanlike approach in resolving the difficulties at hand and in ensuring that the referendum time schedule is maintained.

We trust that the referendum will be conducted in a timely, transparent and credible manner and the outcome of the referendum will be respected by all parties in accordance with the provisions of the CPA as also the international community. India hopes for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

Insofar as the situation in Darfur is concerned, we would like the issue to be resolved in a manner consistent with Sudan's unity and territorial integrity. We are aware that there are several sets of on-going efforts in progress at achieving peace in Sudan and we wish the efforts, including the Doha Peace Talks, to bring peace and prosperity to Sudan.

India is extensively engaged with Africa and highly values its relations with the region. The Pan-Africa E-Network Project, the 2nd phase of which was inaugurated by me recently, is one of the finest examples of the growing partnership between India and Africa. We value Sudan's participation in the Project. It is the biggest project of distance education and tele-medicine ever undertaken in Africa. Extension of concessional lines of credit to countries in Africa, including Sudan, has been another way of assisting our partners in the development process.

India and Sudan share the most cordial of relations. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru successfully argued for Sudan's inclusion at the 1955 Bandung Conference even before Sudan became independent. Our age old ties have been cemented in modern times with people to people contacts, trade and commerce, investments and a broad commonality of outlook on global issues. India is, therefore, deeply committed to the stable development of Sudan. India looks forward to peaceful development of this region which will depend, irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, on maintaining close cooperation between Southern and Northern Sudan and its neighbours, and the world community.



671. Intervention by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the "Group of Fifteen" (G-15) countries (Read on his behalf by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative).

New York, September 24, 2010 .

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to participate in the Ministerial meeting of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) and would like to begin by expressing our deep appreciation for your leadership of the Group. We commend your efforts in undertaking a frank and thorough review of the working of the Group with the help of the High-Level Task Force. We welcome the recommendations of the Task Force. We hope that the implementation of the recommendations will help to revitalize and reposition the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The continuing global economic crisis points towards the urgent need for the creation of a more effective and responsive governance architecture for the global economy, including through bringing about appropriate reforms in the international financial institutions. Only equitable and inclusive solutions that provide a due place for developing countries, can redress existing systemic challenges and help avert future crises.

Developing countries continue to face a range of challenges in various multilateral fora. In order to counter these challenges and optimize the outcomes for developing countries, the need for sustained interaction and coordination among our countries in multilateral processes becomes paramount. We, therefore, welcome the recommendations of the Task Force to promote thematic consultations and articulation of common positions, where possible, on key international issues of interest to member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

While global economic recovery is still fragile and private demand in the industrialized countries is likely to remain weak for some time, South-South cooperation acquires particular salience. The Group's membership has varied capabilities in diverse areas which can be harnessed for the

common good of developing countries. G-15 collaborative projects can serve as vehicles to share national competencies and exemplify concrete and credible partnerships between our countries. With the youthful demographic profile in our countries, (G-15 projects can focus on human resource development and help translate this advantage into empowering economic assets.

In this context, the Revised Guidelines proposed by the Task Force for monitoring and successful implementation of the projects are timely and welcome. With the new guidelines and monitoring mechanisms in place, we hope that there will be a renewed zeal to initiate projects based on contemporary priorities of the member states. India has, in the past, actively participated in G-15 projects and has coordinated a number of them. We assure you of India's continued support and active collaboration in G-15 projects. On our part, we stand ready to share our developmental experience and partner interested member countries in capacity building, training, technical assistance and other sectoral cooperation projects.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to respond to the challenges of today's fast changing and interconnected world, G-15 must improve its internal working methods and streamline its institutional mechanisms. India, therefore, welcomes the recommendations of the Task Force for the establishment of the working groups on Sectoral Cooperation and Institutional Mechanisms. We hope that these working groups will be operational soon and contribute to a revitalized and energized Group. The institution of the Personal Representatives is central to the successful functioning of the Group. We look forward to their more regular and frequent meetings to provide effective supervision of the Group's activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we hope the new set of reforms will revitalize the Group and enable it to play a more significant role in the international arena, commensurate with the potential and capabilities of its member countries, both in contributing to the bridging of the North-South divide and in enhancing South-South Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



672. Statement by S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister at the High Level Review Meeting of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable -II on "Enhancing International Support for Small Island Developing States".

New York, September 25, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your leadership, guidance and support for the cause of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The international community has expressed solidarity with the SIDS since the Barbados Programme of Action and subsequently through the Agenda 21 and the Mauritius International Meeting on Sustainable Development of SIDS. Unfortunately, the declared commitments have not been supported by commensurate global efforts.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Barbados Action Plan to strengthen and advance sustainable development in the SIDS has made limited progress in spite of the best efforts by these countries.

The structural deficiencies in SIDS economy arising out of lack of diversification, excessive dependence on tourism and commodities, higher production and transportation costs, small domestic market and vulnerability to external shocks have placed these countries at a clear disadvantage.

The impact of the global financial, food and energy crises has further exacerbated their vulnerabilities and reversed their socio-economic development.

Building resilience in the SIDS to address their structural vulnerabilities must, therefore, continue to be the central plank of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

India fully recognizes the significant threats posed by climate change to the SIDS and the urgency to address the need for adaptation, mitigation,

financial and technological support to these countries to develop an effective response.

Our consciousness of the situation is particularly deep since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas.

India fully supports a firm demonstration of greater sensitivity and a more concrete response to the urgent adaptation needs of the Small Island Developing States as part of any emerging outcome of the ongoing multilateral negotiations.

The financial pledges made at Copenhagen including the Fast Start Funds must be fulfilled at the earliest. We would urge the developed countries to disburse these funds without further delay, under the overall supervision of the UNFCCC, to meet the urgent adaptation needs of the SIDS for whom climate change poses an existential threat.

The strategies adopted by the SIDS to build their renewable energy capabilities in wind and solar power, and waste to energy systems are steps in the right direction to lessen dependence on fossil fuel imports.

Food production is vital to sustainable development and we appreciate and support the steps taken by the SIDS in developing aquaculture systems to enhance food availability. The international community must address the specific concerns of the sea fishing industries in these countries and ensure that food security is given primacy over short-term market needs.

Mr. Chairman,

SIDS urgently need adequate financial resources - access to ODA, FDI and other forms of external capital flows- capacity building, market access, and technology transfer to address their special needs.

I take this opportunity to urge our developed country partners to fulfill their promise made and extend 0.7% of their GNI to global development agenda.

Addressing debt sustainability amongst the SIDS remains a leading challenge. India supports policies that provide safer debt instruments and limit destabilizing capital flows.

The international community needs to pay particular attention to assisting the SIDS through strengthening national disaggregated data and information systems and developing strategies to enhance disaster management capabilities in them.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that capacity building in the SIDS holds the key to sustainable development. We are willing to help the SIDS in whatever way we can - within our resources and as part of our South-South cooperation, to share our experience and expertise in the fields of climate-friendly technologies and sustainable development to supplement their national programmes.

Our cooperation has been in diverse sectors, and has included climate change adaptation, information and communication technology, waste management systems, remote sensing, hydrographic survey, telemedicine, public transport, education, irrigation systems, fisheries, and agriculture and food security.

Permit me, however, to stress that efforts by fellow developing countries cannot be a substitute for the efforts required from our developed partners.

India remains steadfast in its effort for the holistic and sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States.

Thank You.



673. Statement by S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordination Bureau.

New York, September 27, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Movement has come a long way. As a force representing the newly-independent former colonies emerging from variety of national liberation struggles, the Movement helped close a long and painful chapter of colonialism, imperialism and institutionalized racism- an achievement of which the Movement can be justifiably proud and draw inspiration.

Challenges posed by terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, drug-traffickers and organized crime syndicates, and other challenges to international peace and security are much more pressing than ever before. The developing countries, in particular continue to face the brunt of challenges emanating from continuing uncertainty in global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, stabilizing prices of essential commodities and coping up with climate change.

The apparent failings of our global political, economic and fiscal institutions constrict our collective ability to respond to these challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Moving forward, we need to reinvigorate our efforts towards a more democratic, equitable, and legitimized international architecture that reflects

the contemporary realities. Genuine reform is essential, in particular of the Security Council and must encompass expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership.

Terrorism is one of the greatest scourges of our times. It is high time that we demonstrate the necessary political will and agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The Movement needs to play a more active and advocating role in efforts towards achieving universal nuclear disarmament and a world free of all nuclear weapons.

Moreover, there is imperative need for the developing and developed countries to work together to effectively tackle the challenges of food security, energy security, health, education and environment and climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we are at the cusp of an opportunity that would allow us to strengthen multilateralism and a multi-polar world order. Our overall approach while addressing the global challenges must be guided by a new, forward-looking and focused agenda for our Movement, which draws inspirations from our convictions of the past and our aspirations for the future.

This will require consolidation of our Movement especially through strengthening areas of commonality, building on our unity and solidarity and recognizing that amongst 118 members, there will be diversity.

The imperative for a new agenda and discourse in our Movement has never been greater.

Thank you.



**674. Statement by S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs,
at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting.**

New York, Septemebr 27, 2010.

Excellencies Foreign Ministers of Commonwealth Member States,

Secretary General of the Commonwealth,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by applauding the manner in which the Government of Trinidad & Tobago has chaired the Commonwealth in the past year, in particular the successful hosting of the CHOGM in Port of Spain in November 2009. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey the support of my government to Australia as the chair of the next Summit to be held in 2011 in Perth.

With its unique membership structure, substantive orientation and style of functioning based on consensus-building, informality and goodwill, the Commonwealth provides its members with a strong sense of purpose and utility. The Commonwealth has also devoted much of its activities to the needs and interests of its larger developing country membership, including 32 Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries. India, on its part, also has a strong and abiding interest in promoting, maintaining and strengthening healthy democratic institutions and the rule of law, which are the primary objectives of the Commonwealth.

At the CHOGM 2009, the Prime Minister of India had announced several new initiatives in support of the Commonwealth. I am happy to share with you that all of these initiatives have already been implemented or are in the final stages of implementation. These pertain to training of diplomats, the Commonwealth Partnership

Platform Portal (CP3) portal doubling our contribution to the Commonwealth Media Development Fund, creation of 250 additional slots for training civilians from Commonwealth countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, and in addition, providing on a bilateral basis 1,564 training slots to ITEC partner countries in the

Commonwealth.

I am happy to learn that 2009 CHOGM mandates are successfully being implemented. During 2009 CHOGM, the need to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism on a priority basis was emphasised. It is important that this happens early, preferably during the current Session of the UN General Assembly.

Like other Member States of the Commonwealth, India believes that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with young people. India is, therefore, supportive of developing a new assessed scale of contributions for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) on a consensus basis as early as possible.

I am convinced that the Commonwealth Secretariat will continue its proactive role in other areas as mandated by 2009 CHOGM such as education, health, energy security, food security, migration, human rights, combating corruption, human trafficking, reform of international institutions, trade and investment, and assisting the small states to implement crisis-resilient strategies. It is also our hope that the 'Commonwealth Connects' would promote strategic partnerships and help member states build ICT capacity.

This year the Secretary General and our Permanent Representatives have interacted to bring to the UN the unique perspective of the Commonwealth on current issues in the global discourse. This interaction could be facilitated by regular contact of the Commonwealth Office in New York with the UN Missions of Commonwealth countries on matters of interest.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that India eagerly looks forward to welcoming sportspersons and officials from Commonwealth countries to the Delhi Commonwealth Games, due to begin the coming Sunday.

Thank you.



675. Statement by Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, at the 34th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77.

New York, September 28, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your distinguished leadership of the Group this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Argentina the very best on being elected the Chair of the Group for the year 2011.

India welcomes Tajikistan as the newest member of G-77. India also deeply appreciates the initiative taken by Libya to host the third South Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

The founding principles of G-77 of equity, solidarity and unity have withstood the test of time. In all these years, our larger aspirations and goals, collective identity and purpose, in spite of our myriad and at times differing challenges, have remained resolute.

The global economy, though on track, is still to regain its full strength. The recovery is only partial. We need to impart further dynamism to our respective economies to boost global demand and trade.

Economic growth is the key to achieving development goals. The Indian economy grew 7.4 % in 2009-10 and is slated to grow more than 8.5% in 2010-2011. This robust economic performance has enabled us to pursue our poverty alleviation and sustainable development options including the Millennium Development Goals.

Global trade is an important instrument for promoting economic growth. The Group must act in unison to achieve a fair and equitable multilateral trading system that takes into account the interest of the poor and the marginalized.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully recognize that the global economic and financial architecture, so overwhelmingly loaded against the developing world needs urgent reform.

It has been our endeavour to push for reforms in the Bretton Woods Institutions so as to make them more democratic and equitable.

The global community a few days back renewed its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals at the High level plenary meeting. It is time now for the high words to translate into action.

Global partnership especially addressing financing for development is crucial for the developing countries to meet their MDG targets. Similarly, transfer of technology and an IPR regime which balances reward for innovators with the principle of global public good ought to be pursued to create a global environment conducive to development.

G-77 has been the pillar of the UNFCCC negotiations on Climate Change. We must remain united in our pursuit of an equitable and ambitious outcome from the Cancun meeting.

The special needs of the LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and African countries must continue to receive priority in the Group. India has taken the lead to support the fourth UN LDC Conference to be held in Istanbul next year. We have also offered to host a Ministerial preparatory meeting in New Delhi in early 2011 for the Conference.

India has been in the forefront of South-South cooperation. We have in spite of our limited resources shared our technical resources and development experience with fellow developing countries. Of late, there have been attempts to equate South-South Cooperation with North-South collaboration. We must reject all such assertions.

Mr. Chairman,

G-77 has brought immense benefits to the people in the developing world. I am confident that its high commitment and sense of purpose would continue with matchless zeal in the years ahead. The Group can continue to count on India's steadfast support in all its endeavours.

Thank you.



**676. Statement by S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister
at the General Debate of the 65th Session of the UNGA.**

New York, September 29, 2010

Please see Document No.610.



**677. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on the Situation in
Afghanistan at the UN Security Council.**

New York, September 29, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary-General and are appreciative of the briefing by the SRSG Staffan de Mistura. We also thank Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan for his statement.

Mr. President,

The Kabul Conference marked a new phase in the partnership of the Afghan Government and international community the Kabul Process and a renewed commitment to a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan. The Conference demonstrated Afghan Government's determination to take full responsibility for Afghanistan's own development, security and governance, and the international community's willingness to realign international assistance in accordance with Afghanistan's priorities and action plans. The success of Kabul Process largely depends on detailing and implementing the commitments flowing from the Kabul Conference.

The holding of national assembly elections on September 18, in which over 2500 candidates contested, is an important step forward in strengthening of the democratic framework in Afghanistan. We appreciate UNAMA's lead role in providing overall coordination of international support to the electoral process.

Mr. President,

India and Afghanistan enjoy a relationship based on history, civilization, trade and cultural exchanges and shared values and interests stretching back thousands of years.

India is committed to the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan underpinned by democracy and cohesive pluralism and free from external interference. India has contributed to these goals through our Development Partnership which is implemented entirely in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan Government and people. Our Assistance programmes are spread all over Afghanistan and cover all sectors of development: humanitarian, infrastructural, institution and capacity building, small-scale quick gestation projects, and agriculture. The ultimate aim of our assistance, which presently stands at over US\$ 1.3 bn, is to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan state and people to stand on their own feet in the areas of governance and services for the Afghan people.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan's stability and economic development depend a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Afghanistan's greatest economic potential perhaps resides in its immense potential as a trade, transport and energy hub, and as a bridge linking Central, West, South Asia and the Gulf. Its prosperity also depends on the consumer market of nearly 1.5 billion people in the South-Asian sub-continent. The recent reports of Afghanistan's great mineral wealth also open up possibilities for mining and investment. But for Afghanistan to realize its full potential in these areas, Afghanistan's neighbours need to come together to forge greater regional cooperation and facilitate trade and transit.

Growing economic inter-dependence will also help in weaning disaffected youth away from insurgency and militancy and in creating a zone of co-prosperity in the region. We support the wishes of the Government of Afghanistan to take the lead in this direction.

Mr. President,

Peace and reintegration efforts in Afghanistan could succeed provided they are fully Afghan-led and Afghan-owned and carry all sections of Afghanistan's population together as well as abide by the redlines agreed

to at the London Conference, i.e., giving up violence, cutting off all links with terrorism, and accepting the democratic and pluralistic values of the Afghan Constitution, including women's rights.

The international community must learn lessons from past experiences at negotiating with fundamentalist and extremist organizations and ensure that any peace process is conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner. Adequate capacity of the Afghan security forces and other Afghan institutions is a *sine qua non* for protecting Afghanistan's sovereignty, plurality and democracy. Gains of the last nine years stand to be squandered if this aspect does not receive the attention that it deserves as the international community ponders its next steps regarding Afghanistan.

The international community should also ensure that there is no selectivity in dealing with terrorism. The fight against terrorism cannot be compartmentalized. One cannot distinguish between Al Qaeda and plethora of terrorist organisations which have imbibed the goals and techniques of Al Qaeda. Security and stabilization of Afghanistan will remain a distant goal unless we are able to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism, which includes elements of Al Qaeda, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders. It is, therefore, essential to ensure that support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorist organisations from outside Afghanistan are ended forthwith.

As we discuss today, it is worrisome that there has been a continuing deterioration in the security environment. The UNSG report notes that there has been a 69% increase in security incidents as compared to the same months in 2009.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the international community as a whole has made a great contribution in assisting Afghanistan to stand on its own feet. The Kabul Conference was a big step in the right direction. It is important that the international community remains steadfast in its commitment in supporting Afghanistan. We welcome these efforts and are fully supportive of them. We support the good work done by UNAMA.

Thank you



678. Statement by Manish Gupta, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN exercising Right of Reply for the first time during the General Debate of 65th session of UNGA.

New York, September 29, 2010.

Mr. President,

I am exercising the Right of Reply in response to the statement just made by Pakistan.

Regrettably, my distinguished colleague from Pakistan has once again raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Such unsolicited and untenable remarks will not and indeed, cannot divert attention from the multiple problems Pakistan needs to tackle for the common good of its people, and indeed of the entire region.

Rather than making unsolicited remarks about internal affairs of others, Pakistan should seriously concentrate on addressing the enormous challenges confronting it: terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, to name a few and the dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure that exists on territory under its control.

Violence in Jammu and Kashmir has been fuelled over the past decades by external forces which do not want peace and progress in our region. This is a well known fact. The Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of all our people, including our brethren in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. Free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir have been regularly held and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have exercised their right to franchise to elect their representatives.

Thank you

Statement by Mr. Manish Gupta, First Secretary exercising Right of Reply for the second time, during the General Debate of 65th session of UN General Assembly, September 29, 2010

Mr. President,

I am exercising the Right of Reply in response to comments from the Pakistani delegate.

We reject the untenable and unsolicited remarks from the distinguished delegate of Pakistan.

Thank you



679. Statement by Adi Sankar, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN, on Agenda Item 27 - Social Development [a] Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Twenty-fourth Special Session of the General Assembly [b] Social Development, Including Questions Relating to the World Social Situation and to Youth ageing, disabled persons and the family [c] follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assebly on Ageing [d] United Nations Literacy Decade - Education for all at the Third Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 5, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, let me begin by conveying to you and to the members of your Bureau our warmest felicitations on the election and to you for chairing this important Committee. I would like to assure you of my delegation's fullest cooperation in the deliberations and work of this Committee.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for all his reports under this agenda item. I also wish to thank the Under-Secretary General

for the Economic and Social Affairs for his statement in this Committee yesterday. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the Chair of G77.

Mr. Chairman,

Fifteen years have passed since the world leaders adopted the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The Declaration placed people at the centre of development. Furthermore, the Declaration identified three pillars for social development, namely poverty eradication; full and productive employment and decent work for all; and fostering just, social and stable societies by social integration.

In fact, these are linked to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. Copenhagen Summit was instrumental in the subsequent development of concerted World Programme of Action for various groups, including youth, elderly, indigenous people to name a few. This also led to, in 2006, adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol which entered into force in May 2008.

Mr. Chairman,

In India, we are presently implementing the 11th Five Year Plan covering the period 2007-12. The key focus of the Plan is inclusive growth. Our endeavor is to ensure that the gains of economic growth reach all sections of our population. In this context our special effort has been to ensure that rural India, where the vast majority of our huge population lives, derives direct benefit from the growth dividend. We are also paying special attention on gender equity issues and for the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised sections of society in our development efforts.

As a result, in addition to setting up of a target for growth, the 11th Plan also identifies 26 measurable indices of performance relating to poverty, education, health, women and children that will reflect social integration achieved through development policies and programmes.

At this juncture, I want to say in my native state of Tamil Nadu, in health sector, the State Government introduced a new health insurance scheme

called Karunanidhi Health Insurance Scheme for all the people of Tamil Nadu. The premium amount is paid by the government. This provides the insured people a benefit of Rs 100,000/- for medical treatment.

Mr Chairman,

Government of India also introduced a flagship revolutionary programme for breaking down social inequalities, rejuvenating economic growth and empowering the grassroots in 2005, which is also world's largest work programme, called the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

This scheme ensures 100 days employment to every rural household and improves wage levels. Regarding poverty eradication, the Government of India has taken several steps. I belong to one regional party named DMK party. One of the slogans of this party in Tamil means to eradicate poverty and ensure social harmony.

This scheme provided employment to more than 45 million people last year with programmes covering rural development. Women and other marginalized sections of society have been particular beneficiaries of this programme.

Here I would like to mention, that in my own State of Tamil Nadu, this scheme has been particularly successful. Even the Supreme Court of India appreciated the State Government of Tamil Nadu and also the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Stalin, who is implementing the scheme effectively.

Mr Chairman,

Social integration is essential for fostering a stable, safe, harmonious peaceful and just society. Social integration should not be construed as achieving uniformity, but to understand and respect diversity and to promote equal opportunity and participation of all in order to create a "society for all".

Mr. Chairman,

For persons with disabilities, India had taken a very proactive legislative step in 1995 by promulgating an Act, namely Persons with Disabilities (Equal

Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act. Among other legal provisions, the Act mandates affirmative action through reservation of not less than 3% vacancies for persons with disabilities under the government as well as in education institutions.

We have taken several measures to promote development of persons with disabilities in various ways, including by community based-rehabilitation. Government also funds programmes for community based rehabilitation involving NGOs, persons with disabilities, parents' organizations and public authorities.

Additionally, following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government has now set up a Committee consisting of various stakeholders to draft a new legislation to harmonize it with the provisions of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, enacted in 2009, entitles every child from 6-14 years of age to free and compulsory education. In fact, enrolment, attendance and completion of eight years of elementary education schooling for all children have become an inalienable and justiciable right.

In order to improve the attendance and enrolment of students in schools, as part of the mid day meal scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Shri Karunanidhi, has ensured that nutritious food, including one boiled egg every working day, is provided to every student.

While India has made commendable progress in providing access to primary education with the completion of infrastructure for primary schools under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, our flagship programme of universal elementary education, the focus is also been extended to secondary and tertiary education.

With nearly 80 million older persons in India, we are strongly commitment to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action of 2002, which provides guidance on capacity-building on ageing at national, regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

The pledge the international community made 15 years ago for an inclusive society is still elusive. The challenge is still formidable, but our resolve is strong. Let us continue our efforts of creating and providing an enabling economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment for all our citizens.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



680. Statement by Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 140 - Administration of Justice at the United Nations at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York. October 6, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation assures you of its full cooperation and support. I am sure under your able guidance this Committee will make good progress on this agenda item.

First of all I would like to thank the Secretary General for his Report on the administration of Justice at the United Nations. We would also like to thank the Internal Justice Council for their Report on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations and on the Code of Conduct for the Judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

Madam Chairperson,

The subject matter of this agenda item is very dear to my heart being a lawyer by profession. I come from a country that is the largest democracy in the world. We follow parliamentary form of government. Judiciary in my country is one of the most important and critical organ of the government.

While reading the report of the Secretary General, issued yesterday, a thought came to my mind about the judicial reforms being undertaken in India by the UPA Government led by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, and UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi ji, focusing on strengthening a transparent, accountable, responsive, effective and efficient judiciary. I see many of these elements are common in the new system of the administration of justice at the United Nations.

The report of the Secretary General is both interesting and insightful, especially keeping in mind the achievements made by the new system of administration of justice in the first year of its operation since it became operational from 1 July 2009. The creation of a new administration of justice system at the United Nations was a real challenge. Since the United Nations has always laid emphasis on the development of international standards in the field of human rights and the rule of law, it was imperative on the part of the Organization to devise and put in place a system of administration of justice which is independent, transparent, impartial, efficient and effective and which is capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the Organization as well as its staff in the 21st century.

We are happy to note the achievements of the new system of administration of justice. The new system is a welcome and significant improvement over the old system that used to take years for the resolution of a case, while in the new system a case is finalized on an average of six months. This is an important example of the implementation of the principle of justice delayed is justice denied.

We are also happy to note that the number of users of the new system is already greater than the cases in the prior system and that the number is still increasing. This is the result of increasing awareness of the staff about the existence of the new system and their confidence in the new system that their grievances will be addressed professionally, fairly and in a timely manner.

Madam Chairperson,

The Internal Justice Council, pursuant to its mandate has now presented a code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

The Code of Conduct relies on the United Nations basic principles on the independence of Judiciary that are designed to secure and promote the independence of judicial bodies as a basis for providing guidance to the internal administration of justice within the United Nations.

The Code of Conduct establishes standards for ethical conduct of judges by providing a framework for regulating judicial conduct. The document identifies various principles and then outlines many rules there under to ensure the proper application of those principles. The seven core principles that have been identified and laid down include independence; impartiality; integrity; propriety; transparency; fairness in the conduct of judicial proceedings; and competence and diligence.

These core principles highlight the rules that should be followed by every judge in the performance of his duties. This reaffirms the faith of stakeholders in the impartiality of judiciary. These rules, apart from trying to secure independence of the Tribunals and maintaining the confidence in the judicial system, are intended to ensure judicial accountability which is seen as a facet of independence of judiciary.

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the Internal Justice Council for their excellent work and welcome the Code of Conduct prepared by them. The values which have been laid down in the Code reflect the universally accepted values for the judiciary. The Code of Conduct would further help bolster the World body's formal system of dealing with internal grievances and disciplinary cases with professionalism and accountability.

We appreciate the efforts of the Internal Justice Council in holding meetings with the judges of the Dispute Tribunal and judges of the Appeals tribunal in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Addis Ababa; with Ombudsman; head of mediation services; the office of the staff legal assistance; and the staff councils of many international organizations. After these meetings the Council has assessed the needs of these bodies and has identified many challenges that need to be addressed.

The Internal Justice Council has also identified certain issues and made a number of suggestions to ensure that the new system does indeed work to the potential and deliver a system of justice that is independent,

professional and accountable. We look forward to engaging ourselves constructively in the work of the working group in the coming days to consider all important issues and Council's recommendations.

Madam Chairperson,

From the report of the Secretary General we also note that there has been a marked improvement in the dispensation of informal justice. These efforts should be strengthened further. In this connection we would like to see the report of the Ombudsman.

I am confident that with the Disputes and Appeals Tribunals in place from 1 July 2009, and with the Code of Conduct for the Judges in place, the United Nations new two-tier formal administration of justice system would address work related disputes in an independent, transparent, impartial, efficient and effective manner. I am also confident that the new justice system, along with strengthened ombudsman and mediation services, will effectively promote speedy resolution of disputes between the staff and the management, ensuring mutual trust, harmony and understanding.

Madam Chairperson,

While in the last session there is considerable progress in the work of the Committee, still there remain some crucial outstanding issues, including the scope of the new system of the administration of justice; legal assistance to staff and the question whether the staff associations may file applications before the United Nations Dispute Tribunal; complaints against judges; delegation of authority for disciplinary measures; and independence of management evaluation unit etc.

Madam Chairperson,

In paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 64/233, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to provide further information including compiling and comparing the respective advantages and disadvantages for a number of options that were enumerated in those paragraphs. The report of the Secretary General highlights some options but at the same time has raised a number of issues that need to be addressed.

We look forward to constructively contributing on these issues in the meeting of the Working Group.

Madam Chairperson,

In our view all members of the United Nations workforce should have access to justice, irrespective of their designation or nomenclature. We are flexible in this matter and willing to look at various proposals and options that are put forward in the report of the Secretary General and in the report of the Internal Justice Council. We support strengthening of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance as we believe that the continued availability of legal assistance to staff would ensure that no one is left out without recourse. We hope that the new system of administration of justice would remain consistent with the outcome of the overall reform of human resources within the United Nations System.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**681. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 108 -
Report of the Secretary-General of the Work of the
Organization at the UNGA.**

New York, October 6, 2010.

Mr. President,

I wish to thank the Secretary General for his annual report on the work of the organization (A/65/1).

The commitments we undertook in 2000 enshrined in the Millennium Declaration were renewed by our leaders two weeks ago at the High-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. In taking stock of the MDGs, it is evident that the progress reported by the Secretary-General on various fronts such as poverty reduction, primary education enrollment, narrowing the gender gap in education, and access to clean water is tempered by the uneven reach and the significant gaps that persist in all the MDG categories, significantly health-related MDGs.

Never before in the 65 years of the UN's existence has there been such a groundswell of global support for taking development to the poorest and the most vulnerable amongst us, of which the overwhelming majority are found in developing countries. Never before has it been clearer of what needs to be done to address the many dimensions of poverty and inequality and to build a global partnership for development.

It is, therefore, imperative that we ensure that our collective commitments are achieved in the agreed timeframe. While countries bear the primary responsibility for their own development strategies and goals, there is no denying that resource constraints pose a significant impediment to progress in achieving the MDGs. The global partnership on financing for development is crucial for the developing countries to meet their MDG targets, particularly as they relate to the special needs of Africa and the LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs. They must continue to receive priority attention.

We could not agree more with the Secretary-General that the achievement of the MDGs requires unswerving commitment, proactive engagement, and collective global political leadership and will. It is time now for the high words to translate into action.

Mr. President,

India shares the priority placed by the Secretary-General on climate change. We are aware of the consequences it has for vulnerable communities and regions in our countries. We welcome his initiative on a High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing and a high-level panel on global sustainability. India will participate constructively for an ambitious and equitable outcome in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Mr. President,

While the Secretary-General's Report captures the priorities that engaged the organization and its membership as well as and the progress achieved on a number of fronts, we are struck by the singular lack of mention of the important progress made in advancing the agenda of Security Council reform. The launch of text-based negotiations and the overwhelming and emphatic support extended by the membership of the UN for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of Security Council cannot go unacknowledged and needs to be properly recorded.

Intergovernmental negotiations on UN Security Council reforms witnessed a positive momentum in the 64th session with resolve from the membership to "immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform" on the basis of the negotiation text.

The organization's success in meeting the diverse and complex challenges it faces is to a great extent based on our willingness to accept and undertake the crying need for reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council. It is our firm belief that the effectiveness and relevance of the multilateral endeavor that constitutes the United Nations and its activities diminishes every day that we delay implementing real reforms to its governance architecture.

Mr. President,

I also draw your attention to the progress made in revitalization of the General Assembly to restore its preeminence as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations in letter and in spirit. The Ad Hoc Working Group on GA Revitalization did commendable work in the last session. We welcome the adoption of a consensus resolution contained in paragraph 64 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group. A number of forward looking provisions were agreed on, including those relating to enhancing the Assembly's role in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, enhancing the role of the Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security, strengthening the institution of the PGA as well as improving the quality of reporting by the Security Council to the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Terrorism poses a grave threat to all states and all societies. It is a global threat that requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it. In this regard, India believes that the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT), which has been under negotiation for over fifteen years, would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. We therefore welcome the Secretary General's assertion in his Report on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism that the comprehensiveness of implementing the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

On-going efforts such as the recent second review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, institutionalization of the Task Force, as well as strengthening the sanctions regime created by UNSC Resolution 1267 are steps in the right direction. India will continue its active involvement in all the counter-terrorism efforts of the UN.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping continues to be the most visible contribution of the United Nations towards maintaining peace and stability in conflict-torn regions around the world. As one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping operations, both in terms of troops and resources, we support efforts by the Secretary General to strengthen the capability of the organization to keep peace in increasingly complex situations. The challenge is to ensure that field missions are equipped with adequate resources and expertise to satisfactorily execute peacekeeping mandates.

My delegation is following with close interest the Secretary General's efforts to enhance the Secretariat's ability to support peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we expect the Secretariat to closely consult with us and other Troop Contributing Countries in further taking forward the global field support strategy that was unveiled earlier this year.

Mr. President,

India remains acutely 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. We have been actively involved in the process of the on-going review of the peace building architecture that is centered on the Peace building Commission and its instrumentalities.

There have been a number of innovative mechanisms put in place to bolster the UN's peace building efforts, including collaboration with the World Bank, expanding the footprint of post-conflict consolidation through enhancing civilian capacities, maximizing the positive role that women can play in peace building and also strengthening the catalytic role of the Peace Building Fund. We support these innovations. We would further like to stress the imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peace building efforts at the country level.

Mr. President,

We are encouraged by the positive signs of an invigorated international debate on global disarmament in 2010. India attaches the highest priority to the goal of universal nuclear disarmament and has an impeccable non-proliferation record. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes and they require concerted and cooperative international efforts.

We would like to express our appreciation for the Secretary General's initiative to convene a high level meeting on "revitalizing the work of the conference on disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We believe that it has rightfully sent a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda.

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 Millennium Development Goals.

The review exercise of the Human Rights Council should explore ways that preserve transparency and inclusiveness and ensure that while urgent human rights situations are addressed, duplication and overlap are avoided; streamline the number of resolutions tabled in each session; rationalize the work of the Council and the mandates of Special Procedures without in any way undermining our commitment to human rights; and make the dialogue between the Council and member states genuinely interactive.

Mr. President,

The institutional strengthening of the organization to better enable it to deliver on its vision and mandate received a boost with the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence.

India particularly welcomes the landmark decision to create a unified gender entity-UN WOMEN. We look forward to the early operationalisation of the entity and welcome the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the first Under Secretary-General of UN WOMEN.

Mr. President,

In closing, I pledge my delegation's full support in achieving the important goals we have set for ourselves and taking forward the important mandates entrusted to the organization. We look forward to building on the positive momentum from last year on crucial issues and working towards meaningful and result-oriented discussions on the various items on the agenda of the General Assembly.

I thank you.



682. Statement by Vidya Charan Shukla, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 6, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on your election to steer the work of this important Committee of the United Nations.

We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance the Second Committee would be able to fulfill its responsibilities to the optimum.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77. After the crises and turbulence in the global arena that we witnessed in the last few years, the year 2010 gives us a glimmer of hope for the global development agenda. The high level events on the Millennium Development Goals, Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and Biodiversity held last month made promises for enhanced action to meet the Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

Madam Chairperson,

The global economic situation, though still fragile, is on its path of recovery. It is of the utmost importance that the economic growth is sustained.

However, our collective sense of hope and optimism is marked by caution. There are still large pockets of global economy which are yet to overcome structural difficulties. The developing countries, who have been hit the hardest by the crises, are still struggling to cope up with the aftermath. Their limited policy space has constricted their choice of action.

We must continue to boost global demand to put the economy fully on track. Enhanced economic growth is not an option but a necessity, especially for the developing countries that have huge developmental challenges to meet, first and foremost being poverty eradication.

Global trade is an important instrument for promoting economic growth. We must act in unison to achieve a fair and equitable multilateral trading system that takes into account the interest of the poor and the marginalized.

India fully recognizes that the global economic and financial architecture, so overwhelmingly loaded against the developing world needs urgent reform. It has been our endeavour to push for reforms in the Bretton Woods Institutions so as to make them more democratic and equitable.

Madam Chairperson,

Global leaders had gathered last month at the UN to review the progress made on the MDGs. High commitments were made to take on the challenge to attain the MDGs by 2015. It is now time for those words to translate into action.

The commitment made by the developed countries of meeting the 0.7% of GNI ODA target must be fulfilled at the earliest so that the principal question of lack of resources for development can be overcome. Equally significant is the need for ensuring access to technology in an affordable manner and capacity building.

India, on its part, is committed to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries. South-South cooperation, however, cannot be a substitute for North-South collaboration.

Madam Chairperson,

There is an all pervading sense of urgency to work for a meaningful outcome from the Climate Change negotiations. But the lack of progress on the promises made at Copenhagen seems to be undermining the level of trust that is required to take the process forward.

India is among the worst affected by Climate Change, and we therefore have a major interest in ensuring that climate change is addressed substantively and constructively. At the meeting in Cancun, India would continue to push for an ambitious and equitable outcome under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

India fully recognizes the significant threats posed by Climate Change to the Small Island Developing States and the urgency to address their needs. Our consciousness of the situation is particularly deep since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas. India supports a firm demonstration of greater sensitivity and concrete response to the urgent adaptation needs of the small island developing states as part of any emerging outcome of on-going multilateral negotiations. We have set up an India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia to help SAARC Member States in meeting urgent adaptation and capacity building needs.

Madam Chairperson,

The Convention of Biological Diversity, one of the three RIO Conventions, is an important pillar of the global sustainable development strategy. In the absence of an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) protocol, the convention has not been fully equipped to deal with the continued and alarming loss of biodiversity

I take this opportunity to urge Member States to provide urgent impetus to conclude the ABS protocol at the COP 10 meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya this month.

India also calls for the early creation of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES).

The RIO+20 Summit to be held in 2012 would be an important milestone in the global sustainable development discourse and action. Our preparations must focus on an ambitious outcome taking the interest of the poor and the marginalized to be the least common denominator.

Madam Chairperson,

The Least Developed countries, Landlocked developing countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa, need enhanced support from the international community.

As we prepare for the IV UNLDC Conference in Istanbul, we must bear in mind to rethink our strategy to address the peculiar vulnerabilities of LDCs. The Brussels Programme of Action needs to be considerably strengthened to address these concerns.

In keeping with our commitment for the LDCs, India would be hosting a Ministerial preparatory event in New Delhi next year for the IV UNLDC Conference. We have also extended financial support worth US\$ 250,000 to the UN Trust fund for the travel of LDC delegations to the Conference in Istanbul.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the task for the Second Committee is clearly defined and its contours are well marked. Let us work to help the Committee make a meaningful contribution to the global development agenda; a contribution that is worthy of this high office and one that moves from mere theoretical resolutions to concrete actions.

I end with India's greetings to all the attending delegates.



683. Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the General Debate of the First Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 6, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I want to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee and by assuring you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your duties. This Committee has the vital task of strengthening consensus on the international disarmament agenda and our common resolve to achieve specific steps that enhance international peace and security. India aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches the highest priority to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. The vision for establishing a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order was most eloquently articulated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here in 1988. Twenty two years later, that vision remains as compelling as before but the goal remains a distant reality. In the meantime newer threats have emerged, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

In 2006, India tabled a working paper on Nuclear Disarmament containing specific proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. The Working Paper suggested a number of measures including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, measures to reduce nuclear danger, including de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on 'no-First-use' of nuclear-weapons, negotiation of a Convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, within a specified timeframe.

We believe that the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons is essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. There is need for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. We support an intensification of dialogue to strengthen the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation. This dialogue should cover not just member states but the wider spectrum of non-governmental communities as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Without prejudice to the highest priority we attach to the goal of nuclear disarmament, India supports the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT 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.

Addressing the High level meeting called by the UNSG on September 24th 2010, India's External Affairs Minister expressed disappointment that the CD, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, had been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. He expressed India's support for the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its programme of work in early 2011.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. India has a policy of a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused the 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 is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The CWC remains a unique treaty providing for elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction through a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument. It is important that all state parties

uphold and fulfil their commitments under the treaty. We look forward to strengthening the implementation of the BWC at the 7th Review Conference to be held in Geneva in 2011.

India continues to support 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, a common heritage of mankind. While universal and non-discriminatory TCBMS are useful complementary measures, we support the negotiation of legally binding instruments to strengthen space security and to prevent an arms race in Outer Space.

Mr. Chairman,

India is strongly committed to the CCW process as a keystone in the edifice of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law. We have ratified all the five CCW protocols. India has actively engaged in the negotiations on a draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions that strikes a balance between humanitarian and security considerations. We welcome the successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons held here in New York in June 2010. While we have participated actively in the preparatory meetings with regard to the ATT, we believe that the prospects for a viable and effective outcome would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a transparent and consensus based process.

Mr. Chairman,

As in the previous years, India would be tabling three resolutions in the First Committee on:

- Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Reducing Nuclear Danger
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

We will be making more detailed presentations on these resolutions during the time allocated for that purpose.

Thank you



684. Statement by Rajnath Singh, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 107 - Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 6, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to deliver my statement in Hindi as Hindi is our national language.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this Committee and also congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support in all your efforts.

I thank the Secretary General for his annual report on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism which contains important and valuable information about the measures taken by States at the national level as well as by the UN system and other international organizations for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

We also would like to thank Ambassador Rohan Perera and the Facilitator of the Working Group, Ms. Maria Telalian, for their untiring efforts in resolving the outstanding issues.

Madam Chairperson,

India attaches highest importance to the agenda item relating to "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" presently under consideration before this Committee. Terrorism is a crime against humanity. It is the most vicious amongst international crimes. It affects us all equally. It is a scourge that open democratic societies have to contend with and the challenge is to maintain our openness, safeguard individual rights, and at the same time, give no quarter to terrorists. The international community therefore needs to marshal all its efforts and resources to combat this scourge.

As you are aware, India has been a victim of terrorism for decades. The people of India continue to pay a heavy price in our fight against terrorism. The haunting memories of horrific terrorist attacks in Mumbai in the year

2008, which was planned and executed from across the border, and witnessed by the whole world on television, are still alive. We are determined to confront these challenges unshakably and decisively.

Madam Chairperson,

We align with the statement made by Iran on behalf of NAM. No cause could ever justify the indiscriminate killing of innocent peoples. Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes, wherever, by whomever, against whomever committed, are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them.

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. 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 installations or training camps or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens. If this happens, then the UNGA or the Security Council must take strong action.

Madam Chairperson,

Terrorism poses a grave threat to all States and all societies. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom thus endangering the very foundations of the continued existence of democratic societies. Terrorism is a global threat and requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it. In this context in addition to the urgent need to conclude and adopt the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, we support the recent second review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the institutionalization of the CTITF.

Madam Chairperson,

At the National level we have taken many 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 national legislation entitled Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 by integrating in it a mechanism for the effective enforcement of the measures adopted by the 1267 Committee against designated individuals and entities. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act incorporates provisions that deal with all aspects of terrorism including incitement. The Act also criminalizes raising of funds for terrorist activities, holding of proceeds of terrorism, harbouring of terrorists, unauthorized possession of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapon or substance capable of mass destruction or biological or chemical substance of warfare.

We have concluded bilateral treaties with many countries in the areas of combating terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit drug trafficking. We also have in place treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to further strengthen and enhance international cooperation efforts in this regard. These treaties facilitate transfer of fugitive offenders and suspected terrorists to stand trial in the State in which the offence is committed and in their effective prosecution. These treaties also facilitate exchange of operational information and development of joint programs among concerned States.

At the international level, India has become party to 13 sectoral conventions on terrorism that have been adopted under the auspices of the United Nations. In relation to a specific activity, these conventions remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism. India has also become an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). We have always fulfilled our obligations under international and regional conventions and relevant Security Council resolutions on international terrorism.

Madam Chairperson,

Now coming to the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism, I am happy to note that the Ad-Hoc Committee that met in April this year witnessed some forward momentum as some delegations have shown better understanding and flexibility.

Reflecting on the general sense of the debate that time, the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee also advised delegations, and subsequently made a personal appeal to the Legal Advisers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to come prepared to take necessary decisions and move forward.

During the General Debate in the 65th Session of the General Assembly last month, many States have reiterated their support for the successful and early adoption of the draft CCIT. The Secretary General's report on the review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is very important. The Secretary General very aptly pointed out in paragraph 139 of his report that "the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and conclude the convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism efforts. The recent Security Council Presidential statement also encourages Member States to make every effort to conclude the negotiations of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Madam Chairperson,

All these appeals and expectations expressed at various levels only remind us that we have already lost invaluable time in taking a concrete decision on this important issue and that the international community cannot afford to wait any longer at a time when there is the most urgent need to show solidarity and collective global action against international terrorism and to send a clear message that terrorism cannot be tolerated in any form or manifestation for whatever cause.

Madam Chairperson,

The negotiations over the years have by and large got a near full text of the proposed Convention with general agreement. There remain just a few outstanding issues in Article 18. We look forward to the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to guide us in agreeing to a full text that can be recommended by us for adoption in this Session itself. We would also strongly urge delegations to show flexibility and reach a common understanding on the text so that we can move forward and fulfill the expectations of the Secretary General, the Security Council, and of the international community as a whole.

I have full confidence that we will eventually succeed in our struggle against terrorism. There is a need to address terrorism not only at the governmental or political levels but also at the intellectual level. The mindset of attaining goals through violent means will have to be changed. Towards this end, there is a need to raise awareness about the thoughts of eminent personalities like Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi in the society. With our thousands of years old tradition of harmonizing divergent streams of thoughts, culture of non-violence and non-aggression, India could make significant contribution in the fight against terrorism not only at the political level but also at the intellectual level.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



685. Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda item 105 - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice & Agenda Item 106 - International Drug Control at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 7, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his statement in this Committee and also the Secretary General for all his reports under this agenda items.

One of the significant finding of this year's World Drug Report has been the steady global reduction in the cultivation of crops for illicit drugs since 2007. We must build on these successes by redoubling our efforts, nationally, regionally and internationally to tackle this menace. India's resolve to fight the menace of illicit drugs remains steadfast. We will continue to adhere to the commitments made in the three UN Conventions as well as in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to overcome the world drug problem, adopted at the 1998 Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

While a holistic and balanced approach towards drug control measures is essential, however, the keystone in this fight still is the supply reduction strategies by sustained alternative development programmes for the cultivators of these crops as well as overall economic development of such regions. In this regard, we would like to voice our support for such initiatives and strategies by strengthening North-South as well as South-South cooperation by sharing of best practices, lessons learnt and provision of technical assistance. On the demand side, we must raise social awareness about the adverse consequences of drug addiction, particularly amongst the younger generation, which is one of the most vulnerable groups, especially in the schools and colleges. Apart from stringent legal measures, societies should strive to inculcate the highest moral values in our youth.

Under the able leadership of Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, a revised Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse (2008) was launched in India. The approach of this Scheme was to provide the whole range of services including awareness generation, identification, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts through voluntary and other organizations with a thrust on preventive education programmes and Whole Person Recovery of the addicts. Presently about 41 Drug Awareness and Counseling Centres and 401 Treatment- Cum- Rehabilitation Centres are functioning with the support of the ministry in the country. De-addiction camps are organized regularly to reach out to uncovered areas. In addition, The National Consultative Committee on De-addiction and Rehabilitation (NCCDR) has been set up at national level, headed by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, to advise Central and State Governments on issues connected with drug demand reduction, especially education/ awareness building, de-addiction and rehabilitation.

However, we are conscious that national efforts alone cannot effectively address this problem. Combating the menace of illicit drugs requires member states to develop a cohesive, balanced and integrated approach to the issue. In this context, India reaffirms its commitment to working closely with other countries, both bilaterally and through regional and international collaboration, to achieving our common goal of a world free of illicit drugs. India is the world's largest producers of licit opium. We pursue a balanced drug control approach. We ensure that the demand and supply of licit opiates required for genuine medicinal and scientific purposes is maintained and there is no proliferation of manufacture beyond the traditional and established manufacturers of licit opiate. We also welcome INCB's contribution in monitoring the balance between demand and supply for opiate for legitimate purposes.

Terrorism continues to pose grave threat to all States and all societies. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom thus endangering the international community and the humankind as a whole. India has been a victim of terrorism for decades. Innocent lives are been lost to heinous terrorist attacks and our resolve against perpetrators of such attacks

should be strong and resolute. India has taken several steps to strengthen international cooperation to combat terrorism. We are party to all the 13 sectoral conventions on terrorism that have been adopted under the auspices of the UN. Terrorism is a global threat and requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it. This year's Secretary General's report on review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy very aptly pointed out that the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). It is upon us, Member States, to give the necessary political push and adopt the CCIT. Let us not lose further invaluable time in taking a concrete decision on this important issue. It is time that the international community shows its resolve and solidarity for a collective global action against international terrorism and to send a clear message that terrorism in any forms or manifestations for whatever cause, will not be tolerated.

The UN made significant progress in the fight against trafficking of persons this year by launching the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons in August this year. We are pleased that for the first time an agreement of the international community has been reached to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in holistic manner. This comprehensive Plan will ensure that trafficking in persons policies are integrated, balanced, coherent, result-oriented and people centric.

There is a need to create as well as reinforce bilateral, regional and international cooperation to develop strategies to combat the menace of the deep-rooted nexus between drug mafias, arms dealers, and money launderers for financing terrorism. This is a grave, dangerous and destructive nexus. We support the efforts of the UNODC in providing necessary assistance to countries that seek financial and technical assistance in their efforts at capacity-building and training and in putting in place the administrative and legal framework, institutional reforms that are required for fighting transnational organized crime. In this context, we would also like to voice our support for the call made by Jamaica, on behalf of the CARICOM countries, yesterday, to seriously reconsider UNODC's decision to close its regional office in Barbados,

which served 29 countries. A UNODC office in the CARICOM region would be able to led valuable institutional and financial capacity building support in the CARICOM countries fight against transnational organised crime, in a concerted manner.

India has enacted strong anti-money laundering domestic legislation and bilateral agreements have been entered into to develop joint programs to prevent money laundering, counter terrorism and organized crime. I would like to inform that the Government of India have also decided to ratify the Convention and its three Protocols. At this 10th anniversary of the Convention, it is critical that we commit ourselves to translate our obligations into actions with an even greater degree of cooperation.

We are deeply concerned about new areas of transnational crimes like cyber-crime, economic fraud, education related fraud and identity-related crimes and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities. In our view, these developments demand that we agree to take a wider look at transnational organized crime encompassing these new and emerging threats while also dealing with crime prevention, criminal justice and treatment of offenders.

India remains committed to working bilaterally and through regional and international cooperation towards a world free of transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money laundering, trafficking in persons, illegal arms transactions and above all, terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



686. Statement by Dr. Pradip Choudhary, Counsellor, at the Permanent Mission at the UN on Agenda Item 76-Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission at Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 8, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election and assure you of full cooperation of my delegation.

We thank the Secretary General for his Report outlining the information received from Member States regarding the extent 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, as well as information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of such individuals.

Mr. Chairman,

We align with the statement made by Iran on behalf of NAM. We note with great concern the instances of serious crimes committed by United Nations officials and Experts on Mission in spite of clear codes of conduct and a policy of zero tolerance by the United Nations. It is important that all UN Officials and Experts on Mission perform their duties in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and in a manner that promotes the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. My Government is totally committed to punishment of those found guilty of any misconduct and concurs with the view that 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 latest GA Resolution on this agenda item 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 as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State.

We sincerely hope that the implementation of this Resolution would help fill the jurisdiction gap in respect of Member States that do not assert extraterritorial jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals abroad.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards India, the Indian Penal Code extends to extra-territorial offences committed by Indian nationals, therefore offences committed by Indian officials or experts on missions while serving abroad are punishable under Indian law

The Resolution also encourages all States to cooperate with each other in the conduct of investigations and prosecution of those who are charged.

In this aspect, India has a well developed law on mutual assistance in criminal matters which enables it to seek from and extend cooperation to foreign States in respect of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. This law is contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. It includes provisions on execution of judicial processes; assistance in relation to orders of attachment or forfeiture of property identified as unlawfully acquired; management of property so seized or forfeited; procedure to be followed in case of letter of request; letter of request to competent authority for investigation in a country or place outside India; and the execution of a letter of request from a country or place outside India to a Court or authority for investigation in India.

India has also concluded several bilateral agreements on mutual assistance in criminal matters. These agreements are designed to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters that are necessary for the prosecution of offences, searching persons and property in question, location of fugitives and property involved, transfer of witnesses and exhibits and freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

The Indian Extradition Act, 1962 deals with extradition of fugitive criminals. It allows for extradition for extraditable offences i.e. an offence provided for in the extradition treaty with another State. This Act also allows consideration of an international Convention as the legal basis for considering extradition in the absence of a bilateral agreement.

In cases where there is no bilateral treaty on extradition or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with a State, the Government of India can offer assistance on a reciprocal and case by case basis in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Criminal Procedure Code and the Extradition Act.

Mr. Chairman,

The issues of pre deployment and in mission training are crucial. Careful preparatory training in terms of a multi-cultural, pluralistic and tolerant outlook is as important as subsequent swift punitive action, once culpability is established. We thank the Secretariat for providing the details of measures taken to strengthen existing training on United Nations Standards of Conduct, which include not only pre deployment and in-mission training but also mission specific training that takes into account cultural aspects of the host population.

We appreciate the offer of the United Nations to support Member States, at their request, in the development of domestic criminal law relevant to the crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. We, in particular appreciate the expertise of the UNODC in this regard. We hope that Member States, who perceive a gap in their national system will rely on the expertise of UNODC to help them close the gaps so as to enable them to criminalize the conduct of a serious nature, establish jurisdiction, conduct investigation and provide international cooperation as they relate to UN officials and experts on mission committing serious crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we once again reiterate and support the policy of zero tolerance and view with serious concern the instances of sexual abuse and exploitation and other criminal acts committed by United Nations

officials and experts on mission in spite of clear codes of conduct. On the issue of elaboration of a convention we are of the view that there seems to be no need to elaborate specific convention as the existing provisions in domestic laws are adequate to address this issue and wherever jurisdictional or other gaps persist, attention should be focused on those issues and specific countries to enable them to bridge the gaps.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



687. Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on General Debate of the Sepcial Political and Decolonization Committee of UNGA [fourth committee].

New York, October 11, 2010.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the Sixty Fifth Session of the General Assembly and also the members of the Bureau on their election. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for the way he conducted the work of this Committee during the 64th session.

As a founding member of the UN and the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization, the deliberations on decolonization are of special significance for India. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support during this 65th session of the UN General Assembly.

My delegation broadly aligns itself with the statement of the Chair of the NAM delivered on October 4, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

That we continue to grapple with the vestiges of colonialism, a bygone system that runs contrary to the fundamental principles of this Organization-even after 65 years reflects poorly on all of us. Colonialism is not only anachronistic, archaic and outmoded but also contravenes the fundamental tenets of democracy, freedom, human dignity and rights.

On 14 December 1960, the General Assembly adopted the resolution 1514 on "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Countries and its Peoples" thereby formulating an institutional framework aiming to "end colonialism in all its manifestations". This year we would be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the resolution. Again in December this year, second international Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2000-2010) is coming to an end. While noting these landmark events, there is a need to assess the progress achieved and review the existing work methods to attain the remaining goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Decolonization is in fact one among more 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 remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories when compared to 750 Million in 1945 is a testimony to the efforts to this august body. However, there is still a long way to go. The journey is not complete until the last milestone is crossed.

Mr. Chairman,

As we commemorate 50th year of the resolution, we have to maximize our efforts and reaffirm commitment to advance the process of decolonization. We need to approach the task with sense of urgency and activism on the one hand, and sensitivity and circumspection on the other. Ascertaining the political aspirations of the people in each of these remaining 16 Territories and taking into account the stages of development of each Territory are critical inputs for making decisions towards decolonization. It is indeed happy to note that many of them already have threshold to form functional institutions that can thrive on their own. We welcome efforts of Special Committee on Decolonization

(Committee of 24) to engage the administering Powers in a positive and constructive manner to end colonialism. The administering Powers are required to work with the Committee in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is happy to note efforts made by Special Committee on Decolonization to disseminate information on legitimate political options available to the people in the Territories. The Pacific Regional Seminar conducted by the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization at Noumea, New Caledonia in May this year is an attempt in the right direction. Such seminars help to mobilize world opinion to support and assist the peoples of the Territories in speedily ending colonialism.

Mr. Chairman,

India appreciates the efforts taken by the Special Committee on Decolonization in formulating the report (A/65/23) and its recommendations. India also welcomes the recommendation of launching of Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in view of outstanding decolonization issues.

In India our milestone poverty eradication programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme devised by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji and UPA Chairperson Mrs. Sonia Gandhiji, aim at ensuring inclusive growth so that the benefits of development reach every section of our society and thus we are able to do away with even the residual vestiges of colonialism exacerbated societal divisions and disadvantage.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and people of Jammu and Kashmir have regularly exercised their franchise in elections conducted in a free and fair manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to conclude with a quote of Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji which is more appropriate in the current context. He said:

"Just as a man would not cherish living in a body other than his own, so do nations not like to live under other nations, however noble and great the latter may be"

Mr. Chairman,

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. We commit ourselves to decolonization efforts to ensure that the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories attains them sooner than the later.

Thank you.



688. Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 77-Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the Work of its Forty Third Session at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 11, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time in this session, let me congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election. I assure you full cooperation and support of my delegation.

India values the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and its efforts to establish and promote modern private law standards on international trade. We thank the Commission for its report on the work done during 43rd session. We are pleased to note that that this session of the UNCITRAL has been a very productive one.

Madam Chairperson,

During its 43rd session, the UNCITRAL has approved a number of important texts. On 25th June 2010, it has adopted the text of the revised UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, which were originally adopted in 1976. These rules have been used in all parts of the world in a wide variety of circumstances covering a broad range of disputes, including disputes between private commercial parties, investor-State disputes, State-to-State disputes and commercial disputes administered by arbitral institutions.

The revision was necessitated in order to conform to the current needs and practices in international trade and to meet changes that have taken place over the last thirty four years in arbitral practice. We hope that the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, as revised in 2010, will significantly enhance the efficiency of arbitration under the Rules as the revised rules reflect current commercial practices.

Madam Chairperson,

Since the rules have been adopted by consensus, they reflect the will of all countries representing different legal, social and economic systems. We are confident that the revised rules will significantly contribute to the development of harmonious international economic relations, by significantly contributing to the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for the fair and efficient settlement of international commercial disputes. For us, the adoption of the revised arbitration rules is timely as my country is in the process of amending the arbitration legislation in order to meet the changing requirements.

Another important contribution of the Commission during 43rd session is the adoption of 'the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions. Supplement on Security Rights in Intellectual Property'. We hope that while dealing with security rights in intellectual property, the Supplement would help States in assessing the economic efficiency of their secured transaction regimes as well as their intellectual property regimes and in revising or adapting legislation relevant to secured transactions and intellectual property.

Madam Chairperson,

Working Group V (Insolvency Law) has also done a commendable job during 43rd session as it was mandated to complement the UNCITRAL

Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law which did not contain provisions concerning the treatment of enterprise groups in insolvency, We support the adoption by the Commission of part three of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law which now contains provisions concerning the treatment of enterprise groups in insolvency.

We are happy to note the progress made by Working Group I which is engaged with the work of updating UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services, adopted in 1994, with a view to reflect in it new practices, in particular those resulting from the use of electronic communications in public procurement, and to incorporate the experience gained in the use of the 1994 Model Law. We are confident that the Working Group would be able to complete its work during its next two sessions so that the draft revised model law may be adopted by the Commission at its forty-fourth session in 2011.

Madam Chairperson,

With respect to the future work in the field of settlement of commercial disputes, we support the decision taken by the Commission that the topic of transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration should be dealt with as a matter of priority by the Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation) with the task of preparing a legal standard on that topic. Efforts should be limited to the preparation of rules of uniform law on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration and any other aspect related to this topic maybe brought to the attention of the Commission at its next session, in 2011.

Regarding the possible future work in the area of electronic commerce, we hope that the proposal of the Secretariat to convene a colloquium and possibly other informal meetings to discuss topics such as electronic single window facilities, electronic transferable records, identity management, and the use of mobile devices in electronic commerce, which were submitted by delegations during 43rd session, would provide sufficient information for the Commission to make an informed decision and to give a clearly defined mandate to a working group, if deemed appropriate.

We also support the proposal of the Secretariat to hold another colloquium on microfinance, with the possible participation of experts from other organizations working actively in this field. The report of the colloquium could be usefully considered by the Commission at its next session in 2011.

Madam Chairperson,

We emphasize the importance of technical cooperation and assistance to the developing countries, in particular on the adoption and use of UNCITRAL texts at the national level. The legislative technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, was an activity that was not less important than the formulation of uniform rules itself. We encourage Secretariat to continue to provide such assistance to the broadest extent possible and to improve its outreach to developing countries, in particular.

Madam Chairperson,

As regards the working methods of the Commission, we welcome the comprehensive review being done in this regard. Given the highly technical nature of the work, we would support inclusiveness and transparency.

Finally, we appreciate the continuing work under the system of collecting case law on the UNCITRAL texts. We commend the Secretariat for its wide range of technical assistance activities.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



689. Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 18 - Macro Economic Policy Questions: [A] International Financial System and Development & [c] External Debt Sustainability and Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 11, 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

Before I begin, let me express 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 Yemen on behalf of G-77.

The global economic situation, though still fragile, is on its path of recovery. It is of the utmost importance that the economic growth is sustained.

However, our collective sense of hope and optimism is marked by caution. There are still large pockets of global economy which are yet to overcome structural difficulties.

The developing countries, who have been hit the hardest by the crisis, are still struggling to cope up with the aftermath. More than 60 million people have slipped back into poverty in 2009. The figure for 2010 is likely to be equally discouraging.

I would like to make a special mention that the policies of the Government of India led by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson have been instrumental in withstanding the global economic recession in our country. Through their vision and forward looking leadership, India, in spite of the odds was able to grow 7.4% during 2009-10 and is expected to grow by 8.5% in 2010-11.

Mr. Chairperson,

A critical lesson from this 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.

While we are seeing signs of global economic recovery, we must not lose sight of the fact that 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.

The loss in demand in developed countries has directly translated into fall in exports of developing countries and a consequent adverse impact on employment and growth. This loss in export demand needs to be made up through expansion in other components in domestic demand such as investment.

In this context, India has been advocating increased infrastructure investment in developing countries.

Our Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh speaking on 27 June 2010 in Toronto said - "Developing countries need to rebalance their strategies to rely less upon exports and more on domestic demand. In many developing countries, this is best done through increased investment directed to infrastructure. This will sustain growth in the short run by offsetting the contractionary effect of lower exports."

Our companies have led the way and made substantial investments in the service and infrastructure sectors in Africa, Asia and Latin America especially in the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Mr. Chairperson,

India fully recognizes that the global economic and financial architecture, so overwhelmingly loaded against the developing world needs urgent reform. It has been our endeavour to push for reforms in the Bretton Woods Institutions so as to make them more democratic and equitable.

We call for early implementation of the two phase package of reforms announced by the World Bank in 2008 to enhance voice and participation of developing countries. We also support tightening of capital and

liquidity rules by global banking regulators to allow the financial system withstand future downturns.

Mr. Chairperson,

The financial crisis has led to acute debt problems in the developing world. The total external debt of these countries increased by 8% during 2007-08 and the debt servicing burden rose by more than 11% during the same period.

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\$6.03 billion.

In 2009, debt service in relation to government revenue increased by more than 17% in heavily indebted poor countries.

The external debt burden constrains the national policy space and policy independence in many developing countries and their ability to play the role of a developmental State.

Debt sustainability analysis frameworks remain limited and subjective. We agree with the report of the Secretary General that further consideration must be given to move towards a debt structure which is linked to a country's ability to pay, instead of an understanding of unacceptable level of debt accumulation.

Mr. Chairperson,

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 make it happen.

Thank you.



**690. Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament.
On Agenda Item 85 - the Rule of Law at the National &
International Levels at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.**

New York, October 13, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me first thank the Secretary-General for his excellent annual report on "strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities". The Report very eloquently highlights the United Nations approach to the rule of law at the national and international levels.

The Report illustrates key achievements of the United Nations support to States at the national level over the past one year as well as identifies critical gaps and challenges. We are happy to note that there continues to be progress towards a more comprehensive and joint approach among United Nations entities to support the rule of law in line with national priorities and plans. With regard to the rule of law at the international level, the Report provides insights into emerging mechanisms and practices that promote the effective implementation of international law by Member States.

Madam Chairperson,

The item "Rule of Law at the International and National Levels" has been on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly since its Sixty-Second Session. The main objective for inclusion of this agenda item was to strengthen the United Nations attention to the Rule of Law at all levels.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Iran on behalf of NAM. India strongly adheres to the rule of law both at the international and national levels. At the national level India considers the advancement of the rule of law as an essential tool for the protection of democracy, promotion of sustainable economic growth, sustainable development, poverty and hunger eradication and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the international level we see 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.

Madam Chairperson,

Pursuant to GA Resolution 64/116, the focus of our debate in this session is on the sub-topic "Laws and practices of Member States in implementing international law".

In this context I would like to mention that the Indian Constitution is firmly rooted in rule of law principles, ensuring separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branch of the Government and making each one accountable for their actions; ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Constitution by the authorities; making Central Government responsible for the implementation of the international treaties and agreements to which India is a party; guaranteeing to the people equality before law without any discrimination whatsoever; and ensuring the promotion and protection of individual rights and fundamental freedoms, etc.

Another important aspect of the promotion of the rule of law at the national level is the implementation by States of their obligations undertaken pursuant to international treaties and agreements. India fulfills this obligation very rigorously in respect of the agreements or treaties to which it is a party.

Madam Chairperson,

Compliance with the rule of law standards at the national level not only assures respect for the country and its people, it also helps underprivileged and other vulnerable sections of the society in getting justice, dignity and empowerment. It also strengthens linkage between municipal law and international law, while promoting development and enhancing democratic values and institutions.

Our judicial system oversees that the rule of law is enforced rigorously at the national level. Presently, the judicial reforms being undertaken in my country by the UPA Government, led by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, and UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi ji, would further supplement the rule of law efforts at the national level as these reforms are aimed at strengthening a transparent, accountable, responsive, effective and efficient judiciary.

At the executive level the Government has adopted many milestone social development programmes, aimed at poverty elevation and ensuring inclusive growth so that the benefits of development can reach every section of the society. The legislature is also not lagging behind in its efforts to adopt appropriate legislative measures for the protection and upliftment of the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the society.

India is thus firmly committed to implement the rule of law at the national level so that the ideals of democracy, human rights, dignity and peaceful co-existence, which are the cornerstones of a civilized society, can be achieved and further promoted.

Madam Chairperson,

The rule of law must be strengthened at all levels - national, institutional, and international. To ensure transparency, fairness and adherence to the rule of law in the UN system, it is necessary that the mandate of one organ of the UN should not be infringed upon or duplicated by the other organ of the UN. It is also necessary to support and further encourage those institutional policies and processes that ensure a just and effective international order based on the rule of law.

In this regard all efforts should be made to strengthen 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.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



691. Statement by K.C. Venugopal, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 28 [a] Advancement of Women [b] Implementation of the Outcome of the 4th World Conference on Women and of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 13, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me to thank the Secretary General for all his reports under this agenda item. We would also like to thank all the speakers who made presentations on this agenda item. Our delegation would like to broadly associate ourselves with the statement made by the Chair of the G77.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women remains the key focus area of social development and distributive justice globally. Socio-economic development will be incomplete, if women are ignored. In fact, gender equality and the empowerment of women is an integral part of the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

Soon after gaining independence, the founding fathers of India ensured that in the Constitution of India, the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women were codified and enshrined, which not only guarantees equality to women, but also advocates affirmative action for women, wherever necessary. These have been further reinforced through periodic amendments in legislation and policy. Following successive policies and programmes, in 2001, we formulated the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women with the main objectives of empowering women socially, economically and politically; ensuring equal access to health care, education and employment; strengthening legal systems to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women; and building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations. The ongoing Eleventh Five Year development plan of India (2007-12) has recognized women as agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change. Gender has been made a cross-cutting theme in all the

development plans. The purpose of this holistic approach was to reduce gender disparities across regions and communities and ensure access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all. While a large number of programmes and schemes are being implemented to mainstream gender in all activities throughout the Government of India under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, I would like to highlight a few.

In the field of education, the Education for All Campaign (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan) has made tremendous impact on girls. There has also been a special focus on girls' education, aiming to target the "hardest to reach" girls through residential schools, mid day meals and other incentives. In order to address adult illiteracy in women, the National Literacy Mission has been recast as the Female Literacy Mission and aims to target 70 million adults in the next 5 years, out of which 60 million will be women.

Significant progress has been made in the field of economic and social empowerment. One of our flagship schemes in this regards has been the "Swayamsidha" scheme, which means "self help". This scheme seeks to empower women by creating economically sustainable Self Help Groups. With more than 2.2 million Self Help Groups across the country, covering 33 million households, this programme has been a silent revolution for women. In my own experience as a Member of Parliament from Alleppey District (which is popularly known as the Venice of the East), self help groups have created tremendous results by setting up small and medium scale industrial units, especially in handicraft and traditional industries like coir and handloom as well as agriculture, including horticulture and fisheries. This had also helped in converting unutilized farm land into productive land as well as improving the living conditions of farmers and fishermen, especially women workers.

Health is yet another important component for the empowerment of women. We have redoubled our efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates, which is an indicator of any society's health status. With the launch of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005, more than US \$ 3.5 billion is being spent on health annually, in particular maternal and children's health programmes. Under this programme, all the villages are covered through village-based "Accredited Social Health Activists" (ASHA) who act as a

link between the health centers and the villagers. Although these ASHAs are honorary women volunteers, but they are paid performance-based compensation for undertaking specific health or other social sector programmes with measurable outputs. Currently, India is focusing on strengthening its efforts in the 235 districts that account for nearly 70% of all infant and maternal deaths. With our concerted efforts, there has been a decline in the infant and maternal mortality rates with the IMR at 53 (2008) and MMR at 254 (2006). We are hopeful that as we approach the target date of Millennium Development Goals in 2015, we will be able to achieve the goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Political empowerment is the most important component in the overall empowerment of women. Our efforts in India have been to include women in decision making process at all levels, in particular at the grassroots level. Under the vision of former Prime Minister of India, late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Constitution of India was amended to give 33% reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies. Since 1993, currently, we have more than a million elected women representatives in local bodies. Building on these successes, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh and the strong conviction and determination of Hon'ble Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the Parliament was convinced last year to raise the percentage of women in local bodies to 50%. I am happy to inform you that in my State of Kerala, first elections after the enactment of this law will be held next week. In addition, the Upper House of Parliament has also passed a bill to reserve 33 % of seats in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies for women. This bill is being actively pursued in the Lower House of the Parliament.

This year, as we commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on "women and peace and security", three important achievements related to advancement of women was made at the United Nations. We were able to successfully create UN Women, launch the Global Plan of Action against trafficking

in person and launch the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health. In this regard, let me congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet on the assumption of the important post of heading the UN Women. We would like to extend her our full support and cooperation in her assignment. Under her able leadership, we hope the UN Women would be able to stand up to the expectations of Member States in providing necessary assistance, when requested, in a timely and adequate manner. In this regard, we also look forward to the early constitution of the new Executive Board of the UN Women and its early operationalisation.

Mr. Chairman,

More than eighty years ago, Mahatma Gandhi said "there is no occasion for women to consider themselves subordinate or inferior to man....but unfortunately today she does not realize what tremendous advantage she has over man. Hence, it is onto us to take valuable measures so that the same can be avoided and women like men can have an equal experience in the society." This clarion call is, unfortunately, still valid all over the world today. While commendable progress has been made around the world, much needs to be done to ensure that the gap between policy and programmatic implementation are reduced. Let us recommit ourselves to accelerate our efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women with effective programmes and policies to make this a reality.

Let me assure you that India is fully committed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. Gender equality and empowerment of women is one of India's foremost priorities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



692. Statement by Vidya Charan Shukla, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 24 - Eradication of Poverty & other Development Issues - Plenary Devoted to Follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit at the UNGA.

New York, October 13, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by thanking the United Nations and all those working tirelessly in the promotion of microcredit as a tool for eradication of poverty.

The Secretary General's report, brought out in pursuance of the General Assembly resolution 63/229 and in consideration of the second United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty, is an insightful summary of the global microcredit experience with valuable lessons for all of us.

The development of microcredit and microfinance as a strategy to eradicate poverty was the central theme of the International Year of Microcredit in 2005.

It is well recognized that microcredit and microfinance as policy platforms have contributed significantly to socio-economic development and poverty reduction especially in developing countries.

Mr. President,

As a market based approach to fighting poverty, microfinance is focused on developing entrepreneurship and expanding self-employment. Microfinance institutions, which number more than 3500 worldwide today, serve approximately 155 million people the world over.

As microfinance institutions demonstrated the sustainability of micro lending, commercial banks have transformed the model into a major global industry. Between 2004 and 2008, these institutions experienced average annual asset growth of 39% and accumulated more than US\$ 60 billion in total assets.

We, however, remain concerned about the high rates of interest charged by the commercial microfinance entities. Governments must address this anomaly through policy intervention.

Microfinance schemes have also demonstrated their viability to bring about social change, especially promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality.

Many such programmes in the developing world are accompanied by social service schemes and act as social safety nets in times of crisis. The insurance schemes of microfinance provide inexpensive short-term coverage for life, health, property, livestock, crops and natural disasters.

India, which has the largest microcredit network in the world, has had significant success with the programme. In particular, I would like to mention the impressive performance of microcredit schemes being run by the Self-Help Groups in India, which today number around 2.2 million. Based on the microcredit model, we are also running micro-pension schemes for the informal sector, a large segment of our economy which otherwise could not have availed of social security benefits.

Mr. President,

Notwithstanding the success of microfinance, we are well aware of its limitations as a poverty reduction strategy. But in the final analysis of things, going by our experience in India and what we have noted across the world, I must say that microfinance has been able to play a significant role in dealing with poverty reduction and social development in developing countries.

The financial and economic crisis has severely impacted the liquidity of microfinance institutions and has weakened their ability to offer innovative services.

The crisis has also led to a realization among governments that it was time to move from microcredit and microfinance regime to a more comprehensive financial inclusion.

Mr. President,

India has set a goal to make every village in the country financially included by 2015 through mobile banks.

The expansion of Information and Communication Technology services has fueled the growth of microfinance. The concept of branchless banking through mobile phones, bank cards and banking agents have met with particular success in developing countries. In the Least Developed Countries and in Africa, it has established direct channels for receiving remittance and has spurred domestic mobilization of resources.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that India stands strongly committed to financial inclusion for all and calls for further expansion of microcredit and microfinance strategy for achieving poverty reduction and other MDG targets.

I end with greetings to all co-workers around the world involved in this task.



693. Statement by Adhi Sankar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 50-International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the General Debate of the Special Political & Decolonization [fourth] Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 13, 2010.

Mr. Chairman

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the Sixty Fifth Session of the General Assembly and also the members of the Bureau on their election. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for the way he conducted the work of this committee during the 64th session. I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support during this 65th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Indian Delegation notes with appreciation that UN-COPUOS, under the mandate of General Assembly, has been contributing significantly

towards capacity building for sustainable development, strengthening the international co-operation to utilise outer space for peaceful purposes towards serving the humanity. We are pleased to note the substantial progress made during the 53rd session of UN-COPUOS, under the able chairmanship of Mr Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu of Romania.

The Indian Delegation also expresses its full satisfaction at the work carried out by the two sub-committees of UN-COPUOS, the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee at its 47th session and the Legal Sub-committee at its 49th session.

Mr. Chairman

While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavours during the last one year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Committee, on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space since the last Session.

In its fifteenth successive successful flight, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) named PSLV C-14, placed OCEANSAT-2 and other six international nano-satellites in orbit on September 23, 2009. OCEANSAT-2, the successor of 11 year old operational OCEANSAT-1, carries Ocean Colour Monitor, Scatterometer and Atmospheric Sounder from Italy. Noting the increased global demand for the data from Scatterometer, India has consented to share the data with international space agencies for their operational applications.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation is proud to report that India's Chandrayaan-1 with many international payloads including that from USA, was instrumental in conclusively establishing the presence of water and hydroxyl molecules on the lunar surface.

India has performed a unique joint experiment, known as Bi-Static Experiment involving Chandrayaan-1 and NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft on August 21, 2009, for obtaining additional information on the possibility of existence of ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the North Pole of the Moon. Additionally, the analysis of data obtained by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (Mini-SAR) onboard

Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft has provided evidence for the presence of ice deposits near the Moon's North Pole.

The longest annular solar eclipse of the millennium which occurred on January 15, 2010 was studied through successful launch of eleven Indian Rohini Sounding Rockets during a short period of two days.

On July 12, 2010, PSLV, in its sixteenth successive successful flight named PSLV C-15, placed CARTOSAT 2B and four auxiliary satellites namely STUDSAT from Indian students, ALSAT-2A from Algeria and NLS 6.1 and NLS 6.2 from Canada into their respective orbits.

Mr. Chairman

In the coming months, ISRO aims to augment India's constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites. Currently, India is getting ready for launch of RESOURCESAT-2 and Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1) for natural resources management; and ISRO-CNES joint mission MEGHA TROPIQUES for tropical atmospheric studies and SARAL for studying Ocean surface. Additionally, YOUTHSAT, a small satellite built with participation of Moscow State University, X-SAT, built with participation of NTU of Singapore and SAPPIRE from Canada are scheduled to be launched as co-passengers in these flights. GSAT-5P, GSAT-12 and GSAT-8 are the communication satellites to be launched in coming months.

India has achieved significant progress in the last one year, in realising GSLV Mk III, a heavier class launch vehicle, capable of launching 4-ton class communication satellites into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

Mr. Chairman

The emphasis of Indian space programme has always been on integrating the advances in space technology and applications with the national developmental goals, particularly in vital service areas such as telecommunication, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning, as well as natural resources survey and management. ANTRIX Corporation of ISRO has been conferred with the Globe Sustainability Research Award 2010 by the Globe Forum, Stockholm, Sweden. This recognition is for demonstrating the use of space technology and Information Technology solutions to effectively reach out to grass root levels.

Mr. Chairman

India places considerable importance on International Cooperation in space activities, mainly in taking up new scientific and technological challenges, defining international frameworks for exploitation and utilisation of outer space for peaceful purposes. Recently it has entered into agreements with Argentina, Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia for peaceful uses of Outer Space.

India is establishing a user terminal in Papua New Guinea to receive multispectral Earth observation data from India's IMS-1 satellite, to support its initiative of using space technology for developmental purpose. India is actively participating in the initiatives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) including Sentinel Asia project and STAR- Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region programme and sharing our data and expertise for the benefit of this region. The Indian delegation is happy to inform that India hosted the Secretariat for the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and has contributed significantly to support disaster assessment and relief activities in different parts of the world.

Under the STORM programme of SAARC, India is providing a Doppler Weather Radar to its Member countries. India is also committed to sharing the data obtained from its IRS satellites with the ASEAN countries for disaster management support. India has recently made an arrangement with Brazil for providing the RESOURCESAT-1 data.

Mr. Chairman

India is actively participating in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and pursuing 10-year implementation (2005-2015) plan in various societal benefit areas. India is also hosting the Secretariat for Global Agricultural Monitoring System of Systems (GLAMSS) of GEOSS.

The Indian delegation is happy to inform that India will take up the Chair of Committee for Earth Observation System (CEOS) for 2012 and host the Plenary. India actively supports space based virtual constellation on satellites for various themes by committing its satellites and data products.

During March 9-12, 2010, India has conducted 28th Meeting of the Inter-agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, wherein 86 delegates from 10 space agencies deliberated on this important topic endangering the global space assets and activities.

Mr. Chairman

India continues to provide expertise and services for supporting the developing countries in the application of Space technology through capacity building. The Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and Pacific Region, affiliated to UN and operating from India, has so far benefitted 894 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia-pacific region and 28 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia-pacific region. India would like to request more participation from the member countries.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian space programme is entering into space exploration phase mainly to explore the Sun, inner solar system and build such capabilities for exploring outer solar system. Aditya-1, a project to study the solar chronosphere, is being taken up by ISRO along with leading science laboratories of India.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, the Indian delegation is pleased to greatly acknowledge and fully support UNCOPUOS in all its endeavours to increase the awareness of space-based benefits and to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman



694. Statement by Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 62[A] & [B] - Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa at the UNGA.

New York, October 14, 2010.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of India at today's joint debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his reports on the items under discussion, including the Eighth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support to NEPAD.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development articulates "both a vision and a strategic socio-economic development framework for Africa". It reflects the commitment of African countries to undertake their own programs of development, and the commitment of the international community to support these efforts.

India applauds the progress achieved by African countries in implementation of the NEPAD priorities through the various multi-sectoral initiatives. We further welcome the integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the structures and processes of the African Union through, inter alia, the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the African Union.

Mr. President,

Despite these positive developments, serious challenges remain to be addressed before the African continent can achieve sustainable peace and prosperity. Most African countries remain off-track with respect to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Conflict, poverty, lack of

adequate nutrition and other malaises continue to shackle the tremendous potential of the African people.

It is universally acknowledged that addressing Africa's development needs and challenges require unwavering commitment and resolute action not only from within Africa, but equally important, from outside the continent by its partners through sustained cooperation including transfer of resources, technology, and an enabling international environment. The role of the international community in Africa's development is indispensable and crucial.

This is recognized in a number of multilateral and bilateral initiatives directed at Africa. This is also recognized in a number of international conferences and summits including the recently concluded High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals that brought into sharp focus the special needs of Africa and the urgency of galvanizing international efforts. This role finds further articulation in a number of declarations, resolutions and plans of action in support of Africa to which the international community has pledged adherence.

In spite of the commitments and initiatives, there is a gap between promise and delivery by the international community that needs to be addressed on a priority basis. First and foremost, NEPAD can succeed only if the global partnership delivers in terms of resources. The picture on the ground is not inspiring. Official Development Assistance to Africa is estimated to have reached US\$ 44 billion in 2009. This leaves a shortfall of US\$ 16 billion relative to the Gleneagles target set in 2005. In this context, we would like to stress the urgent fulfillment of the commitments made by the Group of Eight at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit.

Mr. President,

India's own links with Africa go back a long way. They are anchored in a history of civilizational contact and friendship across the Indian Ocean. Our friendship and cooperation has been further strengthened through a common journey of anti-colonial struggle and post-colonial nation-building.

Today, our long and historic relationship has evolved into a sustainable and enduring partnership that embraces the entire spectrum of human engagement. In the economic realm, it translates into a vibrant economic

partnership that covers, inter alia, infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health and food security, development of SMEs, and information and communication technology.

India has so far extended over US \$ 3 billion concessional lines of credit to countries in Africa. These have been used in projects as prioritized by the African countries themselves. During the India-Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008 in New Delhi, India decided to extend additional lines of credit of US \$ 5.4 billion over the next five years. It includes an allocation of US\$ 300 million to be utilized by the African Union in support of NEPAD objectives. This line of credit is in addition to the US \$ 200 million line of credit extended to NEPAD in 2002, most of which stands utilized. At the same time, India had proposed to undertake projects against grants in excess of US \$ 500 million over the next five to six years. These are being implemented in consultation with our African partners.

India is also 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.

The Pan African E-network project is another far-reaching initiative undertaken by India in Africa. It aims at sharing our expertise in the fields of healthcare and education. It symbolizes India's commitment to transferring skills and technology to Africa by bridging the digital divide within the framework of South-South Cooperation. It will connect 53 African countries into one network through satellite, fiber optics and wireless links to provide tele-education, tele-medicine and voice and video conference facilities. We expect the Project to bring major benefits to Africa in capacity building.

India has also been at the forefront of contributing to Africa's human resource development efforts. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme has benefited thousands of experts and students from Africa who have been coming for training courses in professional institutions in India since 1964. Apart from provision of experts, we are providing training to African personnel in diverse fields such as agriculture and agro processing, entrepreneurship development, tool design, small business creation, promotion of rural industries and

information technology. In addition, several thousand African students are currently studying in Indian universities and colleges.

Mr. President,

India is also a steady contributor to the maintenance of peace and security in conflict-torn regions of Africa through our long-term involvement in peacekeeping efforts on the continent over the past six decades. Presently, India has over 7000 peacekeepers serving in Africa, including a 4000 strong contingent in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

India's first full all-female formed police unit serves with distinction in Liberia. It has earned laurels for its pioneering role in this regard which, in addition to normal peacekeeping, has included their successful outreach to vulnerable sections of the society, particularly women and children.

Mr. President,

India is steadfastly committed to the peace, stability and socio-economic development of Africa. India and Africa are joined in a common quest for sustainable economic growth and development. A blueprint for further intensifying the engagement between India and Africa is contained in the Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation that was adopted during the landmark India-Africa Forum Summit held in Delhi in April 2008. We will continue to accord the highest priority to furthering our multi-dimensional partnership with Africa, which encompasses priority sectors integral to the developmental goals of Africa.

I thank you.



695. Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 19 Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Finance for Development and the 2008 Review Conference at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 14, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by expressing my deep appreciation of your stewardship in steering the work of the Second Committee. India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the G-77.

Financing for development lies at the heart of the global development agenda and I hope our deliberations today would help in mobilising action towards addressing our concerns on the issue. We note with satisfaction the efforts made by the UN to follow up on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Conference including through the 4th High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development organised by the General Assembly in March this year.

At the recently held High Level Review meeting on MDGs, the global fraternity had once again emphasised the importance of adhering to the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 and the Doha Conference of 2008.

The Declaration adopted at the event stated in clear terms the role that was envisaged for ODA, innovative financing, domestic resources, debt relief, global economic governance reforms and international trade and investment to play in the context of achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

The developing countries, especially the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa quite clearly cannot meet the MDG targets and other developmental challenges without external development assistance.

These countries, in spite of their best efforts have not been able to mobilise adequate domestic resources to meet their development needs due to lack of economic opportunities, limited policy space and weak productive capacities.

The global financial crisis along with the food and energy shocks has further weakened their resource base to fight hunger, poverty and disease.

As the global economy contracted, the financing gap for development in existence prior to 2008 further widened.

As of 2009, only five donor countries had met their ODA commitment of 0.7%. The aid flow to developing countries last year stood at US\$ 120 billion, representing 0.31% of the total GNI of the donor countries and well short of the 0.7% mark.

Mr. Chairman,

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 welcomes the reaffirmation of commitments by some countries to reach the ODA target of 0.7% of GNI by 2015, to channel at least 50% of aid increases to Africa and to meet the target of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNP to the LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

The gap in financing for development has led to a spurt in global discourse on innovative and new tools of financing.

India believes that innovative sources of financing must be expanded to support the global development agenda. We compliment the work undertaken by GAVI to support its health initiative through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation. Such models could also be replicated to support global action in areas such as education, food security, environment and climate change.

We are hopeful that the completion of an ambitious Doha Round, expansion of aid for trade, strong assistance from international financial institutions and policies of financial inclusion would strengthen the capacities of developing countries to mobilize greater domestic resources in the medium and long term.

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 new tools of financing development or strengthening the capacity of developing countries can at best bring additional resources. There is no substitute to the ODA commitments for financing development.

On its part, India remains fully committed to support the development needs of countries in the South. We have extended lines of credit worth more than US\$ 5 billion to developing countries since 2003 to enhance their participation in global trade. Our annual outlay on concessional lending and grants is over US\$ 1 billion, covering countries in our region, in Africa and beyond. Our companies have invested more than US\$ 15 billion in Africa in the last few years.

South-South financial and technical assistance may be expanding lately but it cannot be a substitute for the North-South commitment.

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.



696. Statement by Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 64 - Promotion And Protection of the Rights of Children [b] Follow-up to the Outcome of the Special Session on Children at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 15, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me to thank the Secretary General for all his reports under this agenda item. We would also like to thank all the speakers for their useful and informative presentations under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

India's commitment to children and their welfare and development is manifest in our commitment and ongoing efforts to meet the goals of "A World fit for Children" and the related Millennium Development Goals.

Children in the age group 0-18 years constitute 44 % of our total population. In our efforts to make this world a better place for our children to grow in, India has been relentless in her efforts to provide the highest possible standards in education, welfare and development for our children.

Mr. Chairman,

Our flagship programme for children, namely the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, represents one of the world's largest and most unique programmes for Early Childhood Care and Education. This programme, on the one hand, provides pre-school non-formal education for children upto 6 years, on the other hand, breaks the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality by providing supplementary nutrition, immunization and periodic health checkup.

Last year alone, more than 71.8 million children and 15.7 million pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from this programme. As this programme has direct implication on the success of the MDG 4, (of reducing by two

thirds the mortality rate among children under five), the financial allocation for this scheme has increased fourfold in the last 5 years to Rs 49 billion in 2009-10.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the most notable progresses in India in the field of child development has been - education. By bringing into force the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act in April this year, it is now an inalienable and justiciable right of all children to obtain free and compulsory education including, enrolment, attendance and completion of eight years of elementary education schooling till the age of 14 years.

This Act also requires all private schools to reserve 25% of seats to children from poor families (to be reimbursed by the state as part of the public-private partnership plan). There is also a provision for special training of school dropouts to bring them at par with students of the same age. The Act also has a number of other provisions regarding improvement of school infrastructure and teacher-student ratio. The National Council for the Protection of Child Rights, along with various Commissions set up by the State Governments will monitor the implementation of this Act.

Notwithstanding this, our Universal Elementary Education Scheme (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) has also been expanded to cover the entire country to reduce out-of-school children as well as to emphasis on the girl child's education.

The government has also committed increased spending on education. In order to attain universal education, 6% of India's GDP for the period 2007 to 2012 has been allocated for education and there has been an increase of 16 % in the Union Budget (2010-11) for school education.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year, 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. One of the important and innovative elements of this scheme has been the commencement of a dedicated 24 hours toll free telephone helpline service for all children in distress or to adults on behalf of children in distress. At present this service is available in 83 cities and is being gradually expanded to other parts of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

A special mention of girl child deserves your 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. Starting from effective policies to ban of 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,

We are also cognizant of the fact that our children should not be engaged in any form of hard labour at the cost of their right to education. India is strictly enforcing a ban on employment of children less than 14 years as domestic help or at eateries by way of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. Child labour is intrinsically linked to the intricate web of social problems that children living in poverty are subject to. We believe that any strategy to completely eliminate all forms of child labour must be a holistic effort that targets health, nutrition, poverty and education for children.

Ending exploitation and violence against children is fundamental to ensuring a healthy future for every child. In this connection, India has

set up a National Commission for Protection of Child's Rights in 2007 to provide speedy trial of offenders committing crimes against children and violating the rights of children.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, let me reiterate India's firm commitment to work towards not only complete realisation of the goals of "A World Fit for Children" and the realisation of all the related Millennium Development Goals but also higher standards of physical, social, emotional and psychological life for each and every child in India. They are indeed our future. Let us strive to provide them the best.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



697. Statement by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Member of Parliament, on Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons at the First Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 15, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

22 years ago, on 9 June 1988, India's then Prime Minister, the young Shri Rajiv Gandhi, presented to the Third Session of the UN Special Session on Disarmament an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons- Free and Nonviolent World Order which set out a road map to attain the goal of nuclear disarmament, followed by general and complete disarmament, in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner within 22 years, that is, by this year, 2010.

Tragically, we are no nearer attaining that goal today than we were 22 years ago. The promise of a nuclear weapon free world, which seemed a real possibility near the end of the Cold War, has been belied. There has been welcome reduction in numbers by the two largest possessors of nuclear weapons but the global threat posed by nuclear weapons has not

abated. The possibility of non state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction has added a new dimension to that threat.

The one ray of hope is that there is a far wider measure of consensus on the imperative need to move towards that goal than there was 22 years ago. The Cold War has been over for almost two decades. And voices of wisdom, particularly on the part of those who were once the most ardent advocates of a policy of deterrence based on nuclear weapons, are beginning to be heard.

Several world leaders have expressly acknowledged the necessity of moving towards global zero. We are greatly encouraged by President Obama's statement in Prague on 5 April 2009 which led to his richly deserved Nobel Prize for Peace where he reiterated his commitment to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons".

The UN Secretary General too has called for consideration of a Nuclear Weapons Convention in his Five-Point Plan. Yet, negotiations are still to commence in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva aimed at ensuring the universal, non-discriminatory, time-bound, phased and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons as presaged in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan.

For its part, India remains committed to the objective of that Plan and the realization of its vision of ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a universal commitment for global elimination of nuclear weapons through a step by step process undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We 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, measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons are all pertinent in this regard. India's resolutions in the First Committee give expression to a large number of these proposals, which are justifiably gaining increasing international support. We have also co-sponsored resolutions by others seeking to initiate with all deliberate speed the processes which could lead to an international convention or conventions in this regard. We reiterate

our desire to work with all fellow member states of the United Nations to achieve this goal.

Addressing the threat posed by nuclear weapons to international peace and security in a sustainable and comprehensive manner requires their global elimination on a non-discriminatory basis. While non-proliferation is important and all states should fully and effectively implement the obligations arising from the agreements or treaties to which they are parties, we must not lose sight, as the UN Secretary General has underlined, of the essential and mutually reinforcing linkage between disarmament and non-proliferation. Progress on nuclear disarmament would reinforce non-proliferation like no other measure can. And progress on non-proliferation cannot be a pre-condition for progress on nuclear disarmament.

International efforts in this regard should build the necessary confidence among states so that international treaties and agreements are multilaterally negotiated and freely accepted which remains the true test of their legitimacy and credibility. India has acceded to and is in full implementation of the two non-discriminatory international Conventions banning Biological and Chemical Weapons. I recall in this connection Premier Rajiv Gandhi saying, while presenting his Action Plan to the Special Session of the UNGA in 1988:

"We have an international convention eliminating biological weapons by prohibiting their use in war. We are working on similarly eliminating chemical weapons. There is no reason in principle why nuclear weapons cannot be so eliminated. All it requires is the affirmation of certain basic moral values and the assertion of the required political will, underpinned by treaties and institutions which ensure against nuclear delinquency."

India's position on the NPT needs no reiteration. There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. Nuclear weapons are an integral part of India's national security and will remain so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament.

It is but natural that the countries with the largest nuclear arsenals bear a special responsibility for nuclear disarmament. In this regard we welcome the new Russia-U.S. agreement to cut their nuclear arsenals. Between them 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. Even as we applaud the revitalisation of the Russia-U.S. bilateral arms control process, we believe that this is not a substitute for a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman, as part of its credible minimum nuclear deterrent, India has espoused the policy of "No First Use" against nuclear weapon states 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 are committed to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. As a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the international community, we will participate constructively in the negotiation of an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament as part of its programme of work. India is also ready to work with others in the international community to strengthen nuclear security against the threat of nuclear explosive devices or fissile material falling into the hands of non-state actors.

Mr. Chairman, our highest priority, however, remains nuclear disarmament, as it has been since Mahatma Gandhi in 1945 expressed his horror at the use of nuclear weapons and Premier Rajiv Gandhi outlined in his Action Plan a roadmap which, if accepted then, would have given us this year a world free of nuclear weapons and anchored in Nonviolence.

In a working paper submitted to the UNGA in 2006, India suggested a number of measures in this regard, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and specific legal measures such as a Global No First Use Agreement, a Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear weapons and a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, within a specified timeframe. On 13 August 2007, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated India's position: "...we must not forget India's long-standing commitment to the noble ideas of nuclear disarmament and our refusal to participate in any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. Our commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and total elimination of nuclear weapons remains undiminished. It is this vision of a world free of nuclear weapons which

Shri Rajiv Gandhi put before the UN in 1988 and this still has universal resonance."

More recently, at the start of this UNGA session, our Minister of External Affairs, Shri S.M. Krishna, stressed our "...abiding commitment for achieving universal, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament within a specified timeframe, a vision that was most eloquently articulated here in the General Assembly by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988."

In that same context, speaking at the High Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, India's External Affairs Minister has called for intensification of dialogue amongst UN member states for strengthening the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

This was also the intent of our 2006 Working Paper containing proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. The idea was to stimulate debate and discussion on what could be done today to implement the abiding vision of that Plan. The time for action is now. In this 22nd year of the presentation of our Action Plan, there is a growing international consensus which signposts the need for this session of the UN General Assembly to take, with the broad consent of all concerned, the vitally required step of authorising the commencement of intergovernmental negotiations in Geneva which take into account the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, previous and present resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the Working Paper we circulated in 2006 and several proposals made by concerned members of international civil society, and high authorities like the UN Secretary General.

Hence, with a view to taking action aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament, we call for an intensification of discussion and dialogue among Member States, to seek an international consensus, if possible during this session of the UN General Assembly, to commence the process of intergovernmental negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The Conference on Disarmament would be the appropriate forum to consider India's proposals, as also numerous other proposals that the international community has received and that have been floated by the larger non-governmental communities.

Thank you.



698. Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 84 - Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 18, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

As I am taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, let me congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that this Committee will make good progress under your leadership.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Iran on behalf of NAM. My delegation considers the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization as an important one and all items on its agenda and all the specific proposals on the table deserve due consideration. While my delegation will address them as and when each item is 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.

Madam Chairperson,

The impact and application of sanctions in the context of maintenance of international peace and security is an important issue. Maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the Security Council, which acts on behalf of all members of the United Nations in the discharge of its duties. While the Security Council has the authority and the competence to impose and enforce sanctions in accordance with chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Charter does not intend that such a legitimate and permissible action by the Security Council should adversely affect other States, entities or peoples.

India attaches great importance to the proper implementation of article 50 of the Charter, relating to assistance to third States affected by the

application of sanctions under chapter VII. Article 50 is an integral part of Chapter VII providing for the right to consult in favour of the third States. Article 50 was intended by its drafters to have tangible and concrete effect and not to remain a dead letter.

We are happy to note that in recent years the Security Council has given due consideration to this very important aspect and has made a shift 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. 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. These are important steps and have proved successful in the international community's coordinated and joint efforts to counter global terrorism.

My delegation is of the firm belief that in as much as article 50 is an important part and parcel of Chapter VII, the essence of any solution to the problem of affected third States should vest in the Security Council with such authority and responsibility.

Last year the adoption of the Russian paper on the introduction and implementation of sanctions by the United Nations as an annex to the GA Resolution 64/115 was an important step. However, we may have to move beyond that. The procedural elements of the application of sanctions would have to be matched with substance. The effectiveness of sanctions and assistance to third States to recover from the effect of sanctions are both parts of the same whole of Chapter VII, and in fact, are integral to each other.

The application of sanctions can only be further reinforced and made more acceptable by finding permanent and predictable solutions to the problem of third states affected by sanctions. The virtue of this solution is predictability of a mechanism and automaticity of its application. This also necessitates the development of capacity to assess and evaluate the impact of sanctions on third States and individuals.

We are happy to note from the report of the Secretary General that keeping with the shift of the Security Council from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions, no sanctions committee has been approached by member states with regard to special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions since 2003.

We also note with satisfaction that in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the competent units within the Secretariat have maintained their capacity and used methodologies to compile and evaluate information pertaining to any special economic problems in third States arising from the application of sanctions. We support the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs to stay abreast of similar and related methodologies for assessing the impact of sanctions in general in order to be responsive when an appeal is made by any State under article 50 of the Charter.

Madam Chairperson,

The duty to settle disputes by peaceful means is a fundamental principle enshrined in article 2, paragraph 3 of the UN Charter. It obligates States to settle all their international disputes by peaceful means and in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice are not endangered. Article 33 of the Charter further strengthens this duty and provides a number of means which the party to a dispute can choose freely. These include 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 this regard.

Madam Chairperson,

There are many proposals before the Special Committee for quite some time now. We will make specific comments on those proposals as and when they are taken up for consideration by this Committee. The essence of these proposals is to strengthen the role of the organization.

In the World Summit Outcome Document in 2005 our leaders made 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 United Nations. It also called for the

strengthening of the relationship between General Assembly and other principal organs of the UN and stressed for the early reform of the Security Council to make it more broadly representative.

India attaches great importance to the reform 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 categories.

Madam Chairperson,

India regards the Repertory of Practice of the UN Organs and Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council to be a valuable source of information on the application of the Charter as well as the practice of UN Organs and the Security Council. They are important tools not only for the preservation of institutional memory of the United Nations; they are immensely useful for Member States, academics and practitioners alike.

We commend the efforts of the Secretary General for the progress made in the preparation of studies, including the increased use of internship programme of the United Nations and further expanded cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose. We note with satisfaction the progress made by the Secretariat in their preparation, updating, and publication and putting them on the web for general information.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.



**699. Statement by Shanta Kumar Member of Parliament ,
on Agenda Item No 11 - "Sports for Peace and
Development" at the UNGA.**

New York, October 18, 2010.

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and privileged to participate in today's discussion on "Sport for peace and development". Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the item under discussion.

Mr. President,

Sports are an important element in building character. It not only teaches one to be just and fair but also prepares you to face challenges in life. Sports being a most popular activity for young people, it can help to motivate young people, build teams, develop leadership, promote volunteering, and educate apart from ensuring fitness and healthy lifestyles.

Sports also seek to promote peace, equality and friendship among all people and nations. In-fact, it is hard to imagine a more powerful medium, other than sports, to inspire and bring people together for a common purpose.

Swami Vivekananda, the great philosopher from India, when approached by a young man to explain the meaning of the Bhagwad Gita, is reported to have looked at his physique and advised him to first go play football.

Develop your body and mind, Swamiji told this young man, and then you will be better fit to study and understand the Gita.

Swamiji was clear that a healthy body and mind is fundamental in our quest for peace and sports, indeed, plays a critical role towards this end.

Mr. President,

The intrinsic linkage between sports and games and the human quest for excellence was recognized ever since the inception of human civilization. It reached its epitome in the ancient Greek civilization, which is the progenitor of the Olympic movement.

Sports, games and physical fitness were an integral component of India's civilization, as is evident from the existence of the highly evolved system of yoga and a vast range of highly developed indigenous games, including martial arts.

After our independence, the integration of physical education and sports with formal education was emphasized in the First Five Year Plan itself.

Our efforts have been for broad-basing sports and provision of modern sports infrastructure. A National Sports Policy was adopted by India in 2001.

We have also encouraged the autonomous functioning of National Sports Federations and are happy to see that today all sections of our society, including the media and the business sector, are actively involving themselves in the promotion of sports.

Mr. President,

Sports are also a most effective tool to help achieve development objectives in the areas of health, education, HIV/AIDS prevention, child protection and child development.

They help generate public awareness and inspire broad, inclusive and committed action in support of developmental agenda.

I am glad that there is good recognition of the value of sports to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals and that many sports personalities have associated with UN in creating public awareness and understanding of various issues that affect the youth and society.

In this context I am, of course, particularly happy that our national cricket icon, Sachin Tendulkar is a Goodwill Ambassador of United Nations Environment Programme and that our former tennis champion Vijay Amritraj was UN Messenger of Peace in 2001.

Mr. President,

India was honoured to host the Nineteenth Commonwealth Games, which have just concluded in Delhi.

This two weeks long mega event featured participation from 71 countries across the world and more than 7,000 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.

We congratulate all those countries which successfully organized large global and regional sporting events during the last year. We also wish every success to all those countries which will be holding sporting events in the coming months and years.

We believe that such mega sporting events will strengthen the cherished ties of goodwill and understanding that unite us as one family.

Thank you.



700. Statement by Mr. Janardan Dwivedi, Member of Parliament, on the Agenda Items of Global Agenda for Dialogue Among Civilizations and Culture of Peace at the UN General Assembly.

New York, October 18, 2010.

Madam President,

I am deeply honoured and privileged to participate in today's joint debate under the agenda items of Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and Culture of Peace.

As we celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World comes to an end, it provides us an opportunity to take a holistic view of the progress made so far and have an assessment of the challenges that lie ahead. Please allow me to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Secretary General for his

comprehensive reports on inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010.

Madam 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.

The increasing interdependent and interconnected world has also, perhaps, accentuated the fault lines in our society. While there is an accelerated pace of economic and technological development, the same regrettably cannot be said with regard to ethical, moral and cultural development of our society. Indeed, our times have seen the rise of the scourge of terrorism.

The environment in which we live today is also accentuated by disparities, deprivation and exploitation. This is hardly conducive to laying the foundations of sustainable peace and development. Conscious of this stark reality, our former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had noted as early as in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment that poverty and need were the worst polluters. This stirred a global debate on the need to ensure that poverty eradication and developmental imperatives remained at the fore with environmental challenges in our pursuit of sustainable development.

Madam President,

Inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue is a necessity and one of the central elements in developing a better understanding of the apparent contradictions and divergent approaches that exist today in our societies.

We need to create an environment conducive for fostering 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 dialogue and understanding, that intolerance, bigotry and violence flourish.

This is the reason why extremist ideologies, violence and terrorism, have grown in a world in which we seem to be moving away from dialogue and understanding.

There can be no disputing that terrorism, which is a manifestation of extremism, intolerance and violence, is the antithesis of all religions. No religion condones violence or the killing of human beings. It is, therefore, imperative that the nations of the world must work together in a concerted manner to tackle the menace of terrorism and extremism, which are an anathema for modern societies.

Madam President,

All the great religions of the world essentially represent what the Indian ethos postulate as "*Ekam sadviprah bahudha vadanti*" i.e. The Truth is One, the wise call it by many names.

Compassion, mercy and tolerance are the common values and beliefs among all major faiths of the world.

We must learn to live our faith with integrity while respecting and accepting each other.

Madam 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 the Jainism. Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon in Sarnath, an eminent centre of Indian philosophy, after he attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.

The history of India, in essence, is a narrative of conversations between different civilizations and, indeed, conversation with the 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.

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.

The interaction between India and the West goes back to the time of ancient Greece. Millennia ago, the interaction between these two civilizations produced the exquisite Gandhara art form.

India's contact with Islam produced the beautiful confluence of the Indo-Islamic culture, which includes the great human values of Sufism.

Indeed, India would not have succeeded in holding together and strengthening a composite Indian identity unless Indians practiced tolerance and were determined to live together in peace.

The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest apostle of peace and non-violence. We firmly believe that *Gandhi ateet hi nahi, bhavishya bhi hai* i.e. "Gandhi is not the past, he is the future also". He 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". We believe that no culture or religion is superior to any other and have always benefited from our interactions with various civilizations throughout our history.

We, in India, Madam President, understand the importance of building alliances among 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. This is also critical for harmonious development of all sections of the society, including gender equity and empowerment of women all over the world.

Madam President,

Global efforts towards peace and reconciliation can only succeed with a collective approach that is built on commitment, trust, dialogue and collaboration. We must do this, at all levels, within nations, within regions and within the broader international community.

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 could live in a sane and peaceful global society of our collective dreams.

Thank You.



701. Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 23 - Groups of Countries in Special Situations: [A] Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and [b] Specific Actions Related to the Particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 18, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, India wishes to express its deep appreciation for the continued priority being given to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in the agenda of the Second Committee.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77. India believes that for an equitable, balanced and sustainable global growth, it is a must that the fruits of development and progress be shared among countries. It is with this belief that India has been extending its steadfast support to strengthen the development process in LDCs and LLDCs.

As we take stock of the achievements of the Brussels Programme in its final year of operation, success seems to be only partial. Though a number of LDCs achieved increased GDP growth, it did not translate into poverty reduction. More importantly, the structural weakness of their economies and vulnerability to external shocks were left unanswered.

The LDCs have undertaken major efforts towards attainment of the MDGs but due to lack of resources and capacity the results are far from satisfactory. The global financial, food and energy crises have reversed their development gains.

The LDCs are in a race against time to bolster their food security given their rapidly expanding urban population and declining agricultural productivity. Of the 33 countries in a permanent state of food insecurity, 22 are LDCs.

Madam Chairperson,

In spite of the market diversification that LDCs have witnessed in recent years, their share in global exports in 2009 was just 1% and if oil was excluded, it would come down to 0.4%.

Integrating and enhancing the participation of LDCs in the global trading network through full implementation of the duty free and quota free market access by developed and developing countries needs urgent action.

We must also remain committed to a development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round to further support LDCs and their participation in global trade.

The global financial and economic crisis has worsened the debt situation of LDCs. India calls upon the international financial institutions in particular the World Bank and the IMF and the developed countries to provide immediate debt relief and make available concessional finance to spur economic growth and investment in LDCs. We also seek democratisation of the BWIs to allow greater voice and participation by the developing countries.

Climate Change poses a serious challenge to development in these countries. They need immediate financial and technology support to undertake mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Madam Chairperson,

Our engagement strategy with LDCs needs a rethinking. As we prepare for the Fourth UNLDC Conference in Istanbul next year, the issues that I have dilated upon must form the core of the action plan. Mobilisation of adequate resources and expanding the choice of international support measures to fill the huge financing gap for development in LDCs should receive our highest attention.

I call upon the countries to fulfil 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 meeting the needs of LDCs.

Madam Chairperson,

India has been steadfast in its support for the special needs of LDCs. As part of South-South Cooperation, India has shared its development experience and technological resources and expertise with them. India has extended assistance worth US\$ 1.2 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and offered concessional loans and grants worth US\$ 550 million in 2009 to other LDCs. Indian companies have invested more than US \$15 billion in the LDCs in Africa for infrastructure development.

In keeping with our WTO commitment, we have extended duty free tariff preference scheme to all LDCs since April 2008. To stimulate bilateral trade, since 2003, we have offered lines of credit worth US\$ 4 billion to LDCs, including US\$ 1 billion to Bangladesh.

We have made a contribution of US\$ 250,000 to the UN Trust Fund to facilitate the travel of participants to the IV UNLDC Conference in Istanbul. We would also be hosting a Ministerial Preparatory event in New Delhi early next year for the Conference where we would be inviting one Minister and the Permanent Representative in New York from all the LDCs.

Madam Chairperson,

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 which hit the LLDCs hard has brought to the fore the urgent need for these countries to transform their economies, broaden their productive base, build resilience to external shocks and achieve higher sustainable economic growth.

The Almaty Programme of Action has resulted in a clear

acknowledgement of the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, including the need for sustained international support to address them. 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.

Madam Chairperson,

India, as always, remains fully committed to strengthening its partnership with LDCs and LLDCs.

Thank you.



702. Statement by Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, at the First Committee Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons, at the UNGA.

New York, October 19, 2010.

Before I make some remarks on this theme in my national capacity, I wish to speak in my capacity as President of the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War held in Geneva last year. Paragraph 30 of the Final Document (CCW/P.V/CONF/2009/9) of the Conference states in the context of the goal of universality of Protocol V that "the Conference requested the President to consider reporting to the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly on his endeavours." I therefore take the floor first to discharge the responsibility given to me by the Third Conference.

2. Mr. Chairman, on the universalization of Protocol V, I am pleased to inform you that the number of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V has increased from 61 countries at the time of the Third Conference last year to 69 States parties this year. I would like to congratulate the 8 new States parties to CCW Protocol V, that are: Belgium, which acceded to Protocol V on 25 January 2010, China on 10 June 2010, Cyprus on 11 March 2010, Gabon on 22 September 2010, Honduras on 16 August 2010, Italy on 11 February 2010, Qatar on 16 November 2009, and Saudi Arabia on 8 January 2010.

3. Universalization will continue to be a priority in the coming year as well. The Third Conference also called on the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V to promote wider adherence to Protocol V in their respective regions, pursuant to Actions 2 to 5 of the Plan of Action to Promote the Universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols as adopted by the Third Review Conference.

4. Aside from universalization, another pillar of Protocol V is implementation. The First Conference in 2007 established an informal mechanism of Meetings of experts to focus on a wide range of issues. The work of the Coordinators responsible for leading the discussions on those issues has been very significant in this process. I would like to express my

gratitude to the five Coordinators and Friend of the Coordinator, who have led the discussions during the Meeting of Experts held in Geneva on 22 to 24 April 2009. They have indeed helped us advance our understanding on the various aspects of the Protocol's implementation, notably on clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war; Victim assistance; Cooperation and assistance, and Requests for assistance; Recording, retaining and transmission of information; National reporting; as well as Generic preventive measures.

5. In his message to the Third Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations asserted that the States parties had made a good start, but more was needed. He encouraged the States Parties to agree on strong practical steps to assist victims of explosive remnants of war. He urged that the States parties should give even more support to the clearance, removal and destruction of unexploded ordnance, as well as to establish a culture of information-sharing, in particular to collect and record information despite the obstacles posed by battlefield dynamics. Indeed, all these efforts would mean mobilizing the necessary resources to enhance the Protocol's implementation.

6. Mr. Chairman, explosive remnants of war are generated by every armed conflict. They kill and maim long after the end of hostilities. They are deadly hazards that must be eliminated. CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War is an invaluable tool toward that end. It provides a flexible and stable framework for addressing the horrendous humanitarian and developmental impacts of ERW. The Third Conference last year achieved much progress on the substantive issues under Protocol V, which would I am sure be continued under my successor, Ambassador Peter Richard Woolcott of Australia as President-designate of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V, which will be held in Geneva on the 22nd and 23rd of November this year. I would like to pledge our full support to him. I would also like to convey India's support to the two Vice-Presidents designate: the representatives of Pakistan and Slovakia.

7. Mr. Chairman, allow me now to say a few words in my national capacity. India believes that global measures on conventional arms control contribute significantly to international peace, security and development as well as to the goal of general and complete disarmament. As a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and all

its five protocols, including the Amended Protocol-II on APLs, India attaches particular importance to carrying forward the CCW process, which offers a unique forum for progressive controls over certain categories of weapons through international consensus building and cooperation.

8. India has always exercised the highest degree of responsibility in conventional arms transfers. We have contributed regularly to the UN Register of Conventional Arms transfers since its inception in 1994 and have participated actively in deliberations in the UN Disarmament Commission and elsewhere on conventional arms transfers.

9. India's security interests have been affected by illicit and irresponsible transfers, especially of small arms, light weapons and explosives. Illicit trade in conventional arms is a major factor in armed violence by organized criminals and by terrorists. Therefore priority must be given to combating and eliminating the illicit trade in such arms. This implies full and effective implementation of existing obligations of Member States, in particular those flowing from the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons on strict national control over production, adequate marking, international cooperation in tracing of illicit arms, effective management of stockpiles, exports controls and their strict enforcement.

10. India has participated actively in discussions in the GGE, the Open Ended Working Group and the first Prep Com on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. We believe that a legally binding instrument establishing international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms should contribute tangibly to preventing, combating and eliminating the illicit trade in conventional arms. The provisions under the UN Charter for self-defence imply that states enjoy the right to engage in trade of arms, including export to another country. The exercise of this right has to be in accordance with relevant international obligations.

11. In India's view, establishing and exercising control over trade in conventional arms is a matter of national responsibility which states should discharge on the basis of their obligations under both national and international law and in the light of their legitimate security and foreign policy concerns. Our discussions underline the continuing technical and political difficulties involved in seeking to construct a single unified instrument to govern all conventional arms transfers. We believe that a

step by step, pragmatic, realistic and consensus driven approach would enhance the prospects of an instrument of universal acceptance.

12. India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies. Since 1997, India has discontinued the production of non-detectable anti-personal landmines and observed a moratorium on their transfer. We are contributing to international de-mining and rehabilitation efforts. We support the approach enshrined in Amended Protocol II of the CCW which addresses the legitimate defence requirements of states with long borders. However, we are fully committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. The availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive function of APLs will facilitate the achievement of this goal. India has been participating as an Observer in the meetings of the Ottawa Convention since the Review Conference held in November 2004 in Nairobi. We would be participating as an observer in the forthcoming meeting of the State Parties in Geneva.

13. India also remains engaged in negotiations on a Protocol under the CCW on Cluster Munitions. We share the international community's concerns about the humanitarian impact of the irresponsible use of cluster munitions. We believe that the use of cluster munitions is legitimate if it is in accordance with international humanitarian law. Accordingly we support the negotiation of an instrument in the CCW that strikes a balance between military and humanitarian concerns. We welcome the progress that has been made by the GGE on negotiating a draft text and look forward to concluding these negotiations so that we can add another edifice to the CCW framework.

I thank you.



703. Statement by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 68 - 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 UNGA.

New York, October 19, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his reports on this agenda item, "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights".

Mr. Chairman,

It does not need repeating that human Rights are inalienable rights afforded to every person in this world. The importance of human rights can be understood from the meaning of the word "inalienable" which means - "absolute, sacred and incapable of being surrendered". Thus the significance of the national, regional and international efforts to promote and protect these rights cannot be overstated. These rights are also the cornerstone of the Charter of the United Nations. We appreciate the institutionalization of these rights within the UN system through the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR).

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. In the UDHR we recognized that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. This was further reinforced by the development of a series of international human rights instruments in a short period of sixty years, with the most recent addition being the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007.

This Convention reminds us that human rights are not only the civil and political rights that the world media tends to focus on. A comprehensive debate on human rights is only possible if we understand the importance of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development and their inter-linkage with civil and political rights.

Mr. Chairman,

The multiplicity of the various treaty bodies had imposed several constraints on the effective and timely submission of the country reports. In this regard, we welcome the streamlining of the reporting process by a revised harmonization of the guidelines, including a common core document and treaty specific documents. This has not only reduced the element of duplication, but also has preserved scarce resources by maintaining uniform standards. We welcome the efforts made by the OHCHR in providing support, when requested, to States in developing countries to submit these reports.

This harmonization has also assisted the Committees of the Treaty Bodies to make assessments and practical recommendations. We appreciate these recommendations and acknowledge the impact they have on the strengthening of domestic legal regimes. However, in this context, it is important to reiterate that treaty bodies must give due credence to development, democracy and human rights as interrelated issues, in order to fully implement the goals of promoting and protecting fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We would also like to reiterate our support to the treaty bodies in the performance of their functions, and would continue to endeavour to fulfil our reporting obligations under the various treaty bodies. In fact, last week our "exceptional report" to the treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), was examined by the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We have concerns about the delay in the examination of country reports by the treaty bodies. We support every initiative to speed up the process, including holding additional meetings to optimize the number of reports that the treaty bodies can consider. We also urge the OHCHR to take all necessary measures to deal with the existing backlog of country reports.

The treaty bodies play an extremely important role in upholding human rights and democratic values in various developing countries. We reiterate our faith in the independence of the treaty bodies and hope that they will continue to execute their tasks in an objective manner rather than subjectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also draw your attention to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, which has been acknowledged as one of the most important mechanisms of the field of human rights. Although the UPR process is only 4 years old, its successes have been commendable and all States, regardless of their size or development, will be "UPR-ised" by next year. We commend the effort that has been made by all the participating States to make this process a success, as also the support it has received from OHCHR and civil society. We consider the 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 the ground.

We agree with the High Commissioner of Human Rights, when she mentioned in her report about the complementarity of the UPR with other human rights mechanisms. This complementarity is confirmed by the fact that many of the UPR recommendations formulated so far have been guided by the observations, recommendations and conclusions of human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the reports of OHCHR.

Mr. Chairman,

As a founder member of the United Nations, and as a liberal, secular democracy, India attaches considerable importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. India is proud of its achievements in nurturing a diverse, multi-religious and multi faceted society. India straddles all divides of ethnicity, religion, and language through its pluralist, moderate and democratic political culture.

We are perhaps the world's largest representative democracy and pride ourselves in a parliamentary system whose representatives are elected by more than 700 million registered voters. Our democratic values are reflected in our strong belief in principles of freedom of speech and expression, and of the dignity of labor. With our Constitutional guarantees,

impartial judiciary, a progressive Parliament, a free and vibrant media, and a thriving civil society with a well established NGO community, India continues in her unflagging endeavour to promote and protect the fundamental freedom and human rights of all our citizens.

We will continue to play our part and contribute to the realization of the ideas enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights. We attach the highest importance to the work of the human rights institutions, including Treaty Bodies, and will continue to actively participate in them and contribute to their effective functioning both at the official level and through the nomination of experts as members of these bodies. Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to express India's firm commitment to all the national, regional and multilateral human rights mechanisms and to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



704. Statement by Shanta Kumar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 22 - "Globalization & Interdependence: Role of the United Nations in Promoting Development in the Context of Globalization and Interdependence" and [b] Preventing and Combating Corrupt Practices and Transfer of Assets of Illicit Origin and Returning Such Assets, in Particular to the Countries of Origin, Consistent with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 20, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

The agenda for today's discussion - "Globalization and Interdependence" - occupies a pivotal place in global public discourse.

India aligns itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of G-77

The phenomenon of globalization is an all pervading one. The interdependence between nations has increased manifold. It is hard to imagine today that an individual or a nation can be isolated from the influence of any process or development taking place in any part of the globe.

Globalization as a socio-economic system has given us a common destiny. We are in a world where we act together, succeed together and fail together.

Globalization has brought immense benefits to the people of this world. In India, it has created new opportunities and prosperity for all sections of our society. This we have achieved through the strategy of inclusive growth. We have also ensured that all sections of our society are heard and convinced of the benefits of our policies before we implement them.

It is our understanding that liberalization of economy has to be accompanied by purposeful state intervention to empower the weak and the marginalized to enable them benefit from economic growth and prosperity.

India has undertaken massive social protection programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Education for All programme, Bharat Nirman Programme, Urban Infrastructure Renewal Programme to name a few, in its effort to ensure inclusive growth. Our development strategy has succeeded. It has helped us withstand the impact of the global crises.

Madam Chairperson,

Now coming to the downside of globalization, we all clearly understand that its benefits are unevenly shared and while it has created wealth and opportunities, it has also brought in a high degree of instability and insecurity in our lives. The global financial and economic crisis is a manifestation of globalization at its worst.

It has also created economic disparity, poverty and hunger. On the one hand wealth of the world is increasing immensely, technology is advancing but on the other hand, millions of people are facing the pangs of hunger in different parts of the world. In spite of best efforts of the United Nations, the Millennium Development Goal of achieving poverty reduction is not on track.

Our world has more than enough for everybody but lack of social justice and corruption has created an unfortunate and vast multitude of hungry people.

Great Indian leader of present century Mahatma Gandhi gave the concept of ANTODYA. Those who are left behind should be brought forward on priority.

A great national poet of India has said:

*Shanti nahin tab tak, jab tak bhaag na sab ka sum ho,
Nahin kisi ko bahut adhik ho, nahin kisi ko kum ho!*

(There cannot be peace in this world until equitable share is given to all. No one should have too much and none too less.)

Promotion of good governance and eradicating corruption are critical challenges to our continued efforts to fight poverty. In this respect, the United Nations has done a commendable work by passing UN Convention Against Corruption. We heartily congratulate the UN for this achievement.

We urge upon the world assembly to persuade and if necessary to pressurize the tax haven countries not to allow illicit flows to be deposited in their banks. UN should force these countries to give back such money to the countries of origin.

In our enthusiasm for enhanced flows of capital, goods and services, technology and people and its attendant benefits, we did not pay adequate attention to develop global systems to protect us from the adverse influence of global shocks. The developing countries were hit the hardest by the impact of the financial, food and energy crises.

Madam Chairperson,

India believes that the UN, given its legitimacy and universality, has a unique and central role to play in developing an inclusive global governance structure. In this regard we welcome the theme chosen by the President of the General Assembly for the 65th GA - "Reaffirming the Central Role of the United Nations in Global Governance"- and he has our full support in this endeavour.

India strongly supports voice and participation reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions to allow greater say for developing countries in framing international policies that impact them.

Madam Chairperson,

The new global order that we envision to create must give priority to developing countries especially the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa who represent the most vulnerable segment of the international community today.

Clearly what is required is enhanced policy space for developing countries through flexibility in international regimes so that they can choose the correct policy tools in the context of their specific development challenges. They must be allowed to pursue counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies as well as develop strategies that promote inclusive growth.

In the area of trade, agricultural policies of the developing countries are severely affected by the massive subsidies given by developed countries. Developing countries, in spite, of existing international trade laws face practical barriers in the form of unfavorable market access regimes and non-trade barriers.

In the area of technology access, critical technologies in the area of public health and climate change remain inaccessible and unaffordable to them due to the limitations of the Intellectual Property Rights regime.

We must work together to rectify the situation. I am hopeful that the Doha Round would be able to address many of the issues that I have highlighted and which are the core concerns of developing countries.

Madam Chairperson,

India remains committed to the principle of Antodaya of Mahatma Gandhi in removing poverty and hunger and fighting corruption to ensure a fair, just and equitable system for all in our country. Let us all try. I conclude with the historical words of President John F. Kennedy "Even one man can make a difference and every man should try".

I thank you.



705. Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs on Agenda Item Nos. 9 & 13- Report of the Economic and Social Council and Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields at the UNGA.

New York, October 20, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by reaffirming India's conviction in your leadership of the 65th UN General Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to warmly thank Member States for electing India as a member of the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77. India welcomes the theme you have chosen for the current General Assembly-"Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance".

A stronger United Nations, reflective of contemporary realities is, indeed, the need of the hour.

This would ensure that the imperatives of maintaining international peace and security are addressed and there is an integrated and coordinated follow up of the UN development agenda.

The United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s have generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development.

This common understating was emphatically reiterated at the high level events on MDGs, Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and biodiversity held in September 2010 in New York.

The MDG Declaration clearly articulated that allocation of resources, developing appropriate national and international policies and integrated

follow up and implementation are an absolute imperative for the realization of our cherished millennium goals by 2015.

Interlinkages and overlaps between the various UN development summits and conferences are strong.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation would derive immense benefits and strength from a comprehensive, ambitious and equitable outcome of the Climate Change negotiations.

Similarly, the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity underway in Nagoya, Japan must fully address the various social and economic development challenges along with its core environmental concerns so as to maximize from the global action to protect biodiversity loss.

Mr. President,

Multiple UN conferences and summits focused on attainment of Internationally Agreed Development Goals must have a seamless, holistic and integrated working relationship with each other.

We must work for developing work models that ensure synergetic resource flows, coordinated assessment and planning and a holistic approach to our global development programmes. In this context, India sees the creation of UN Women as an important step toward an integrated approach to development within the UN.

The strengthened interaction and institutional linkages between the ECOSOC and the Peace Building Commission are also equally encouraging.

Our successful follow up efforts on pivotal Conferences having significant bearing on global development goals such as the Monterrey Consensus and the June 2009 UN Conference on Global Financial and Economic crisis deserve special mention. We must sustain these efforts.

It is, however, important to remember that no one size fits all and it is imperative that national priorities of countries always have primacy in the pursuance of the development agenda by UN bodies.

Mr. President,

India fully realizes the importance of a strong global partnership supported by international and national development strategies on trade, debt, investment, technology transfer, food security, energy access, climate change and host of other issues to create an environment conducive to development.

India will push for an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable outcome at the Climate Change negotiations; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We also look forward to a development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round.

To ensure that international policies are pro-development, concerns of developing countries in the formulation and implementation of these policies must be effectively taken on board.

Unfortunately, current institutional structures do not permit this, even though developing countries are the most affected ones.

The economic crisis highlighted the grave imbalance in the structures of global governance, including on the economic side. India, along with fellow developing countries, has been in the forefront to demand a greater voice in the Bretton Woods Institutions.

In order to make this process as inclusive as possible, the United Nations, with its unique position has a key role. But, as I mentioned earlier, it needs urgent reform. And, no-where is this more needed in the UN than in the Security Council, which must be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories as is the desire of an overwhelming majority of UN Member-States.

I am glad that the 64th UN General Assembly decided that the text based negotiations must be immediately taken up in the 65th session. It is important that these negotiations are progressed on an urgent basis.

The United Nations system also cannot be strengthened without revitalizing the General Assembly. Here too I am glad that in the resolution on this subject adopted in the 64th session, for the first time in several years, there was some progress.

Mr. President,

The Economic and Social Council has a crucial role in fostering a comprehensive development agenda of the United Nations through an integrated and coordinated implementation of its commitments.

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 is satisfying that the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council have become important events to review efforts to achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including MDGs.

The July 2010 ECOSOC session focused on promoting greater coherence between policy and development goals, and making development partnership more participatory and transparent.

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.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to your proposals to strengthen the centrality of the UN system in global governance and its development role. You can count on our express support in this regard.

I thank you.



706. Statement by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 54 - "Questions Relating to Information" at the Fourth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 20, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

It is customary for a delegate at these occasions to say how honoured and privileged he is to participate in this discussion on "Questions relating to information". But in my case the honour and privilege are particularly meaningful, since the successful working of the Department of Public Information (DPI) is very special to me. As a former head of DPI for nearly six years, and as Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information till 2007, I enjoyed being on the other side, as it were. Now that I am back as a member of the Indian delegation, I am very happy to have this opportunity to address some of the same issues on behalf of my Government.

DPI is the public voice of the United Nations and plays a very important role in promoting an awareness of the indispensable role of the UN in the global affairs. I would like to commend DPI for its excellent work in this regard. We welcome the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information, which are before us.

I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation to my distinguished successor, Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, under whose leadership DPI has gone from strength to strength, and to pay tribute to the often unsung men and women of the DPI staff, whose tireless efforts are not always given the recognition and applause they deserve.

Madam Chairperson,

The dissemination of information and the promotion of awareness are fundamental to the success of the United Nations. The general public forms impressions about the workings of the UN from the mass media and from opinion leaders in their own countries, and it is in the UN's interests to influence their perceptions. People who are interested in knowing about the policies and programmes of the Organization should be able to receive

information very easily in a medium they have access to. Towards this end, the organization must develop innovative forms of contemporary communication, along with continued use of what one might call conventional media, to reach out to the widest possible audiences.

In India, freedom of speech and expression are among the six fundamental rights recognized and guaranteed by the Constitution of India. Freedom of the press is therefore an article of faith in our country, and the media's role in public education is fundamental to our political culture. At a time when so many newspapers and magazines are closing down in other developed democracies, unable to sustain themselves in today's Internet era, India remains one of the very few countries in the world where every kind of media - radio, television, internet, and print -- is growing.

My Government, led by the United Progressive Alliance, has enacted a landmark act on the "Right to Information" in the year 2005. Under the RTI, as it is popularly called given our national preference for acronyms, citizens can seek information from a government department or indeed any government body concerned, on any matter related to governance - and the government machinery has to answer within 30 days. This has become a revolutionary tool for the common citizen to access information and is transforming the governance of my country.

Madam Chairperson,

The Indian experience shows how important is the role of information in the life of the common citizen. It is precisely this aspect to which DPI should give more priority, in order to make information as accessible as possible to the largest number of users, making it an effective tool connecting the UN and the peoples of the world. There is an understandable tendency to be responsive to the concerns of the press-room here in New York, and that is certainly necessary, but it is equally essential to reach out to people in the information-starved corners of Africa, Asia or Latin America. Populations in developing countries continue to be deprived of the benefits of the information revolution and need to benefit from all aspects of the information and knowledge economy.

We believe that this is achievable with the use of the widest possible spectrum of technologies. This includes the use of modern technologies,

such as webcasts and podcasts, as well of cost-effective and more traditional forms of communication, like the radio and print media, which remain of great importance in reaching out to people in parts of the developing world in their own languages. As India strongly supports a world in which the language one is born to speak should not handicap a person in the quest for information, it is essential to enhance DPI's outreach in local languages. We appreciate the efforts of DPI to produce information in roughly 80 local languages, including radio programmes in three languages of my own country, Bengali, Hindi and Urdu.

The role of UN Information Centres (UNICs) in disseminating information about the activities of the United Nations, especially in developing countries, is critical. We encourage DPI to consult closely with host countries, other countries served by these Information Centers, as well as the concerned region, in its efforts to get the most out of the UNICs. As Internet penetration grows in developing countries, the creation of websites in local languages would greatly help in creating interest among local populations in the UN and its work. Adequate budgetary resources must be assigned to the UNICs so that they are able to pursue further initiatives.

The rise of social media, particularly Twitter and Facebook, provides an opportunity to the Department to inform and engage different audiences, particularly young people, in the work of the United Nations. India's own Ministry of External Affairs and several other Government Departments have created Twitter and Facebook pages and I would urge DPI to fully explore the potential these represent. India, as a developing country that is acquiring a cutting edge in information and communication technology, has always encouraged the combination of traditional means of information along with modern technologies such as the use of social networking sites. I am sure you would agree with me that information needs to be conveyed in a manner that makes it interesting and enjoyable for the audience at which it is aimed.

Madam Chairperson,

When I left the United Nations three and a half years ago, we were all uncertain about the scale, timing and implications of the Capital Master Plan. The conference room we occupy today, and the unobtrusive but

very evident activity all around us, reflect the pace and ingenuity of its progress. We would, however, request the Departments of Public Information and Management to ensure that there is the minimal possible disruption to the guided tours and exhibits which are, to so many thousands each year, the face of the United Nations. We should not allow these activities to be suspended, for to stop and then resume them later will make it difficult to win the attention of schoolchildren, general visitors and tourists who see this as a vital part of their New York and, indeed, international experience.

We salute the Secretary-General for giving formal shape to the programmes of academic initiative and partnership commenced six years ago. The United Nations Academic Impact has the potential to command a true revolution in the manner in which scholars, university administrators and students place the work they are doing in the context of the greater human cause that the United Nations serves. It is a particular source of pride for my delegation that, after the United States, India has the largest number among the more than four hundred institutions that are already part of the Impact. The initiative is already working with university students in our country, and the New Delhi UNIC, on a conference addressing the MDGs, in which I am looking forward to taking part.

The Holocaust United Nations Outreach programme, which I was privileged to initiate, remains a beacon of remembrance and promise. The global, inclusive and non-political manner in which it has developed remains an example to other programmes of outreach which the General Assembly has mandated and which must be given resources commensurate with that expectation. I refer in particular to the programmes commemorating the transatlantic slave trade and the genocide in Rwanda. In parallel, we note with satisfaction the continued role of DPI in maintaining awareness of the long-pending Question of Palestine. The fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people remains of great importance to my country.

As we all know, DPI's strategic focus is meant particularly to lie in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights. My delegation is of the view that while DPI is doing a good job with the resources at its disposal, its needs to highlight issues that affect large sections of global

civil society, notably the MDGs, disarmament, climate change, the UN's humanitarian efforts, and peacekeeping, in all of which my country is an active and committed contributor.

On Peacekeeping, we would like to see DPI, DPKO and DFS working closely in highlighting 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 call of duty and the routine keeping of the peace. Many developing countries send their soldiers out to the frontlines of peace-keeping operations in distant countries and remote regions to which their own media may not be able to manage or afford access. DPI could perform a signal service by facilitating, at its own expense, itinerant journalist seminars to such operations that would bring to the attention of the world, and particularly of the populations of troop contributing countries, stories of the goodwill, commitment and extraordinary courage of the men and women who represent the human face of UN peacekeeping. This would also help the UN to maintain the public support for peacekeeping that is vital to the continuation of this indispensable UN activity.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson, I would like to assure you and the Secretary-General of India's full support in your efforts to make DPI more effective than ever.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



707. Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 107-Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the Working Group of the Sixth Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 20, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I am very pleased to welcome you and the facilitator, Ms. Maria Telalian here in New York to chair the meeting of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee to facilitate the CCIT process move forward. We greatly appreciate your untiring efforts towards the finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT). We also congratulate other members of the bureau on their election. I assure you of India's full cooperation and support in all your efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ad Hoc Committee in April 2010 generated good momentum highlighting the urgent need for adoption of the draft CCIT during 65th session of the UNGA. During the General Debate this year many delegations again reiterated their support for successful and early conclusion of the draft CCIT.

The Secretary General in paragraph 139 of his report on the review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy has very aptly pointed out that, and I quote, "the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and conclude the convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism efforts".

The recent Security Council Presidential statement also encourages Member States to make every effort to conclude the negotiations of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The negotiations over the years have by and large got a near full text of the draft Convention with the general agreement. There are just a few outstanding issues in article 18 that need be sorted out and I am hopeful that our collective wisdom will spare no efforts to achieve this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

We are here today to carry out a mandate that has been reminded to us by our leaders in different fora, by the General Assembly, and by the United Nations leadership repeatedly.

We are here not to repeat the rhetoric. We are also not here to merely remind ourselves about the need for early finalization and conclusion of the draft CCIT. We are here to take action and move forward. We should sort out any differences that exist between us on the outstanding issues.

Mr. Chairman,

We all know that this Ad Hoc Committee cannot provide solutions to problems arising out of political situations. The political solutions have to be explored through political process. We are here to finalize and conclude a law enforcement instrument that will supplement and strengthen the existing global framework of anti-terrorism conventions and provide to international community another important tool in its fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of outstanding issues, we see that a broad consensus exists amongst delegations on the following basic principles;

1. That international terrorism cannot be tolerated in any form or manifestation.
2. That we need CCIT as law enforcement instrument that should strengthen the existing framework of global anti-terrorism conventions.
3. That the convention should not affect the other rights, obligations and responsibilities, inter-alia, of peoples under international law, Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law.

4. That the military forces of a State should remain outside the scope of the convention, while not providing impunity for the wrongs, if any, committed by such forces.
5. That the convention should not, in any manner, affect the sanctity of the regime applicable in armed conflict under international humanitarian law and what is legal under international humanitarian law shall remain legal.
6. That the convention cannot make lawful, otherwise unlawful acts.

Mr. Chairman,

We have already lost invaluable time in taking concrete decisions on this very important issue. No country is immune from terrorism. Every now and then, one or the other country, whether developed or developing, rich or poor, is brutally targeted by terrorists. It is high time to show solidarity and take collective global action against international terrorism and to send a clear message to terrorists that international community is united in its resolve that terrorism cannot be tolerated in any form or manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

From 2002 we have come a long way. In 2007 the facilitator tried to come up with a compromise package text reflecting the delicate balance that could be accepted by all delegations. In view of my delegation the facilitator's 2007 package proposal presents a viable, delicately balanced compromise text and like many other delegations, and for the sake of compromise, we are also inclined to go along with that package. It is imperative that this Committee must also address any legitimate concerns of any delegation that is not yet addressed under the facilitator's 2007 package proposal.

In the April 2010 session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the facilitator further explained her package proposal and suggested a way out to reach agreement on the text of the draft Convention. We were encouraged to see that delegations were inclined to consider common understanding on the facilitators' package proposal.

We strongly urge delegations that still have any legitimate issue left unaddressed in the facilitator's 2007 package proposal to come forward and discuss it in an open, honest and transparent manner.

The proposal suggested by Switzerland on the adoption of CCIT and thereafter convening the high level conference on international terrorism is a good one and we would like to engage ourselves constructively with Swiss delegation in working out the modalities of its implementation.

We look forward to you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership, ingenuity and guidance during the present session of the Working Group so that a text of the convention can be recommended for adoption during this session of the General Assembly.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.



**708. Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament,
on Agenda Item 131 - Improving the Financial Situation
of the United Nations at the Fifth Committee of UNGA.**

New York, October 21, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

As my delegation is taking the floor for the first time this session, let me at the outset congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Bureau of the Fifth Committee. We also extend our felicitation to other members of the Bureau on their election.

We thank Ms. Angela Kane, Under Secretary-General for Management, for her presentation last week on the financial situation of the United Nations.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

India has consistently upheld that full, timely, and unconditional payment of assessed contributions by Member States is the fundamental duty of

every member-state enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The efficient and effective delivery of organizational mandates decided by member-states goes hand in hand with the provision of adequate and timely resources to the Secretariat for the fulfillment of entrusted tasks. They are two sides of the same coin, and must be treated as such.

We are of course conscious and sensitive to the situation of those member-states that are not in a position to pay their assessed contributions due to circumstances beyond their control. We believe that sympathetic consideration is merited in such cases.

While we have noted the marginal drop in unpaid assessments as of October 2010 for the regular budget and the tribunals, the reality is that unpaid assessments continue to remain at unacceptably high levels. My delegation is particularly concerned about the ballooning of outstanding assessments for peacekeeping operations to US\$ 3.2 billion this year from US\$ 1.85 billion at the end of last year. As a major troop contributing country, which also has significant contingent-owned equipment deployed with UN peacekeeping operations, we have witnessed with growing concern the exacerbation of this problem over the years. The financial aggregates presented last week indicate the persistence of this negative trend.

While we realize that several variables affect the peacekeeping financial situation including the peacekeeping financial cycle and the varying assessment schedules, the fact remains that 34 per cent of the unpaid assessments are concentrated in just two member-states and another 41 per cent in seven member states, several of whom are permanent members of the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The delay in receipt of contributions from Member States has an adverse impact on the Secretariat's ability to regularly reimburse payments to troop and equipment contributors of peacekeeping operations. The situation arising from delayed payments, sometimes non-payment as in a few closed peacekeeping missions, of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment reimbursements, is untenable in the long run and must be addressed as a matter of priority.

We draw some encouragement from the fact that the debt owed to member states in peacekeeping is projected to decline to US\$ 430 million at the end of this year from US\$ 775 million last year. While this is a marked decline, it is still considerably high by any yardstick.

India is among those who are owed significant sums towards troop and COE reimbursements. Nevertheless, we have continued to support the United Nations, and are presently one of the largest troop and equipment contributors. India's contribution to UN peacekeeping is not a mercantilist venture. It is born out of our faith and conviction in the principle and purposes of the UN Charter.

However, we are accountable to our democratic processes at home and to our people and parliament. We have to explain to our national legislature why the UN is remiss in making payments, and how long this will continue. If the debt situation is left unaddressed, we may run the risk of diminishing legislative and parliamentary support for peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation notes with some satisfaction the improvement in the financial situation with respect to the regular budget and the International Tribunals. We welcome the decrease in unpaid assessed contributions by US\$ 43 million for the regular budget and by US\$ 13 million for the Tribunals.

We nevertheless remain concerned about the concentration of outstanding assessments in a few member-states which is a recurring issue in all budget categories. Notably, 88 per cent of the unpaid assessment in the regular budget is concentrated in one Member State. Similarly, 68 per cent of the outstanding assessments for the Tribunals are concentrated in one member-state. We hope that this situation would be addressed urgently by the concerned parties.

In concluding, we add our voice in urging all Member States, especially those with the requisite means, to take expeditious action to meet their financial obligations. This is critical from the perspective of ensuring a financially healthy and sound United Nations and one that has zero indebtedness. It is an integral part of our common quest for prudent budgetary and financial management.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



709. Statement by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Member of Parliament on Agenda Item 24 - 'Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues: [A] Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty [2008-2017] at the Second Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 21, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

With your permission, I am circulating the full text of my statement as I have to limit the spoken word.

We are two-thirds of the way down in time towards the Millennium Development Goals - but hardly two-thirds of the way down to the achievement of its goals.

In terms of the principal goal of the MDGs, which was the halving of the number of those earning less than \$1.25 a day, we should have gone over 15 years from 1.8 billion poor to well under a billion poor. It would appear, however, that the reduction over ten years has been of the order of under half a billion; so, we will have to achieve another half billion in the remaining time - five years or half the time that has already elapsed - for the MDG of 0.9 billion at 2000 population levels to be reached by 2015. In fact, the task is even more daunting because the global population has soared and so has the absolute number of those to be rescued from poverty if the number of poor is to be halved by 2015. This is the key challenge we have to address as we move into the last lap of our race towards the Millennium Development Goals. In other words, yes, of course, there has been progress but we need very much more progress for the MDGs to retain their credibility among the poor of our lands. We acknowledge that India has a special responsibility in this regard for we and our South Asian neighbours are home to the largest number of the poor in the world.

Thus far, and into the foreseeable future, our principal instrument of poverty alleviation has been and will remain the stepping up of the rate of growth of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In this, we in India have been singularly successful. Our annual GDP growth rate steadily rose to 9.4% in 2007 before the global economic crisis the following

year adversely impacted on our impressive growth rates. Yet, we weathered the crisis so well that we never fell much below 6%-7% and are now well on the way to returning to the 9% growth trajectory and are, indeed, confident that we will attain double-digit growth early in the coming decade and perhaps become the fastest growing economy in the world before the decade is out.

Yet, that is not a boast because we are deeply conscious that growth must be accompanied by the improved distribution of income and wealth, and the direct attack on poverty intensified, if growth is to include the people at large - and, in particular, the poor at large. Hence, the overarching objective of our Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012) has been the goal of "Inclusive Growth". We need, as the world needs, not only an India that prospers but also Indians who prosper. With this in view, we have initiated a series of major tax reforms that have substantially augmented Government revenues and deployed a substantial proportion of these enhanced revenues on social sector and anti-poverty programmes, complemented by special attention to the agriculture and allied activities sector which, in the accelerated growth scenario, have, in relative terms, been lagging behind. Our national goal is an annual average rate of growth of agriculture of at least 4%.

But [Therefore,] in addition to accelerated growth, we have also long recognised -the imperative of inclusive growth. We owe this awareness above all to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, who put before independent India the task of "wiping every tear from every eye" - in other words, not just accelerated growth but, more importantly, inclusive growth. Again, as the Mahatma foresaw, inclusive growth requires inclusive governance. The people cannot be left merely the beneficiaries of Governmental and international largesse. Their involvement in governing themselves, of being active participants in the processes of growth and governance is of the essence in enabling peoples and communities to spring the trap of poverty. The dream of an India where her people are empowered to develop themselves instead of waiting upon the charity and good will of others was given Constitutional sanctity, status, and sanction when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi initiated over two decades ago the steps that led in 1992 to Parliament amending the Constitution to provide for "institutions of local self-government" as the third tier of governance below

the Union and State Governments. If Abraham Lincoln had defined democracy as government of the people, for the people and by the people, our Constitution now aims at development of the people, for the people and by the people: grassroots development through grassroots democracy. In consequence, following several rounds of free and fair elections, supervised by independent State Election Commissions, we now have close to 300,000 institutions of local self-government to which we have elected some 3.2 million representatives. They include 1.2 million women, about 86,000 of whom serve as chairpersons or vice-chairpersons of their respective units. We are proud to inform this distinguished committee and, through you, Madam Chairperson, the entire international community, that there are perhaps more democratically elected women in India alone than in the rest of the world put together in units of local self-government at village, block and district level and in the municipalities and metropolitan corporations of urban India.

Of course, income poverty is only one dimension of poverty. Poverty is multi-dimensional, as the United Nations Development Programme has long recognised in its construction of the Human Development Index. The MDGs themselves, with their focus on not only income but also health, education, the removal of gender bias and several other aspects of the development process are evidence of the increasing sophistication and understanding of poverty in all its diverse dimensions on the part of the international community here represented.

So far, I have been talking mostly of India, the principle justification for which is that nearly half the world's poor live in my country. But we are more than conscious of poverty elsewhere, particularly in the Last Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing countries and most of Africa. These countries, badly affected by the global economic crisis for which they hardly responsible, bore the brunt of an estimated 60 million people, slipping back into poverty in 2009 alone, feared to be followed by an equal number this year, a major set back to the global war on poverty. We, therefore, welcome the decision to pay special attention to the development needs of these countries in the coming years. India will be an active and concerned participant in working out strategies to assist these countries to take their due place in the global economic sun. The restoration of economic normalcy in the developed

world is, of course, a key requirement for the world to attain the MDGs and, in particular, for these specially disadvantaged nations to move in tandem with growth in the world as a whole.

The coincidence in time between the target period for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty provide a significant conjunction for promoting an integrated and holistic approach to problems of poverty eradication, now threatened by the simultaneous onset of financial, food and energy crises. The High-Level MDG Review undertaken about a month ago provided the United Nations with an opportunity to address in the totality the measures at national and international level that need to be taken to face up to these crises and return the world economy to the path of universal, accelerated and inclusive growth. There is some cause for satisfaction in the outcome of that High-Level Review. But it falls to this Committee to work out in detail the direction and content of what next needs to be done. India declares its willingness to sincerely cooperate with others, and, indeed, where required, to take the lead itself in working for the greatest good of the largest number in terms of the provision of adequate food, education, shelter and health services, as well as other basic minimum human needs through the empowerment of the poor and the marginalised, and according priority to the political, economic, social, cultural and administrative empowerment of half our population, women who have so long been deprived in all our societies of the opportunity to contribute in full measure to nation-building and poverty eradication in all that diverse dimension.

I mentioned a moment ago that we in the developing world are the hardly responsible for the global economic crisis but large parts of the world have become the principal if unwitting victims of the crisis. This only underlines the extent to which global governance issues are central to globalisation as vehicle of global prosperity. In this context, it is imperative that we look to the framework and institutions of international economic cooperation to see what needs to be done at the international level to pave the way towards the smoother and more rapid achievement of the MDGS.

These institutional measures would include the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions; an ambitious and comprehensive outcome of the Climate Change negotiations; and a development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round on the multilateral trading system. These would put in place an improved international architecture that provides enhanced policy space to developing countries to pursue their development goals, including, above all, the eradication of poverty.

For decades now the undertaking made by developed countries of meeting the ODA target of 0.7% of Gross National Income has remained a paper commitment, with the honourable exception of some countries. With international cooperation having been inscribed as one of the MDGs, it is imperative that ODA targets be fulfilled at the earliest so that the lack of financial resources for development, especially in specially disadvantaged and least developed countries, be overcome. Equally imperative is the need to undertake the transfer of technology and capacity building in developing countries generally, but least developed and other disadvantaged countries in particular.

We are happy that today India's development partnership with countries in the South goes beyond technical cooperation. Our annual outlay on concessional lending and grants is over US\$ 1 billion, covering countries in our region, in Africa and beyond. In addition, we have extended lines of credit worth more than US\$ 5 billion since 2003 to spur growth in developing countries.

We are committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation, both on the development side as well as in support of humanitarian needs.

The quantum leap in South-South Cooperation has significantly complemented global resources targeted at development agenda, but cannot be a substitute for North-South cooperation.

Thank you.



710. Statement by Bajju Ban Riyan, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 81 - Consideration of Prevention of Transboundary Harm From Hazardous Activities and Allocation of loss in the case of such harm at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 21, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

On the recommendation of the General Assembly in 1973, the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law" was included in the programme of work of the International Law Commission in 1978.

In 2001 the Commission completed the draft articles on prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and recommended to the General Assembly the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles.

In 2006, the Commission completed draft principles on the allocation of loss in the case of transboundary harm arising out of hazardous activities and recommended the Assembly to endorse the draft principles by a resolution and urge States to take national and international action to implement them.

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly by resolution 62/68 again invited Governments to submit their comments, including on the possible legal form the respective articles and principles may take.

The General Assembly also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm".

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation would like to give some comments on the draft articles on the prevention of transboundary harm as well as on the draft principles on the allocation of loss in the case of such harm. Let me first express our

sincere appreciation for the work done by the Commission on the draft articles as well as the draft principles which represent progressive development of international law.

In our view, the draft articles on the prevention of transboundary harm provide useful addition to the existing customary law reflected in the Trail Smelter, Corfu Channel and Lake Lanoux cases dealing with the principle of transboundary harm and the ensuing damage from hazardous activities. In our view, the draft articles on prevention are dealt with in a general manner, providing enough flexibility to States to fashion specific liability regimes for particular sectors of activity under their jurisdiction.

Madam Chairperson,

Coming to the draft principles, while we agree with the basic purpose of the draft principles, we have concerns on an expanded definition of "damage" which includes: loss of life or personal injury, loss of or damage to property; loss or damage by impairment of the environment; costs of reasonable measures of reinstatement of the property; and costs of reasonable response measures.

A traditional civil liability regime as the one in our country provides for a definition of damage that includes loss of life, property and loss caused on account of "actual damage" to the environment. We believe that cost of response measures or reinstatement of the environment on account of "impairment of the environment" will come as a stumbling block in our developmental efforts.

In our view these principles should be complementary in nature and not prejudice the regime on state responsibility under international law.

Madam Chairperson,

We support the fundamental premise of the topic that in all situations involving harm arising out of hazardous activities, the primary liability shall be that of the operator. We also believe that operator should establish and maintain financial security and insurance cover to be able to pay for compensation for harm caused to innocent victims. Besides mandatory financial security, supplementary funding mechanisms may be established by the participation of the industry and other stakeholders.

As regards "response measures", we recognise that obligations to notify as well as consultation to mitigate the effects of transboundary harm are recognised in a number of international instruments governing hazardous activities. It may, however, be noted that competent authorities of a State shall have the power under domestic laws to require response measures from the operator towards mitigation/ elimination of the damage. Any residual response measure from the State should be supplementary to the operator's liability, based on the capacity of the States to undertake such measures.

Madam Chairperson,

We believe that the draft articles on the prevention of transboundary harm and the draft principles on the allocation of loss in the case of such harm will serve as a useful guide to States in making efforts to adopt legislative, regulatory and administrative measures incorporating relevant principles in their domestic laws and policies.

As to the form of a possible legal regime on the draft articles on prevention and draft principles on allocation of loss, we are of the view that any attempt to codify them in the form of a convention would prove counter-productive. It may not add value to the already achieved progressive development of international law in this field by the ILC. The State practice shows that States prefer sectoral environmental treaties with in-built liability regimes.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.



711. Statement by Mr. Janardan Dwivedi, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 79 - Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Sixty Second Session [Part - 1, Chap I-IIIIV and XIII] at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 26, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor. As I am speaking in this Committee for the first time, let me first congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election. I assure you of full cooperation of my delegation.

Let me join others in offering condolences on the untimely death of Paula Escarameia. She was an active participant in the work of the International Law Commission and made significant contribution to its work. She will be fondly remembered by her colleagues in the Commission as well as in the Sixth Committee as a voice for the integrity of international law and proponent of its core values, particularly as regards human rights and the role of civil society.

We also express our deep sorrow on the passing away of Professor Ian Brownlie, former member of the International Law Commission, in a tragic accident at the beginning of this year. Sir Ian Brownlie made a significant contribution to international law and to the work of the Commission, especially as a Special Rapporteur on the topic of 'effect of armed conflict on treaties'. His untimely death is a great loss to international law.

Madam Chairperson,

I thank the Chairman of the International Law Commission for his lucid and comprehensive presentation of the report on the work of the Commission at its 62nd Session and especially on the detailed discourse on the guidelines. The Commission, at its last session, has made considerable progress in the work of various matters on its agenda, including the identification of possible new topics. We also welcome the new member who has joined the Commission this year, Mr. Huikang Huang of China.

Madam Chairperson,

The rule of law constitutes the essence of the Commission's work. India attaches high importance to the debates and exchange of views between the Commission and Member States in the Sixth Committee and considers that these debates are important tools not only for the progressive development of international law but also for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

The Commission has a symbiotic relationship with the International Court of Justice, the highest judicial organ of the United Nations. Time and again, the Court has relied on treaties as binding instruments in themselves and other documents prepared by the Commission as evidence of customary international law. Conversely, the Commission has formulated draft articles on many subjects taking into account the jurisprudence developed through Court's decisions. While the General Assembly has recognized the importance of the draft articles adopted by the Commission on different subjects, such rules have been relied on by national and international courts and tribunals in their work.

Madam Chairperson,

Coming to the topic of reservation to treaties, my delegation would like to congratulate Special Rapporteur Mr. Alain Pellet for his hard work that has led the Commission to provisionally adopt the complete set of draft guidelines with commentaries, constituting the Guide to Practice on Reservation to Treaties. We find his explanation to the guidelines immensely useful. The Draft Guidelines will serve as a comprehensive manual and would provide guidance to States and legal advisers on this subject.

The Commission intends to adopt the final version of the Guide to Practice during its sixty-third session in 2011 taking into consideration the observations of States and international organizations. India will be submitting comments on the guidelines separately as requested by the Commission. However, I would like to make very preliminary comments at this stage on reservations to treaties.

Madam Chairperson,

It may be recalled that quite early in its work on reservation, there was consensus in the Commission that there should be no change in the relevant

provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and that the Guidelines would only serve to elaborate and elucidate those rules. However in dealing with the issue of impermissible reservations the proposed guidelines appear to have gone beyond the provisions of the Vienna Convention, particularly in paragraph 4.5.2 which provides a new concept of a general presumption in the case of an impermissible reservation. In such a case, under the proposed guideline, the reserving State becomes a party to the treaty without the benefit of the reservation made by it unless it clearly indicates that under these circumstances it does not wish to be bound by the treaty in question. We have serious concerns about this concept as it may bring uncertainty to international treaty relations.

On the question of succession to treaties, we note that the guidelines generally follow the 1978 Vienna Convention.

We appreciate the decision to make the edited summary records of the Commission's proceedings (incorporating the corrections of members of the Commission, and editorial changes by the Yearbook editors and in the form prior to typesetting and publication) up to 2004, available on a pilot basis, on the Commission's website. Considering the delay in the publication of the Summary Records, this will be of great assistance to member States and others in following the Commission's work. Further, priority should be accorded to expedite preparation of the summary records of the Commission.

Madam Chairperson,

We also support the Commission's views concerning the question of honoraria, resulting from the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002. The decision to discontinue the honoraria especially affects Special Rapporteurs from developing countries, as it compromises support for their research work. The Special Rapporteurs should also be given the opportunity to participate in the Meetings of the Sixth Committee and interact with delegations during the consideration of their topics. This would give them the opportunity to acquire a more comprehensive view of existing positions, to take note of observations made and to begin preparing their reports at an earlier stage.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**712. Statement by Dr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament,
Debate on Peacekeeping at the Fourth Committee of
the UNGA.**

New York, October 26, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure for me, as a former UN peace-keeping official for more than seven years, to address this Committee today on behalf of India.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to align itself broadly with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and at the outset recognize and applaud the dedication and sacrifices of UN Peacekeepers, both military and civilian.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping is a flagship activity of the UN and its budget comfortably exceeds the regular budget of the Organization. During the past decade, the Security Council has organized at least four debates, under four different Presidencies, on peacekeeping and on related thematic issues. This has underscored the huge importance of the role that peacekeeping plays in the UN's efforts toward ensuring peace and security in the world.

As a country that has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every United Nations peacekeeping operation in the past six decades, we in India are conscious that much has changed since the first peacekeeping mission was launched in 1956. The geopolitical environment in which peacekeeping is conducted today could not be more different from those days. Global capacities, be they economic, political or military, are also distributed in a significantly different pattern. The conflicts that our Peacekeeping Missions address today deal predominantly with intra-state issues rather than the classic role of interposing troops between warring states. The peacekeeping agenda has rightfully acquired new dimensions in the civilian, policing and civic domains. The UN's initiatives on peacebuilding have also

necessitated a relook into the entire enterprise of peacekeeping. The increasing talk today of partnership and capabilities reflects these changes that have occurred and the need for these changes to be accommodated in the global division of labour in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

At present, member states are supposed to get their say in peacekeeping through the Fourth and Fifth Committees. Troop Contributing Countries, in addition, are formally consulted through the triangular meetings convened by the Security Council. The productive deliberations of the last C-34 notwithstanding, my delegation firmly believes in the need for more meaningful consultations with the C-34 and troop contributors in peacekeeping matters. My delegation acknowledges that improvements have been made in the timing of the triangular meetings. We have suggested a number of simple changes to make these meetings more useful and relevant. Predictability in terms of timing and the advance circulation of agendas are two of these measures. The system of consultations must also be extended to cover all stages of the mission cycle.

A perennial issue that has persisted is the need for the mandate and the mission to be better aligned. The drafting and adoption of a credible mission mandate should logically be the starting point of an operation, as noted in the Brahimi Report. So many times in the past, the mandates have been hurried and unrealistic, with overly ambitious timeframes. Too often, as we all know, the financial, human, equipment or logistical resources committed have not been commensurate with the declared objectives. The resultant mismatch risks lives and jeopardizes the prospects for an operation's success.

As a peacekeeping operation gathers momentum, it requires more resources, not less. The military component will have to be supplemented, and not supplanted, by police and other institutions to promote the rule of law and a capacity for development administration, by which we mean the ability to respond to the genuine aspirations of the people beyond the mere maintenance of law and order.

Mr. Chairman, it is pertinent to note that UN operations are essentially in aid of national authorities and national capacities. National authorities usually have a good idea of what they require. The Council and the Secretariat must not just listen more to governments but also listen carefully. My delegation believes that there is no substitute for national capacities. Where there has been a serious breakdown, as is often the case in conflict situations, the UN can help create the conditions where these capacities can be exercised. We believe that support to the national authorities in Security Sector Reform and in the field of primary inputs for socio-economic development is significant for a Mission's success. Security Sector Reform, in particular, needs far greater coordination, cohesiveness and unity of purpose. The training, equipment and working methods of national police and other rule of law institutions must be structured in a manner that is consonant with the wishes of national authorities and not the priorities of donors. In the case of economic development, national authorities, as the experience of the Peacebuilding Commission indicates, are capable of developing strategies and plans. What they need is resources and social investment.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping, which is the main contribution of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security, has a substantial budget by UN standards, but it amounts to less than 0.5% of worldwide military expenditure. The DRC Mission, with about 18,000 peacekeepers, in effect provides one peacekeeper per 100 square kilometers for a country roughly of the size of Western Europe in inhospitable and difficult terrain. These numbers indicate the daunting tasks we have set ourselves to achieve. It is evident, Mr. Chairman, that in relation to the needs, the resources available for peacekeeping are utterly inadequate. An increase in the number of high-quality well-trained troops is the first requirement. Such troops would also require proper equipment and enablers. We would like to see an increase in the deployment of police and rule of law capacities. The current composition of DPKO does not provide the capacity to plan for the nation-building activities that are central to peacebuilding. This capacity requires to be developed and will require a multi-disciplinary approach involving the development pillars of the UN and greater cooperation with countries in the global south.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, DPKO, which -- despite recent changes -- is still an organization driven mainly by the logic of its military operations, will have to transform itself further in the face of these challenges. It will need more policemen and more rule of law and development administration personnel in future. Member states will need to focus on the division of responsibilities between DPKO and UN Country Teams in order to prevent duplication and waste in the efforts of both to create conditions that will prevent a recurrence of conflict.

My delegation believes that the UN's troop-contributor base needs to be expanded further. Enhanced efforts must be made to encourage more countries to engage with UN peacekeeping efforts as troop and police contributors.

We need to recognize there are no short-cuts to peacekeeping. We are not dealing with classical belligerents who are looking for quick victory. We are dealing with forces that have a stake in continuing instability. We are combating elements that flourish in the absence of the rule of law and in the presence of violence and intimidation. We cannot overcome these forces unless we are committed for the long haul. The transition and exit strategies need to be approached accordingly.

Peacekeeping, in our assessment, will remain the major UN activity for the next few years. It will need more partners, not less; more capabilities, not less. The tendency in some quarters, in the name of expediency, to avoid intergovernmental discussions on the subject, is counter-productive. There is no shortage of capacities in today's world. The challenge that the United Nations faces is in its efforts to harness these capacities. My delegation submits that greater involvement of member states, not less, is the best way of obtaining these capacities for the common benefit of all.

Mr. Chairman,

It is very difficult to use objective parameters to determine an exit point from complex peacekeeping operations. A peacekeeping operation will have succeeded if there is durable peace. Durable peace can only follow from a successful peace agreement. The conditions that can lead to a successful peace agreement are also difficult, if not impossible, to define. Peace processes and political settlements cannot be subjected to budgetary

discipline and evaluation by administrators. The creation of peace, as we are all learning in many different parts of the world, is not a business process. It is a complicated political undertaking with many imponderables. The Security Council is not bound by benchmarks on when and where it decides to intervene. Each decision is unique and subjective judgments are involved. Similar subjective judgments will be involved on when an operation can be wound up.

Mr. Chairman,

Two-thirds of UN peacekeeping resources are presently devoted to operations that are at least five years old. The international community must find the capabilities that are required to ensure that the gains that have been painfully accrued by peacekeepers in these mature operations are not squandered while facing the challenges of an altered operating environment.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not mutually exclusive enterprises. It is our understanding that both need to continue simultaneously over extended periods of time. Precipitate withdrawal of peacekeepers is a recipe for disaster and is a temptation best avoided. Too many conflicts have resumed after the peacekeepers have departed.

My delegation would like to stress that peacebuilding is a far more complicated endeavour than peacekeeping. The number of stakeholders is higher. The requirement for resources is also higher. It requires much greater coordination and joint activity with national authorities that are currently the norm. National needs, not priorities driven by external and donor interests, should be the yardstick used to approach peacebuilding.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretariat has been reaching out to Member States through projects such as the New Horizon Report and in relation to the development of operational concepts in the areas of Protection of Civilians and Robust Peacekeeping. Draft operational concepts have been circulated. My delegation has continued being engaged in this process. We would, however, like to strike a note of caution. The work that is currently being undertaken has serious implications for international law and issues of

state sovereignty. A key issue in this context is the distinction between the actions of the Council under Chapters VI and VII of the Charter. In this regard, the temptation to augment the theory and practice of intervention as a convenient short-cut must be firmly avoided. On protection of civilians, we must remember that this is a primary responsibility of the host country.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to raise a different aspect of the issue of accountability. Should there not be an accountability requirement for those who craft the mandates? Surely, their responsibility cannot end with the generation of mandates. If unachievable mandates are generated for political expediency or if adequate resources are not made available, who should bear the responsibility? A deficit in the willingness and ability to enforce mandates is leading to an erosion in the UN's credibility.

80% of UN peacekeeping resources are devoted to areas with a legacy of colonialism. The problems that they face are not unique and have been confronted in many nations in Asia and Africa. It stands to reason that successful post-colonial nation building experience is relevant in planning and administering peacekeeping missions. Peacebuilding initiatives must also take into account the experience and insights of countries that have undergone successful post-colonial nation building exercises. Failure to do so could lead to sub-optimal results.

Mr. Chairman,

A debate on peacekeeping must also address the normative and legislative aspects. Indian troops have been at the forefront in protecting civilians on the ground. India has engaged constructively in the legislative debate on human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Charter, with good reasons, distinguishes between the actions of the Council under Chapter VI and VII. Even as we look forward to entering the Security Council next January, we believe in the important role that the General Assembly also plays in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

India firmly believes in women's role in conflict resolution and the attainment of peace. My delegation welcomes, in this regard, the initiative to enhance the role of women peacekeepers. India had deployed the first all women

fully formed police unit in Liberia in 2007. I had the privilege of visiting these policewomen in Liberia and hearing first-hand from that nation's President what an impact they had made - not least in inspiring many Liberian women to join their own country's police forces. We are happy to have been able to make this contribution and to reaffirm that the presence of women peacekeepers has effected a qualitative, if unquantifiable, value addition to the field missions in which they are deployed. Their effectiveness is testimony to the power of example in empowering the weak and the vulnerable. For this reason we would encourage DPKO to integrate the gender dimension in all its Peacekeeping Missions.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that we are in favour of a policy of zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Public support for peacekeeping is indispensable in all troop contributing countries. For this reason, as I mentioned to the Fourth Committee last week in the debate on Public Information, we would like to see DPI, DPKO and DFS working closely in highlighting 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 call of duty and the routine keeping of the peace. Many developing countries send their soldiers out to the frontlines of peace-keeping operations in distant countries and remote regions to which their own media may not be able to manage or afford access. DPKO, DFS and DPI could perform a signal service by facilitating, at UN expense, itinerant journalist seminars to such operations that would bring to the attention of the world, and particularly of the populations of troop contributing countries, stories of the goodwill, commitment and extraordinary courage of the men and women who represent the human face of UN peacekeeping. This would be most helpful in maintain the public and parliamentary support for peacekeeping that is vital to the continuation of this indispensable UN activity.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I also wish to salute all those peacekeepers, including many from my country, who have made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions, most recently in Haiti. I had the painful privilege of visiting the rubble of the destroyed UN building in Port-au-Prince shortly after the earthquake there and paying my country's tribute to the memory of the many former colleagues who had perished in that tragedy. India is no stranger to the tragic experience of bereavement in the pursuit of peace, and we remember the departed with respect and gratitude.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you and the Secretary-General of India's full support in your efforts to make UN peacekeeping more effective than ever.

Thank you.



713. Statement by Dr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, Debate on Peacekeeping at the Fourth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 26, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure for me, as a former UN peace-keeping official for more than seven years, to address this Committee today on behalf of India.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to align itself broadly with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and at the outset recognize and applaud the dedication and sacrifices of UN Peacekeepers, both military and civilian.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping is a flagship activity of the UN and its budget comfortably exceeds the regular budget of the Organization. During the past decade,

the Security Council has organized at least four debates, under four different Presidencies, on peacekeeping and on related thematic issues. This has underscored the huge importance of the role that peacekeeping plays in the UN's efforts toward ensuring peace and security in the world.

As a country that has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every United Nations peacekeeping operation in the past six decades, we in India are conscious that much has changed since the first peacekeeping mission was launched in 1956. The geopolitical environment in which peacekeeping is conducted today could not be more different from those days. Global capacities, be they economic, political or military, are also distributed in a significantly different pattern. The conflicts that our Peacekeeping Missions address today deal predominantly with intra-state issues rather than the classic role of interposing troops between warring states. The peacekeeping agenda has rightfully acquired new dimensions in the civilian, policing and civic domains. The UN's initiatives on peacebuilding have also necessitated a relook into the entire enterprise of peacekeeping. The increasing talk today of partnership and capabilities reflects these changes that have occurred and the need for these changes to be accommodated in the global division of labour in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

At present, member states are supposed to get their say in peacekeeping through the Fourth and Fifth Committees. Troop Contributing Countries, in addition, are formally consulted through the triangular meetings convened by the Security Council. The productive deliberations of the last C-34 notwithstanding, my delegation firmly believes in the need for more meaningful consultations with the C-34 and troop contributors in peacekeeping matters. My delegation acknowledges that improvements have been made in the timing of the triangular meetings. We have suggested a number of simple changes to make these meetings more useful and relevant. Predictability in terms of timing and the advance circulation of agendas are two of these measures. The system of consultations must also be extended to cover all stages of the mission cycle.

A perennial issue that has persisted is the need for the mandate and the mission to be better aligned. The drafting and adoption of a credible mission mandate should logically be the starting point of an operation, as noted in the Brahimi Report. So many times in the past, the mandates have been hurried and unrealistic, with overly ambitious timeframes. Too often, as we all know, the financial, human, equipment or logistical resources committed have not been commensurate with the declared objectives. The resultant mismatch risks lives and jeopardizes the prospects for an operation's success.

As a peacekeeping operation gathers momentum, it requires more resources, not less. The military component will have to be supplemented, and not supplanted, by police and other institutions to promote the rule of law and a capacity for development administration, by which we mean the ability to respond to the genuine aspirations of the people beyond the mere maintenance of law and order.

Mr. Chairman, it is pertinent to note that UN operations are essentially in aid of national authorities and national capacities. National authorities usually have a good idea of what they require. The Council and the Secretariat must not just listen more to governments but also listen carefully. My delegation believes that there is no substitute for national capacities. Where there has been a serious breakdown, as is often the case in conflict situations, the UN can help create the conditions where these capacities can be exercised. We believe that support to the national authorities in Security Sector Reform and in the field of primary inputs for socio-economic development is significant for a Mission's success. Security Sector Reform, in particular, needs far greater coordination, cohesiveness and unity of purpose. The training, equipment and working methods of national police and other rule of law institutions must be structured in a manner that is consonant with the wishes of national authorities and not the priorities of donors. In the case of economic development, national authorities, as the experience of the Peacebuilding Commission indicates, are capable of developing strategies and plans. What they need is resources and social investment.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping, which is the main contribution of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security, has a substantial budget

by UN standards, but it amounts to less than 0.5% of worldwide military expenditure. The DRC Mission, with about 18,000 peacekeepers, in effect provides one peacekeeper per 100 square kilometers for a country roughly of the size of Western Europe in inhospitable and difficult terrain. These numbers indicate the daunting tasks we have set ourselves to achieve. It is evident, Mr. Chairman, that in relation to the needs, the resources available for peacekeeping are utterly inadequate. An increase in the number of high-quality well-trained troops is the first requirement. Such troops would also require proper equipment and enablers. We would like to see an increase in the deployment of police and rule of law capacities. The current composition of DPKO does not provide the capacity to plan for the nation-building activities that are central to peacebuilding. This capacity requires to be developed and will require a multi-disciplinary approach involving the development pillars of the UN and greater cooperation with countries in the global south.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, DPKO, which -- despite recent changes -- is still an organization driven mainly by the logic of its military operations, will have to transform itself further in the face of these challenges. It will need more policemen and more rule of law and development administration personnel in future. Member states will need to focus on the division of responsibilities between DPKO and UN Country Teams in order to prevent duplication and waste in the efforts of both to create conditions that will prevent a recurrence of conflict.

My delegation believes that the UN's troop-contributor base needs to be expanded further. Enhanced efforts must be made to encourage more countries to engage with UN peacekeeping efforts as troop and police contributors.

We need to recognize there are no short-cuts to peacekeeping. We are not dealing with classical belligerents who are looking for quick victory. We are dealing with forces that have a stake in continuing instability. We are combating elements that flourish in the absence of the rule of law and in the presence of violence and intimidation. We cannot overcome these forces unless we are committed for the long haul. The transition and exit strategies need to be approached accordingly.

Peacekeeping, in our assessment, will remain the major UN activity for the next few years. It will need more partners, not less; more capabilities, not less. The tendency in some quarters, in the name of expediency, to avoid intergovernmental discussions on the subject, is counter-productive. There is no shortage of capacities in today's world. The challenge that the United Nations faces is in its efforts to harness these capacities. My delegation submits that greater involvement of member states, not less, is the best way of obtaining these capacities for the common benefit of all.

Mr. Chairman,

It is very difficult to use objective parameters to determine an exit point from complex peacekeeping operations. A peacekeeping operation will have succeeded if there is durable peace. Durable peace can only follow from a successful peace agreement. The conditions that can lead to a successful peace agreement are also difficult, if not impossible, to define. Peace processes and political settlements cannot be subjected to budgetary discipline and evaluation by administrators. The creation of peace, as we are all learning in many different parts of the world, is not a business process. It is a complicated political undertaking with many imponderables. The Security Council is not bound by benchmarks on when and where it decides to intervene. Each decision is unique and subjective judgments are involved. Similar subjective judgments will be involved on when an operation can be wound up.

Mr. Chairman,

Two-thirds of UN peacekeeping resources are presently devoted to operations that are at least five years old. The international community must find the capabilities that are required to ensure that the gains that have been painfully accrued by peacekeepers in these mature operations are not squandered while facing the challenges of an altered operating environment.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not mutually exclusive enterprises. It is our understanding that both need to continue simultaneously over extended periods of time. Precipitate withdrawal of peacekeepers is a recipe for disaster and is a temptation best avoided. Too many conflicts have resumed after the peacekeepers have departed.

My delegation would like to stress that peacebuilding is a far more complicated endeavour than peacekeeping. The number of stakeholders is higher. The requirement for resources is also higher. It requires much greater coordination and joint activity with national authorities that are currently the norm. National needs, not priorities driven by external and donor interests, should be the yardstick used to approach peacebuilding.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretariat has been reaching out to Member States through projects such as the New Horizon Report and in relation to the development of operational concepts in the areas of Protection of Civilians and Robust Peacekeeping. Draft operational concepts have been circulated. My delegation has continued being engaged in this process. We would, however, like to strike a note of caution. The work that is currently being undertaken has serious implications for international law and issues of state sovereignty. A key issue in this context is the distinction between the actions of the Council under Chapters VI and VII of the Charter. In this regard, the temptation to augment the theory and practice of intervention as a convenient short-cut must be firmly avoided. On protection of civilians, we must remember that this is a primary responsibility of the host country.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to raise a different aspect of the issue of accountability. Should there not be an accountability requirement for those who craft the mandates? Surely, their responsibility cannot end with the generation of mandates. If unachievable mandates are generated for political expediency or if adequate resources are not made available, who should bear the responsibility? A deficit in the willingness and ability to enforce mandates is leading to an erosion in the UN's credibility.

80% of UN peacekeeping resources are devoted to areas with a legacy of colonialism. The problems that they face are not unique and have been confronted in many nations in Asia and Africa. It stands to reason that successful post-colonial nation building experience is relevant in planning and administering peacekeeping missions. Peacebuilding initiatives must also take into account the experience and insights of countries that have undergone successful post-colonial nation building exercises. Failure to do so could lead to sub-optimal results.

Mr. Chairman,

A debate on peacekeeping must also address the normative and legislative aspects. Indian troops have been at the forefront in protecting civilians on the ground. India has engaged constructively in the legislative debate on human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Charter, with good reasons, distinguishes between the actions of the Council under Chapter VI and VII. Even as we look forward to entering the Security Council next January, we believe in the important role that the General Assembly also plays in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

India firmly believes in women's role in conflict resolution and the attainment of peace. My delegation welcomes, in this regard, the initiative to enhance the role of women peacekeepers. India had deployed the first all women fully formed police unit in Liberia in 2007. I had the privilege of visiting these policewomen in Liberia and hearing first-hand from that nation's President what an impact they had made - not least in inspiring many Liberian women to join their own country's police forces. We are happy to have been able to make this contribution and to reaffirm that the presence of women peacekeepers has effected a qualitative, if unquantifiable, value addition to the field missions in which they are deployed. Their effectiveness is testimony to the power of example in empowering the weak and the vulnerable. For this reason we would encourage DPKO to integrate the gender dimension in all its Peacekeeping Missions.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that we are in favour of a policy of zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Public support for peacekeeping is indispensable in all troop contributing countries. For this reason, as I mentioned to the Fourth Committee last week in the debate on Public Information, we would like to see DPI, DPKO and DFS working closely in highlighting 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 call of duty and the routine keeping of the peace. Many developing countries send their soldiers out to the frontlines of peace-keeping operations in distant countries and remote regions to which their own media may not be able to manage or afford access. DPKO, DFS and DPI could perform a signal service by facilitating, at UN expense, itinerant journalist seminars to such operations that would bring to the attention of the world, and particularly of the populations of troop contributing countries, stories of the goodwill, commitment and extraordinary courage of the men and women who represent the human face of UN peacekeeping. This would be most helpful in maintain the public and parliamentary support for peacekeeping that is vital to the continuation of this indispensable UN activity.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I also wish to salute all those peacekeepers, including many from my country, who have made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions, most recently in Haiti. I had the painful privilege of visiting the rubble of the destroyed UN building in Port-au-Prince shortly after the earthquake there and paying my country's tribute to the memory of the many former colleagues who had perished in that tragedy. India is no stranger to the tragic experience of bereavement in the pursuit of peace, and we remember the departed with respect and gratitude.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you and the Secretary-General of India's full support in your efforts to make UN peacekeeping more effective than ever.

Thank you.



714. Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 41-"Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Against Cuba", at the UNGA.

New York, October 26, 2010.

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf G-77 and also the statement made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of NAM. My delegation would like to thank the Secretary General for the comprehensive report on the agenda item under consideration today.

Mr. President,

This is the nineteenth year in succession that this Assembly is deliberating the almost five decade old economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on 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 the 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 the sovereignty of other States and affect the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Despite the repeated calls of the General Assembly, its resolutions remain unimplemented in contravention of world opinion. Such callous disregard of the will of the United Nations undermines the credibility of this august house and weakens multilateralism. More importantly, meanwhile, the Cuban people continue to face the hardships induced by the embargo in their daily lives.

The embargo and its extra-territorial aspects continue to remain in full force. In particular, domestic US laws like the Cuba Democracy Act of

1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 have enhanced the extra-territorial reach of the embargo, encompassing foreign companies as well as foreign subsidiaries of US companies doing business with Cuba or Cuban entities.

Mr. President,

The embargo, particularly through its extraterritorial effects, is adversely affecting the lives of the Cuban people and their efforts for the socio-economic development in their country. 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, in the last five decades 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.

Health care, one of the MDG commitments, is particularly affected due to denial of critical medical equipment, medicines, technologies and diagnostic aids to Cuban hospitals. Cuba's efforts to provide health assistance to fellow developing countries as part of South-South cooperation has also borne the brunt of the embargo, making this yet another unexpected negative extra-territorial impact of the embargo.

In the report of the Secretary General, various UN entities have detailed the impact of the embargo and its extra-territorial effects. 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. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has stated that the embargo considerably affects the standard of living of Cuban citizens and may threaten Cuba's food security in the future. The UNDP has noted that the effects of the embargo can be observed in all spheres of Cuba's social and economic activities including the lives of the most vulnerable.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development states that the impact of the extraterritorial application is considerable owing to the significant US interests in transnational corporations.

In recent years, the financial, food and energy crises have made the impact of embargo even more acute.

Mr. President,

Geography has tied Cuba and the United States of America to maintain normal relations in trade and investment. Despite the embargo, the US continues to be a major source of food imports for Cuba, insofar as permitted by the US Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. This only confirms the high potential for trade, commerce and investment between these countries.

People to people contact between the two countries remain severely curtailed. Lifting of US travel restrictions on Cuba would bring immense benefits to the Cuban tourism economy and to its people.

Congressional efforts in the United States to relax or lift the embargo and the substantial interest in the business sector for unhindered access to the Cuban market lend further credence to the UN annual resolutions calling for lifting of the US embargo against Cuba.

Before concluding, Mr. President, permit me to reiterate India's opposition to unilateral measures by countries, which impinge on the sovereignty of another country, including attempts to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

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.



715. Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 17 - 'Information Communication Technologies for Development' in the Second Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 26, 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

The impact of Information and Communication Technologies on development is a subject of high importance. It is indeed fitting that you have accorded priority to this issue in the deliberations of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of G-77.

Mr. Chairperson,

Information and Communication Technologies have truly revolutionized the way we live. The transformative power of the internet and its ability to process, store and manage flow of information, data and knowledge has created a new world of cyber space. The possibilities of cyber activity are limitless. Its fast changing character and evolution based on ingenious innovation and invention are a tribute to the creative potential of human mind.

Information and Communication Technologies have made the world a global village. Distances, barriers and boundaries have become meaningless. It has altered the way we conduct business, undertake scientific research, manage our weather forecasting systems, decide on cropping pattern in our agricultural fields, control and command our space ships and communicate with people across continents.

The mobile phone, the personal computer and the internet have become the key enabling tools for development. Developing countries must, therefore, harness and be assisted in harnessing the benefits of Information and Communication technologies (ICT).

ICT has altered the way Governments manage their socio-economic programmes and outreach. E-Governance has helped countries

revitalize public administration, overhaul public management, foster inclusive leadership and move civil service towards higher efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Mr. Chairperson,

Enhancing the penetration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in developing countries is also one of the targets under Millennium Development Goal 8 as part of the global partnership for development.

It is significant that global mobile penetration is now over 60%, with some developing countries already having achieved 100% mobile penetration. This demonstrates the possibility of developing countries leapfrogging the cycle of technology development.

The mobile penetration in developing countries has enabled governments to bring benefits of financial inclusion through phone banking to the remotest corners of the country. Efficient ICT systems are being increasingly used for providing education, medical services, environment management, electricity transmission, maintaining land records, running community programmes, providing weather information, transport services, among host of other activities.

We are happy that India is one of the success stories of mobile telephone penetration, and that our model is being used as an example in some other developing countries. Our proactive public policies in this sector have served to reduce monopolies, encourage open competition, and promote development of the domestic industry. As a result, mobile telephony costs in India are among the lowest in the world.

While ICT has brought immense benefits to development worldwide, it has some attendant challenges that we must collectively overcome. Cyber attacks pose a grave threat to the security of the ICT systems. The international community must work closely to confront the transnational nature of cyber threats.

The report of the Secretary-General has correctly noted the large disparities in terms of penetration and affordability, particularly in the area of broadband connectivity. Greater efforts are required, particularly by the international community, to bridge the digital divide.

We thank the Secretary-General for the report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and call on the international community to provide greater financial and technical support for its full implementation.

Mr. Chairperson,

I am happy to share that India has been active in using Information and Communication technologies for development. The Information Technology industry has been a major contributor to our economic growth in recent years.

India is also using Information and Communication technologies to implement an ambitious National e-Governance Plan. This involves the creation of physical infrastructure, setting up appropriate institutional mechanisms, development of policies and standards as well as adopting the necessary legal framework. Various public service areas like road transport, land records, taxes, agriculture, treasury, education, passport, postal service and identification documents are under the ambit of this Plan.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the global recession, the Indian Information Technology sector has been resilient, and remains one of the fastest growing sectors of the Indian industry.

India has been privileged to share its ICT expertise with fellow developing countries. A good example is the pan-African e-network project to support tele-education, tele-medicine, e-governance, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological services across the continent using fibre optics and a dedicated satellite.

We have also been assisting in capacity building efforts in developing countries, both in our neighbourhood and beyond.

Thank You, Mr. Chairperson.



716. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Open Debate on the 10th Anniversary of Adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 at the UN Security Council.

New York, October 26, 2010.

Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to place on record India's appreciation to you and your delegation for organizing today's open debate which marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mr. President

I am proud to belong to a country with a five thousand year old civilization that regards gender equality and the empowerment of women as its constitutive principles.

I am equally proud to be a Sikh, a religion which at the time of its founding, in the latter half of the fifteenth century, deemed it fit to incorporate gender equality and independence for women as among its essential attributes. The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, said in 1499 that "[it] is a woman who keeps the race going" and that we should not "consider woman cursed and condemned, [when] from woman are born leaders and rulers."

In Sikhism, women are considered to have the same souls as men and an equal right to grow spiritually. They are allowed to lead religious congregations, take part in the *Akhand Path* (the continuous recitation of the Holy Scriptures), perform *Kirtan* (congregational singing of hymns), work as a *Granthi*, and participate in all religious, cultural, social, and secular activities.

Mr. President,

The imperative of political empowerment of women cannot be overemphasized. India took a historic initiative of empowering women by reserving one third of the seats in more than 300,000 institutions of local self-government to women. As a result, today, out of the some 3.2 million elected representatives in these local bodies, there are 1.2 million women,

about 86,000 of whom serve as chairpersons or vice chairpersons of their respective units.

We are taking further steps towards increasing the participation of women to 50 % in these institutions, which will take the number of elected women to 1.6 to 1.8 million. A Bill for the same is under the consideration of the Parliament of India. There are, perhaps, more democratically elected women in India alone than in the rest of the world put together. This political empowerment of women is an unprecedented feat in the entire history of the world.

Mr. President,

Today's open debate in the Security Council marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "women and peace and security". I am honoured to take part in this debate.

When Resolution 1325 was adopted unanimously in 2000, it was a landmark resolution dealing with women's issues in the area of international peace and security. Recognizing this, the Secretary-General made a very pertinent point by saying that although women suffered the impact of conflict disproportionately, they also held the key to the solutions to the conflict.

Resolution 1325 highlighted the impact of armed conflict on women and the need for effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in peace processes.

Having had the resolution in operational mode for a decade, we now need to redouble our efforts to increase women's participation at all stages and all levels of the peace processes and peacebuilding efforts.

We can reach lasting peace and security in any country only when women are represented at the negotiating table or in talks on post-conflict reconstruction. In the same vein, let me add that the three pillars of lasting peace, namely, economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy, cannot be achieved without the active engagement of women.

Mr. President,

India has consistently held the view that greater participation of women in the areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace keeping and

post conflict reconstruction is an essential pre-requisite for lasting peace and security.

Let me also add my voice to other speakers who had called for greater deployment of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities. In this regard, we encourage, especially those who champion the importance of participation of women peacekeepers and also have the inclination and capacity, to do so.

India has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every peacekeeping operation in the past six decades. We have necessary disciplinary provisions in place to ensure that reports of incidents of violence against women or children or civilians are dealt with firmly, swiftly and resolutely within our existing legal provisions.

India even has the distinction of being the first country to deploy a full female peacekeeping unit of 100 personnel in Liberia since 2007. This oft cited Indian example, unfortunately still remains a rarity.

India will be happy to contribute positively to this process. As one of the largest troop contributing countries to the United Nations, India has been conscious of its responsibility as well as training of its troops on this important issue.

Mr President,

The United Nations system, Member States and civil society have made steady and noticeable efforts in implementing Resolution 1325.

While the Secretary General and several speakers before me have pointed out the mixed results in the implementation of the resolution by the international community and the UN system, it is worth noting that appointment of women in senior decision making levels as well as the participation of women in the mission planning, reporting, assessment, post-conflict planning and peacekeeping operations have actually increased. We welcome this but must stress the need to do much more.

Equally pertinent is the role played by civil society in internalizing the provisions of Resolution 1325 while addressing issues in various conflict

zones. We would also, in particular, like to encourage local communities to step forward and assume their rightful role in conflict zones.

Mr. President,

Discussions on the establishment of a Security Council Working Group dedicated to reviewing the progress in implementing this Resolution are both relevant and has our support. We are confident that such an effort will go a long way in transforming words into concrete action.

The UN system has also come up with a useful set of indicators as global markers of progress in the implementation of Resolution 1325. India has taken note of the twenty six global set of indicators in the four key areas.

We believe that reaching agreement on the set of goals, targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of the Resolution 1325 should be the first step in reducing defragmentation of information and monitoring progress in this critical and important issue.

We are equally mindful that the development of such indicators, benchmarks and guidelines, given their sensitivity, should involve a process of broader inter-governmental consultations and discussions before their eventual adoption. One must also be aware of the difficulties in obtaining authentic, credible, corroborative and verifiable data from conflict-ridden environments.

Mr. President,

We are happy that the Member States were able to reach consensus earlier this year in establishing the UN WOMEN, which will be fully operational by January 2011. In that context, we are particularly pleased to note that the Under Secretary General who heads this Entity was with us earlier today.

With consolidation of authority and responsibility within the UN System on women issues, I am positive that the UN system will also coherently

coordinate and assist Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of the Resolution 1325.

Mr. President,

We unequivocally, unambiguously and resolutely condemn the abhorrent behaviour of sexual violence in armed conflict, regardless of who perpetrates it, be it parties to armed conflicts, peacekeeping personnel, including its civilian component, or humanitarian actors.

There is a need for more stringent regulations in combating and eliminating this menace. We would also request the Secretary-General to further strengthen his efforts to ensure zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

We have not yet attained a global culture of human rights, which can serve as a unifying force rather than a divisive force. As the world's largest democracy, we consider it an honour to uphold and cherish the concept of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

I would like to reiterate India's firm commitment to its international obligations flowing out of the Resolution 1325 and its successor resolutions and look forward to engaging constructively and proactively with other delegations in the Security Council from the beginning of next year, when we assume our responsibility as a member of the Security Council.

Let us not lose the momentum which has been generated on this issue on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 - a symbol of strength for women in peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President



717. Statement by Shanta Kumar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 68 - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, [b] Human Rights Questions, Including Alternative Approaches for Improving the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, [c] Human Rights Situations and Reports of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives, at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 28, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the UN Secretary-General for his reports as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights special procedures for their presentations and reports under this agenda item relating to "protection and promotion of human rights". Promotion and protection of human rights is the fundamental as well as the primary responsibility of all States to its citizens. The international community has made noteworthy progress in advancing promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. We would like to welcome the role played by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council in further strengthening the international body of human rights.

India credentials in the promoting and protecting human rights, development, rule of law and democracy are well known. For millennia, India has been a home to diversities, cultures, traditions, religions and thoughts. Even before independence, we were the vanguard of the struggle against apartheid, racial discrimination and gender equality. The vision of our nation's founding fathers who framed our Constitution was based on a solid commitment to human rights. This was evident from the fact that when we adopted our Constitution in 1950, after nearly 200 years of colonial yolk, the section on the fundamental rights and freedoms granted to our citizens was made one of the most sacred pillars of the Constitution.

This included a triad of human rights namely, (i) the Right to Equality including the prohibition of discrimination in any form, (ii) the six vital freedoms of citizens (including the right to speech and expression) and

(iii) the Right to Life guaranteed to all persons. These rights have been recognized to be inalienable unalterable and part of the basic structure of the constitution which cannot be abrogated.

Apart from the fundamental rights, lawmakers in India are also guided by the Directive Principles of State Policy which the framers of the Constitution intended to serve as guiding principles for the years to come. These directives include eliminating and minimizing inequalities, ensuring gender parity, empowerment of women and children; and development of physical and mental health of all.

The Constitutional guarantees have been reinforced by the presence of a fiercely independent judiciary; a free and vibrant media and a vocal and proactive civil society. 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 judicial courts otherwise can seek justice. This process of judicial redressal has been extremely effective in providing remedies to detainees, children and other vulnerable groups.

Keeping human rights perspective in mind, a major institutional mechanism was set up in 1993 to make human rights secure and enforceable. Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, a powerful and independent National Human Rights Commission was created and since then it has been working with an exemplary record. Various states in India have also established similar Commission to examine violation of rights at the state level. 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 including sexual crimes, violence and discrimination against women.

Another revolutionary as well as landmark development in India has been the enactment of the Right to Information Act in 2005. This enables any individual to seek and demand information about the governmental officials and decision making which has led to transparency, accountability and openness in the governmental process.

We also 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 efforts of the Working Group on the Right to Development, and the endeavour to operationalize it and mainstream it in policies and operational activities of relevant actors at the national, regional and international level, including multilateral financial, trade and development institutions.

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 those who commit gross violations. In this regard, it is worth noting that attempts to single out countries for intrusive monitoring and pointing out the failure of the state mechanism in the promotion and protection of human rights of its citizens has not borne any fruits. 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. We as international community can only succeed if we adhere to the principles of objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation.

Terrorism is one of the main 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 several other rights of innocent citizens. Terrorism is also an attack on democracy, human dignity, human rights and development. In this regard, it is worth recalling that ensuring the security of its people is the first responsibility of a Government. Yet, 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 fulfil territorial ambitions as part of States with destructive foreign policy objectives.

India is proud of its achievements in nurturing a diverse, multi-religious and multi faceted society as well as the world's largest democracy. India will continue to play its part and contribute to the realization of the ideas

enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights. Promotion is the best protection of human rights. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "It has always been a mystery to me how men can feel honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings." Let us use this forum to act promptly, collectively and effectively for universal adherence to human rights standards for all. This will also promote inclusive development. After all, development without democracy, social justice and respect for human rights can be neither lasting nor sustainable.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



718. Statement by Dr. Mebhoob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 49 - Effects of Atomic Radiation in the General Debate of the Sepcial Political & Decolonization [fourth] Committee of UNGA.

New York, October 28, 2010.

Mr. Chairman

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the Sixty Fifth Session of the General Assembly. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for the way he conducted the work of this committee during the 64th session. I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support during this 65th session of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman

Over the past several years, India had seconded the resolution on the excellent work of, and support for the Scientific Committee, UNSCEAR, proposed by the Member State represented by the Chairman of UNSCEAR. The UNGA resolution no.64/85 of 19th January 2010 in its paragraph 13 asked the Committee (UNSCEAR) "to continue its reflections on how its

current as well as potentially revised membership could best support its essential work, including by developing, with the participation of the observer countries, detailed, objective and transparent criteria and indicators to be applied equitably to present and future members alike and to report its conclusions". In the 65th General Assembly, India will carefully examine the political issues related to the Committee's stand on New and Potentially Revised membership of the Scientific Committee in the background of the request made by six member states of the UN for becoming the members of UNSCEAR.

Mr. Chairman

Since 2002 some Member States of the UN have been expressing their desire to become the members of the committee. This followed the publication of the 2002 and 2001 reports of the committee and a controversial report by WHO regarding the health effects of Chernobyl accident. Initially, Belarus and Ukraine expressed such a desire. Their scientists were, in fact, invited to the UNSCEAR session in 2000 before finalizing the scientific annexe related to Chernobyl accident. They also contributed significantly to the deliberations of its update in 2008. Later, UNGA wanted to know whether any other state was so interested. In response, 6 member states of the UN *viz* Belarus, Finland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Ukraine expressed their desire to become members of the Committee. For financial and logistic considerations in conducting the sessions with such a large participation, the existing Committee has not been in favour of expanding the membership of the committee. In 2007, UNGA directed UNSCEAR to invite these six states as observers to the committee's sessions.

Mr. Chairman

The UNGA directed the scientific committee further in 2008 to develop detailed, objective and transparent criteria and indicators to be applied equitably to present and future members alike, and to report to the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman

Before the 57th Session in 2010 which was postponed from April to August due to volcanic disruption of air traffic in Europe, the Chairman

of the Committee, and the Vice Chairman, telephonically as well as by email contacted the Distinguished Representatives of the present member states of UNSCEAR including India through the Secretariat in connection with the response to this paragraph of UNGA resolution to develop a kind of consensus in the informal consultations to be held a day prior to the formal session. In earlier informal discussions at the time of the 56th session, the committee had considered several suggestions from the representatives such as continuation of the present observer status of the six new member states desirous of the membership of UNSCEAR, partly permanent and partly rotating membership, mixed delegations on a regional understanding, some members not participating in the sessions regularly, voluntarily opting out of membership etc. India cannot agree to share its UNSCEAR membership with another nation on a regional representation basis.

Mr. Chairman

The criteria and indicators included in the Committee's report to UNGA this year were evolved through these discussions. Among the criteria discussed was attendance at the session, response to the surveys on exposure to workers and public, natural radioactivity etc., references (scientific articles) cited in the 2006 and 2008 reports of the committee to UNGA. The existing membership was assessed based on these criteria by the Secretariat. Let me underline that this was said to be informal. Six countries that did not fully meet these criteria were requested to make a presentation before the informal meeting of the representatives. Five existing members of the committee, namely, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Peru made presentations before the committee to explain their scientific strength and contributions to the working of the scientific committee. The reasons given for asking India to make a presentation was that even though it has proven scientific capabilities in the spheres of the Committee's mandate, India did not provide the requested scientific data (in response to the committee's surveys) for the committee's work at the time of preparation of its 2000, 2006 and 2008 reports.

Mr. Chairman

Dr. K.B. Sainis, Director, Bio-Medical Group, BARC who represented India in the committee expressed India's displeasure during his

presentation as well as in all the subsequent discussions during 57th session stating that though he had agreed with the criteria and indicators and to make a presentation, it was beyond the mandate of the committee to single out or name any state and the membership issue was probably a political one. During the 57th session the observer states (6 countries desirous of joining the UNSCEAR) were also asked to make such presentations.

Mr. Chairman

The main reason India did not send the reports was that the formats were not acceptable. The expectations from member states of UNSCEAR, including responding to surveys, creation of a national framework for collection and analysis of important data on radiation exposure due to natural radioactivity, nuclear fuel cycle related activities, medical and industrial uses of radiation, governmental commitment and financial support are understandable. It is, however, possible that not all member states can come on board at the same time or to the same level. Further, information on radioactivity released from different type of reactors, which could be different and yet well within the regulatory limits, can create unnecessary fear in the minds of general public and nations may not like to make it available. Further, security concerns may constrain a sovereign member state to withhold such information in its national interest. These factors should be taken into account in the consideration of the issue. Therefore, while acknowledging the criteria, per se, India seeks simpler formats of data collection and a non-intrusive approach to it.

Mr. Chairman

There are several areas of re-emerging interest such as radiation induced cataracts, cancer risk due to low dose rate radiation including high natural background radiation, exposures due to internal emitters, paediatric medical exposure etc. Interestingly, while some studies suggest a positive risk for cancer following low dose exposures, studies in high background natural radiation in Kerala related to congenital malformations in newborn children and on cancer risk assessment in the HBR populations in India and China do not indicate an increased

risk due to radiation exposure. India would strongly support the new program of work of UNSCEAR that covers these aspects. It is also satisfying to note that while continuously analysing the global data on sources and effects of radiation exposures of the committee is now addressing very specific issues on which scientific documents can be published in a short time.

While seconding the resolution on effects of atomic radiation, India strongly recommends making available sufficient financial resources for its effective functioning.

Thank you Mr. Chairman



**719. Statement by Govindrao Adik, Member of Parliament,
on Agenda Item 134 - Human Resources Management
at the Fifth Committee of UNGA.**

New York, October 28, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro for her statement to the Committee on the Secretary-General's proposals on human resources management. We also thank Under Secretary General for Management Ms. Angela Kane, and the Director of the Ethics Office Ms. Joan Elise Dubinsky, for their introduction to the relevant reports of the Secretary-General on human resources management. We further thank the Chairperson of the ACABQ, Ms. Susan McLurg, for introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee.

We welcome the presentations by Vice President of the Staff-Management Coordination Committee, Ms. Paulina Analena, and President of the Staff Union of the UN Secretariat, Mr. Stephen Kisambira.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The 44,000 staff-members of the United Nations constitute its backbone and are critical to the efficient and effective implementation of the mandates that we as member-states have set for the UN.

India is a strong votary for reform initiatives that provide the UN a well-trained, motivated, committed, and versatile workforce with real experience. For this, it is important not only to recruit staff with high merit and experience, but also to ensure that they are beneficiaries of skills enhancement programmes and undertake self-improvement.

The current process of HRM reform has its genesis in the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, which rightly recognized that the management systems and staffing policies and regulations of the United Nations had not kept pace with the dramatic transformation of its operational and substantive work and contemporary realities.

This anachronistic situation in the system is sought to be addressed. It is important that this is done as a matter of priority in accordance with the guidance of the General Assembly. Our delegation is appreciative of the work done in this regard and the numerous proposals of the Secretary-General, some of which are already approved and under implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

We are mindful that more needs to be done. The process of reforming human resources systems and practices of the UN to address the contemporary needs of the organization can only be achieved through the collective efforts of the management and the staff. It must, of course, be underpinned by strong consultative process with Member States so that it has their full support and involvement.

As we move to in-depth deliberations on this agenda item, it would serve us well to remember that the proposals before us represent a continuum and must be seen as part of a comprehensive reform package. Our delegation will engage on specific issues during the interactive session. However, permit me to make brief comments on a few specific issues.

On recruitment, our delegation is very concerned about the high vacancy rates, particularly in field missions, and the lengthy recruitment process.

Indeed, we are unable to fathom the reasons for the persistence of huge vacancy figures. It surely cannot just be a case that there are not enough meritorious applicants? While we hope that some of the reform measures we undertake will mitigate the situation, it is important that we address this problem in a comprehensive manner, and to consider out of the box solutions. In this context we do believe that the United Nations should look at tapping into the capacities of member-states by seeking nominations from Member-States. To start with such an exercise could begin in those departments and field missions that are plagued by excessively high vacancy rates.

Another important area is workforce planning and talent management. We have been at the forefront of welcoming the Secretary-General's initiative to implement an integrated workforce planning system through establishment of a Talent Management Framework. While we have noted the issues that have marked the launch of the Inspira tool, we hope these are teething problems associated with a new system and look forward to a detailed update from the Secretariat on its functioning.

Two important pending issues before us that have a direct bearing on the overall functioning of the Organization are that of continuing contracts and the harmonization of the conditions of service across the common system. Our delegation is in favour of reaching a satisfactory resolution on them during this session. We cannot afford any further delay which may result in jeopardizing the reform process.

Turning once again to the issue of staffing, our delegation encourages the Secretariat to intensify efforts to correct the imbalance in terms of equitable geographic and gender representation. We further wish to draw attention to the need to adequately enhance representation of Troop Contributing Countries in the United Nations Secretariat taking into account their experience in peacekeeping, as has been requested by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

As we open our deliberations on the important proposals before the Fifth Committee during this session, we are acutely conscious that there are no easy choices to make. We further acknowledge that as with any reform, resistance is natural and dialogue is essential.

However, it is important to finish what we started. It is in our common interest to secure a stronger and more efficient Secretariat machinery, and to provide the required resources for the implementation of much needed and pressing reform. My delegation will work constructively to expeditiously arrive at decisions that contribute to the long-term effectiveness and efficiency of the organization.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**720. Statement by Mr. D. Raja, Member of Parliament, on
Agenda Item 26 - Agriculture Development and Food
Security - at the Second Committee of the UNGA.**

New York, October 28, 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

This august gathering is deliberating on one of the most pressing issues of the present time. Ensuring food security especially for the poor and the marginalised is a challenge that preoccupies Governments in developing countries first and foremost.

Our collective aspiration to attain the MDGs especially removal of hunger and reduction of poverty by the target year of 2015 is critically dependent on the issue of food security being addressed in its entire dimension.

The food crisis of 2008 exposed the global imbalance that had crept into the management of agriculture and food production worldwide and the inherent limitations of unsustainable farming and market practices to deal with food as a basic human need.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the recent fall in world prices, domestic food prices and price volatility remain high. This directly impacts the day to day survival of more than a billion poor people in developing countries.

Unsustainable agricultural practices, emphasis on producing non-food crops, consistent spells of drought, environmental degradation, impact of climate change and stagnant agricultural productivity, due to lack of investment and modern inputs, has led to a mismatch between global food demand and supply. Inadequate storage facilities in developing countries including India for food grains leads to wastage and rotting which needs to be tackled.

Some 29 countries, mostly LDCs, are in permanent state of food insecurity. Unavailability of food has led to increase in hunger, malnutrition and poverty in several parts of the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

Agriculture development is a livelihood issue for majority of the population in developing countries. In India, around 70% of our population is dependent on agriculture. Two-third of our agriculture is rain-fed which is totally dependent on the vagaries of nature.

The Government of India has undertaken several measures to tackle food security and agriculture development in an integrated manner. Our national policy for farmers, addresses the issue of improving the economic viability of farming, through substantially improving net income of farmers; promoting sustainable use of natural resources like soil, water, biodiversity; empowering small and marginal farmers; appropriate price and trade policy mechanisms.

However, ensuring food and nutritional security for all, while combating hunger and poverty and remunerative agriculture for our farming community, poses a major challenge to us. India is considering enacting a food security legislation. In the meantime, the Public Distribution System, even though not a universal one is maintained to provide essential commodities which include food grains to the poor.

India has launched a National Food Security Mission for enhancing production of rice, wheat and pulses by 20 million tonnes by 2012. Efforts are being made to help the small and marginal farmers from the vagaries of the market by way of price support system.

India has taken a few steps for providing crop and cattle insurance. Information on market intelligence and price analyses is also being

provided to farmers and other stakeholders using Information and Communications Technologies.

Mr. Chairperson,

The solution to enhancing global food security lies in global action. No single country can, on its own, handle such complex issues.

Strengthening international cooperation to share best practices on agriculture development, transfer and diffusion of technology, collaboration in science and technology for development of new and improved varieties of crop and close policy coordination at local, regional and global level are a must.

In this regard, India reiterates its support for the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and calls upon countries to meet their financial commitments to enhance the capabilities of developing countries to design and implement an effective food security strategy.

I am happy to inform this gathering that the SAARC member countries have decided to establish a SAARC food bank to enhance their collective food security. India would encourage other regional groups to undertake similar initiative.

Our collective effort should be to ensure higher investment in agriculture, greater use of modern technology and access to farm credit to enhance agriculture productivity and growth. Our approach should equally keep in mind the concerns of ecology and environment; empowering small and marginal farmers; and giving special attention to dry land agriculture.

Mr. Chairperson,

The ongoing multilateral trade negotiations, where arguments for liberalising trade in agriculture products are being put forth, must bear in mind the imperative of providing adequate safeguard to agriculture, food security and livelihood of the people in developing countries.

India takes note of the recent initiatives taken by the G-20 under the programme of global agriculture and food security to ensure agricultural development. India hopes that the reactivation of the Food Crisis

Response Programme by the World Bank, which has dedicated US\$ 760 million to countries at risk of food price volatility, will yield positive results.

India is aware of the urgent need for agricultural development and ensuring food security for all and is committed to adopt suitable strategies in this regard.

I wish to end my statement by recalling the prophetic words of Mahatma Gandhi, and I quote "there is enough for everybody's need but not for everybody's greed".

I thank you.



721. Statement by Bajju Ban Ryan, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 70 - Report of the International Court of Justice at the UNGA.

New York, October 28, 2010.

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to address this plenary session of the General Assembly on the report of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice.

I would like to thank the President of the International Court of Justice for his comprehensive and lucid presentation of the Report of the Court.

Mr. President,

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established, along with the other organs of the United Nations, to save future generations from the scourge of war and to find means of settling inter-State disputes through peaceful means by the application of international law.

The Court still remains the only judicial body with legitimacy derived from the Charter, enjoying general jurisdiction. All other international judicial institutions have specific competence and lack general jurisdiction of a universal nature.

The Statute of the ICJ has been made an integral part of the Charter. This is a status which is unique to the ICJ and not enjoyed by any other International Court or Tribunal established till date.

All States are free to approach the Court for the resolution of their disputes with other States. Under article 36 of the Charter, the Security Council may also recommend to the parties to refer their legal disputes to the International Court of Justice while the General Assembly and the Security Council may seek advisory opinions from the Court. These provisions clearly indicate the central role given to the ICJ within the UN system.

Mr. President,

The judgments of the Court have played an important role in interpreting and clarifying the rules of international law as well as its progressive development and codification. The Court has performed its judicial functions while remaining cautious in respecting political realities, sentiments of States and its own Statute.

The Court has emphasized on the rule of law and the role of international law in regulating inter-state relations even though inter-state relations are necessarily political in nature. The Court has contributed significantly towards settling legal disputes between Sovereign States, thus promoting the rule of law in international relations.

Mr. President,

India firmly believes that due to the Court's unique position in the UN system, no other judicial organ in the world can have the same capacity for dealing with international problems as the ICJ has.

Since its inception, the Court has dealt with a wide 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 application of international treaties and conventions. These judgments have played an important role in the progressive development and codification of international law.

Presently there are four new contentious cases and one new advisory proceeding before the Court. These cases deal with a diversity of subjects ranging from

diplomatic relations to jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters and an administrative matter related to the International Labour Organization. The Court is also dealing with geographic issues as in the case of whaling in Antarctica.

The cases before the Court involve countries from all around the world, involving States from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, thus reflecting the Court's universality.

Mr. President,

The growing acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction by States further highlights the importance of the Court and confidence of the States in the Court's ability to resolve their legal disputes. This has increased the work load of the Court manifold. As of 31 July 2010, the number of contentious cases on the docket of the Court stood at 15 as compared to 13 last year.

To enable the Court to fulfill its task, it is necessary that the Court is provided with adequate resources so that it can respond efficiently and in a timely manner to the expectations of States which submit their disputes to it for settlement.

Thank You, Mr. President.



722. Statement by Dr. Mehboob Beg, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 70 - Report of the International Law Commission - Chapter V "Expulsion of Aliens", Chapter VI: Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties, Chapter VII: Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, October 29, 2010.

Thank You, Madam Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Chairman of the International Law Commission for his comprehensive introduction of the Report of the 62nd Session of the International Law Commission on the second cluster of topics.

In connection with the topic "Expulsion of aliens", we commend the Special Rapporteur Mr. Maurice Kamto, for the revised and restructured draft articles on the protection of the human rights of persons who have been or are being expelled and the sixth report presented by him. To simplify the general scheme of things and to present the relevant principles in a focused and structured manner, we support the suggestion of the Commission about the reorganization of these articles in five parts.

We also support the general approach taken by the Special Rapporteur. We recognize that the State has the right to expel aliens. However, it is essential that the right of a State to expel aliens is exercised in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, including those relating to the protection of human rights and to the minimum standards for the treatment of aliens.

Madam Chairperson,

On the topic "Effects of armed conflicts on treaties", let me express our sincere condolences on the sad demise of Professor Ian Brownlie in a tragic accident in the beginning of this year, Professor Brownlie was the first Rapporteur on this topic. We commend the Special Rapporteur Mr. Lucius Caflisch for his report.

We support the view that the treaties should continue in operation as it leads to the stability of the treaties. Regarding the indicative list of treaties

which deem to continue in operation, in our view all such treaties cannot be combined into one list. Some of the categories of treaties listed, e.g., treaties relating to IHL, expressly apply during an armed conflict. Similarly treaties on land or maritime boundaries are meant to be permanent in character and are not to be affected by armed conflict. Accordingly such treaties need to be listed separately from other treaties whose continued existence depends on the intention of the parties.

On the scope of the topic, we reiterate our view that it should be limited to treaties concluded between States and not include treaties concluded by international organizations; the definition of "armed conflict" should be considered independently of its effects on treaties; and that the scope of an "armed conflict" should be limited to conflicts between States and that it should not deal with internal conflicts, as treaties are entered into by States, and internal conflicts do not directly affect treaty relations.

The principle of non-automatic termination or suspension contained in Draft Article 3 is useful as it would encourage the stability and continuity in treaty relations. We also welcome the recognition in article 4 that the draft articles would not apply to situations to which articles in IHL apply. We also support article 15 which deals with the prohibition of benefit to the Aggressor State.

Madam Chairperson,

Draft Article 5 provides a listing of treaties which, on the basis of necessary implication from their object and purpose, are considered as continuing in operation during an armed conflict. It is necessary to identify some general criteria for determining the type of treaties that would continue to apply during an armed conflict. In particular, treaties that expressly apply in case of or during an armed conflict, and therefore, can in no circumstances be terminated by an armed conflict, should be identified and considered separately from other treaties.

Madam Chairperson,

On the topic of Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster, we would like to congratulate the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina for his third report.

Since there is wide agreement amongst States that armed conflict should not be covered by the draft articles, the reference to the principle of neutrality does not appear to be relevant and it would be appropriate to replace reference to "neutrality" in draft article 6 by a reference to "non-discrimination". Further it would also be useful to emphasize in this article that humanitarian response should not be used to intervene in the domestic affairs of States as emphasized by the ICJ in the case of *Nicaragua V. United States of America*. In that case, the court referred to the purposes followed in the practice of the red cross in the context of humanitarian assistance in order to escape condemnation as an intervention in the internal affairs of the affected State, and specified that these purposes include "to prevent and alleviate the human suffering" and "to respect for the human being", and that humanitarian assistance must be "given without discrimination to all in need".

Draft Article 8, on Primary Responsibility of the Affected State, as proposed by the Sp. Rapp. consists of two paragraphs. Paragraph 1 states that "The affected State has the primary responsibility for the protection of persons and provision of humanitarian assistance on its territory. The State retains the right, under its national law, to direct, control, coordinate, and supervise such assistance within its territory", while paragraph 2 provides that "External assistance may be provided only with the consent of the affected State."

Madam Chairperson,

The General Assembly has, on a number of occasions, reaffirmed the primacy of the affected State in disaster response. In Resolution 46/182, the General Assembly 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. Hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

The General Assembly has also recognised the relevance of the concepts of Sovereign Equality and territorial Sovereignty in the context of disaster response, and the Guiding Principles annexed to Resolution 46/182, (quoted in para 69 of the Report) held that: "The sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance

with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country."

Accordingly, while emphasizing the duty of cooperation with a view to encouraging assistance to affected persons, and providing for essential human needs as a priority in case of emergency situations resulting from a natural disaster, the Draft articles should recognize the sovereignty of the affected State, its responsibility towards its own nationals, its right to decide whether it requires international assistance, as it is in the best position to assess the needs of the situation, as well as its own capacity to respond, and if it accepts international assistance, the right to direct, coordinate and control such assistance within its territory.

I once again thank the Special Rapporteur for his Third Report, and support sending the Draft articles to the Drafting Committee.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



723. Statement by Govindrao, Member of Parliament, on "Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture" at the UNGA.

New York, October 29, 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's session on a topic of importance and significance to all of us. Let me at the outset align my delegation with the statement delivered by my distinguished colleague from Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I wish to begin by echoing the Secretary General's assertion, in his report last year, on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict wherein he had emphasized the imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the level host country.

My delegation recognizes the importance of post-conflict peacebuilding as the foundation for building sustainable peace, security, and development in the aftermath of conflict. Mr. President, sustainable peacebuilding requires an integrated approach with coherence between political, security, development, human rights and rule of law activities. Security clearly is the key peacebuilding pillar. Capacity building also assumes significance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided. It is equally important to focus on building economic opportunity, particularly for the youth, along with the political and social stability.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding requires a holistic approach that is informed of economic, social and political milieu of the post-conflict situation. It is also necessary that we have stakeholders in the host country in the peacebuilding efforts. It also means that even in cases where it is difficult to locate national ownership, international peacebuilding efforts are geared towards strengthening the capacity of a post-conflict State that is able to govern effectively and to govern well. In this regard, capacity building assumes importance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided.

It is equally important to focus on building the economic opportunity, particularly aimed at the youth alongwith political and social stability. Unemployment amongst youth, Mr. President, is a major factor for perpetuation of the underlying causes of conflict. Economic revitalization and economic opportunity is, especially among the youth is crucial in achieving sustainable peace and security. Another key issue is that of financing. Let us be clear and acknowledge the fact that the lack of funding continues to be a major impediment to the success of peacebuilding initiatives. It goes without saying that other elements such as human resources, technical assistance through provision of appropriate technologies are important as well.

Given the sensitivities of peacebuilding tasks such as security sector reforms and development administration, a high degree of coordination within the United Nations is desirable. Work in the country-specific configurations has been a positive dimension. My delegation is, therefore,

of the view that the international community, acting through the instrumentality of the PBC, must always strive to ensure that there exists a two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages. In particular, the consultations with the troop and police contributing countries, both individually and through the instrumentality of the PBC, while formulating and revising mandates of UN Missions, would be of important.

Mr. President,

My delegation firmly believes that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are mutually supportive and reinforcing projects. Launching of peacekeepers speedily in a conflict-torn scenario is a reflection both of our ability to mobilize resources and to access conflict zones. Early peacebuilding efforts depend largely on the role of the peacekeeping missions. The multidimensional peacekeeping is a necessary condition for peacebuilding and sustainable peace. We firmly believe that the peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours have to be premised on national ownership and development of national capacity.

Mr. President,

Ever since the creation of the PBC in December 2005, India, as a member of the Organizing Committee has engaged itself constructively with the work of PBC. We have contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund with the spirit that PBF achieves its task as mandated by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Further, we are of the view that the Fund should act as a catalyst for good governance. In this regard, we note with approval the creation of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities in fulfillment of the "agenda for action" outlined by the Secretary General in his 2009 report on Peacebuilding in the aftermath of Conflict.

Mr. President,

My delegation is of the view that the international community, acting through the instrumentality of the PBC, must always strive to ensure that there is effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself. In this regards, it is important that the on-going review reorients the existing peacebuilding architecture that enables the

Organization Committee and the PBC to play a more decisive role in formulating the Commission's approach to post-conflict situations. Also, the country-specific configurations must not run ahead of the national governments in setting targets. National needs rather than the normative prescriptions should determine the peacebuilding priorities. A mechanism should be devised to incorporate the wealth of experience that is available with the troops on the ground. No efforts should be left unattended that may enrich the peacebuilding project in a post-conflict society. To maximize peace dividend through peacebuilding and peacekeeping it is necessary that the mandates are mindful of the specifics on the grounds. The Commission and the Organizing Committee should play an important role in this regard.

Mr. President,

The international community has to be pro-active when it comes to resource mobilization for peacebuilding. Resources available should be tailored to suit local demands. Experience thus gained will be valuable in apportioning Peacebuilding its due share in the process in the transition from conflict to peace. My delegation firmly believes in the significant role of PBF in this regard. PBF should bridge the crucial gap between resources and implementation by financing peacebuilding projects through flexible financing. Mr. President, my delegation is convinced that social revitalization can not be complete without an inclusive and cohesive social agenda. Early peace dividends have the potential not only to win the hearts and minds but also to catalyse the process of social recovery in a participative and inclusive manner. We believe that the net should be cast wide among the players present in the Peacebuilding architecture to harness the wealth of ideas, resources, capacities and expertise.

Mr. President,

It is not neither possible not desirable to transplant models specific to one region to another context. International community must not be unduly eager for standard implementation to bring peace in a hurry. Sustainable peace has to be earned diligently, empathically and inclusively. In this regard, the regional and sub-regional approaches to crisis situations have a greater relevance while working out peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates at the UN. We believe that the peacebuilding architecture must institutionalize structures and processes to this end.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding is a UN-centric term. It is important that this is connected to the real world on the ground. The elements and the intent of the Peace building Commission need to be communicated better to the larger audiences internationally. Various strategies and efforts of the peace building architecture must be geared to strengthen the institutions of governance and administration in the host country. Transition strategies will have to bear in mind the efficacy of the prospective State institutions to continue these initiatives forward.

To assist Peace building Commission carry out its mandated task of "an intergovernmental advisory body", it is incumbent that all organs of peace building architecture, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, work in a coordinated and coherent manner. The PBC should not merely advise States on post-conflict peace consolidation but should instead help the with efficient harnessing of international expertise.

Mr. President,

We must be cognizant that peace building is still a concept in its infancy and is continuously evolving. The international community has taken on board the idea of peace building to fulfill the important need of handling post-conflict situations. It is therefore, imperative that we ensure that peace building and the institutions that constitute the peace building architecture are successful.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me share India's unique nation-building enterprise in a vast, varied and diverse settings. We have strived towards better life to our people. In the process we as a nation have earned capacities that are relevant to development and peace building. We have shared this expertise with a number of countries making transition from conflict to peace. We will continue to make available our abilities to countries in post conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations in its peace building endeavours

Thank You.



724. Statement by Gopinath Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 79 - Report of the International Law Commission, Chapter VIII: Obligation to Extradite or Prosecute, Chapter X : Treaties Overtime, Chapter XI: The Most Favored Nations Clause, Chapter XII: Shared Natural Resources at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 1, 2010.

Let me at the outset thank the President of the International Law Commission for his lucid and detailed presentation on Part III of the Report of the ILC.

We support the objective of the topic 'extradite or prosecute', that an offender should not go unpunished for any reason, such as, due to the lack of jurisdiction, or state cooperation or because of other technicalities. Ensuring prosecution of offenders in any jurisdiction would work as a deterrent and would strengthen the cause of the administration of international criminal justice and the rule of law.

At the sixty-first session in 2009, an open ended Working Group was setup by the Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Alain Pellet of France, and based on discussion, and with the aim of specifying the issues to be addressed, a general framework was drawn up for consideration of the topic in the Commission.

At its sixty-second session, the Commission reconstituted the Working Group, which, had before it a Survey of multilateral conventions, together with the general framework prepared by the Working Group in 2009.

The Working Group also had before it a working paper prepared by the Special Rapporteur, on the topic "the obligation to extradite or prosecute". The paper drew attention to questions concerning: (a) the legal basis of the obligation to extradite or prosecute; (b) the material scope of the obligation to extradite or prosecute; (c) the content of the obligation to extradite or prosecute; (d) relationship between the obligation to extradite or prosecute and other principles (e) the conditions for the triggering of the obligation to extradite or prosecute (f) the implementation of the obligation to extradite or prosecute, and the

relationship between this obligation and the surrender of an offender to an international criminal tribunal.

The Working Group expressed the view that the general orientation of future reports of the Special Rapporteur should be towards presenting draft articles for consideration by the Commission, based on the general framework agreed in 2009.

Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the Indian position on the principle of extradite or prosecute, we would like to mention that India is a firm supporter of the suppression of crime and upholding of the rule of law. A person who has committed a crime must be tried and punished no matter by which State - the State of territory or by the State of his nationality or by the State of the nationality of the victim or by the State in whose territory he may be present.

In India, the Extradition Act of 1962, bilateral extradition treaties, together with relevant international conventions containing provisions for extradition, govern matters relating to extradition from India to other countries and vice-versa.

The Extradition Act contains provisions concerning the duty to extradite or prosecute. All bilateral extradition treaties that India has concluded with other countries contain provision concerning the obligation to extradite or prosecute. In practice, these provisions are implemented in letter and spirit in respect of all extradition offences.

India is a party to several international conventions dealing with international crimes in different fields. These conventions oblige State Parties to extradite persons accused of offences defined therein. In the event that an extradition request is refused, such persons must be considered for prosecution. In the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty, the Convention itself could be considered as the legal basis for considering extradition.

No reservation is made by India under any of these conventions concerning the duty to extradite or prosecute.

Madam Chairperson,

In relation to the topic "The Most-favoured-nation clause", we welcome the work of the Study Group, co-chaired by Mr. Donald M. McRae and Mr. A. Rohan Perera, the Study Group has considered and agreed on a framework to serve as a road map of future work, in the light of issues highlighted in the syllabus on the topic. In particular, the Study Group made a preliminary assessment of the 1978 draft articles and decided on eight papers to be dealt with under the topics identified and assigned primary responsibility to its members for the preparation of the papers (chap. XI). The MFN clauses are important. I hope that the ILC would study and add clarity to the use of MFN Clauses and better understanding of the implications of its use.

Madam Chairperson,

We also welcome the establishment of a Study Group chaired by Professor Nolte on the topic "Treaties over Time", which considered the question of the scope of the work of the Study Group and agreed on a course of action to begin the consideration of the topic.

On the topic of shared natural resources we are pleased to note that having finalized its recommendations on the transboundary aquifers in 2009, the Commission at its meeting on 28 May 2010, decided once more to establish a Working Group on Shared natural resources, chaired by Mr. Enrique Candioti. The Working Group had before it a working paper on oil and gas prepared by Mr. Shinya Murase.

The working paper noted that a majority of States were of the view that the transboundary oil and gas issues were essentially bilateral in nature, as well as highly political and technical, involving diverse situations. Doubts were expressed as to the need for the Commission to proceed with any codification exercise on the issue, including the development of universal rules. It was feared that an attempt at generalization would inadvertently lead to additional complexity in an area that may have been adequately addressed through bilateral efforts.

Given that oil and gas reserves were often located on the continental shelf, there was also a concern that the subject had a bearing on maritime delimitation issues. Maritime delimitation, which, in political terms, was a very delicate issue for the States, would be a prerequisite for the consideration of this as a sub-topic, unless the parties had mutually agreed not to deal with delimitation.

Furthermore, it was considered that the option of collecting and analyzing information about State practice concerning transboundary oil and gas or elaborating a model agreement on the subject would not lead to a fruitful exercise for the Commission, precisely because of the specificities of each case involving oil and gas. The sensitive nature of certain relevant cases could well be expected to hamper any attempt at a sufficiently comprehensive and useful analysis of the issues involved.

The Working Group having considered all aspects of the matter and taking into account the views of Governments, recommended that the Commission should not take up the consideration of the transboundary oil and gas aspects of the topic "Shared natural resources".

Madam Chairperson,

We fully subscribe to the views and concerns expressed in the Working Group and its recommendations that the Commission should not take up for consideration the "transboundary oil and gas aspects" of shared and natural resources. We would like to point out that transboundary oil and gas issues are best dealt with at the bilateral level bearing in mind the geological features, needs of the region, capacity and the efforts of neighbouring countries. Attempting any sort of codification may affect the established bilateral treaty obligations, as well as sometimes, the assiduously arrived agreement at the political level.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



725. Statement by Dr. [Mrs] Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 51-UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East at the Fourth Committee of the 65th Session of the UNGA.

New York, November 2, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Flippo Grandi, Commissioner General of UNRWA for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East for the annual report on the extremely important work over the past year in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to commend the work of Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd, the outgoing Commissioner General who led the Agency for five years.

We also thank the UNRWA Advisory Committee and the members of the working group on the Financing of UNRWA, for their efforts in support of the work of UNRWA. India also places on record its admiration for the difficult and often risky work that UNRWA has carried out over the past six decades, placing service to the Palestinian refugees as its highest priority.

Mr. Chairman,

The services provided by UNRWA are of a critical importance in the context of the continuing violence in the Middle East. The Agency has played a key role in providing humanitarian assistance, including education, health care and social services to over 4.6 million Palestinian refugees. Today UNRWA is a symbol of the international community's commitment to the well-being of the Palestinian refugees until a just and durable settlement of the issue is achieved.

The report of Commissioner General, clearly illustrates the severe challenges UNRWA continues to face. As the report notes, several of the challenges directly impinge upon the well-being of Palestine refugees and the Agency's ability to efficiently and effectively discharge its humanitarian and development responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The first of the challenges before UNRWA that needs to be addressed is the crisis of financing. The budgetary shortfall of UNRWA is growing, and this takes place at the same time as demands upon UNRWA for assistance and support have increased. Shortage of funds has direct implication on UNRWA work in general and projects like rebuilding of Nahr El Bared camp in particular. It also affects upgradation of services at several refugee camps. Therefore, there is a greater need for augmenting international efforts to improve UNRWA's financial health.

We note the concern of the Chairperson of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA that "the separation of barrier, closures, curfews and other restrictions on movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have led to further hardship for the affected population". As we have stated in the past, the walls/encroachment on Palestinian land and interests creates great hardships for the people affected by its construction and exacerbates the already grim situation.

An area of continuing concern is the restriction in freedom of movement of UNRWA staff members. Regrettably, the environment in which the Agency carries out its operations continues to hamper its ability to deliver services. Of equal concern is that these restrictions have had a serious impact on the ability of UNRWA to move staff and provide humanitarian assistance to those in urgent need. Closures and blockades need to be lifted and unhindered access allowed to humanitarian supplies. The events of 31

May 2010 that led tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza is deplorable.

The continued levy of fees and charges for the transit of humanitarian goods is not called for as it seriously affects the working of Agency which is already short of funds. The detention of UNRWA staff and lack of Agency access to and information on its staff is matter of serious concern. We support the Commission calls on all parties to respect United Nations resolutions and international law, including international humanitarian law.

We support the call of the UNRWA Chairperson regarding removal of restrictions on the movement of agency staff and goods in throughout UNRWA's areas of work. We also take note of UNRWA welcoming new

measures towards easing of movement of goods to Gaza. However, more relaxation on movement of reconstruction material is required to effectively address the situation in Gaza.

We have, as in the past, manifested our support to the Palestinian people through continuing developmental support to Palestine. Last year, we enhanced our annual contribution to UNRWA to \$ 1 million, besides, making a special contribution of US \$ 1 million to UNRWA in response to UNWRA's flash appeal. Last year and this year, India contributed US\$ 10 million annually as untied budget support to the Palestinian National Authority. This year's budget support followed from discussions between His Excellency, President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in February this year. These exemplify India's continuing commitment to Palestine.

The support for the Palestinian cause has been a central feature of India's foreign policy since even before it achieved independence in 1947. India will continue to do all within its capacities to assist Palestine in its endeavours in capacity and institution-building. We salute the struggling people of Palestine. We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,

It is critical for the international community to work closely with the parties with a view to encouraging them to resume direct negotiations that began in September. We are hopeful that the talks and negotiations would continue, leading to a comprehensive peace process for final resolution of the conflict.

Till such time, Mr. Chairman, it is incumbent upon all of us to fully support UNRWA, as the primary source of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees. For this reason, we endorse all efforts to support UNRWA by expanding its capacity to render assistance.

Thank you Mr. Chairman



726. Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 20-Sustainable Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 2, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

We would like to thank the Secretary General for the detailed reports on Agenda Item "Sustainable Development."

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam Chairperson,

The global community continues to face immense challenges in its pursuit of equitable and balanced growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. The threats from climate change are severe and need an urgent and effective response.

This underscores the importance of an integrated approach to sustainable development, with emphasis on its three pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection. Such an approach is the key to ensuring the achievement of our development goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger.

In this regard, we emphasize the importance of the full implementation of the Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, specifically the aspect of an international environment conducive to development.

The RIO+20 Summit to be held in 2012 would be an important milestone in the global sustainable development discourse and action. Our preparations must focus on an ambitious outcome taking the interest of the poor and the marginalized to be the least common denominator. We believe that the global understanding on "green economy" and "green growth" should be subsumed in the larger framework of sustainable development and priority must continue to be given to eradicating poverty in developing countries.

Madam Chairperson,

We are cognizant of the special challenges faced by Small Island Developing States [SIDS] in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, which have been further exacerbated by climate change. The strong political commitment expressed by the global community at the High Level Meeting of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation held in September 2010 to effectively address the specific vulnerabilities of SIDS must be backed by action.

We are privileged to have been able to contribute to the development efforts of SIDS in the spirit of South-South solidarity. Our engagement with SIDS has included areas like capacity building, natural disaster preparedness, adapting to climate change and enhancing resilience. However, what is urgently required is enhanced financial and technical support by developed countries.

Madam Chairperson,

There is an all pervading sense of urgency to work for a meaningful outcome from the Climate Change negotiations. But the lack of progress on the promises made at Copenhagen seems to be undermining the level of trust that is required to take the process forward.

India is among the worst affected by Climate Change, and we therefore have a major interest in ensuring that climate change is addressed substantively and constructively. At the meeting in Cancun, India would continue to push for an ambitious and equitable outcome under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

India fully recognizes the significant threats posed by Climate Change to the Small Island Developing States and the urgency to address the need for mitigation, adaptation, financial and technological support in these countries to develop an effective response. Our consciousness of the situation is particularly deep since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas.

Let me particularly emphasize the importance of technology transfer to deal with climate change. We need a change in mindset, a change that

permits developing countries to have critical climate related technologies at concessional and preferential rates. If we are serious about confronting climate change as an unprecedented global challenge, we must be willing to balance rewards for innovators with the common good of humankind and introduce necessary flexibilities in the Intellectual Property Rights regime.

In this context, I am happy to inform the gathering here that India along with Mexico and UN-DESA is jointly organizing the "Delhi Ministerial dialogue on climate technologies" from 9-10 November 2010 in New Delhi with a view to develop, deploy and transfer environmentally sound technologies in agriculture, health, renewable energy, energy efficiency and other adaptation and mitigation areas for combating climate change.

Madam Chairperson,

The conservation, protection and sustainable use of genetic resources are important aspects of achieving sustainable development. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of a legally binding instrument on Access and Benefit Sharing in Nagoya at the CBD COP meeting, as also the decision taken by the Parties to urge the 65th UNGA to consider setting up an Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES) at the earliest. The success of Nagoya serves as an assurance that multilateralism continues to play a constructive role in the field on environment.

The floods in Pakistan, earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China and the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Indonesia are reminders of increased natural disasters in recent years. We must, therefore, work for strengthening the global preparedness to handle natural calamities. In this regard, India expresses its full support to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

India looks forward to closely working with Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen the global sustainable development agenda and action. Thank you.



727. Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 21 - "Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements [Habitat II] and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme [UN-Habitat]" at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 2, 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Secretary General for the report on the agenda item under discussion today. India associates itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the G-77.

Majority of the world population today lives in urban areas. It is projected that by 2050 this figure would go up to 70% with developing countries accounting for most of the change. Such a population settlement scenario, especially in developing countries, entails new challenges for policy planners and the way the global community approaches sustainable development.

The development role of UN-Habitat, urban planners, municipal and local governments and other stakeholders, thus, assumes far greater importance. The UN-Habitat with its valuable experience of working in a dynamic urban setting can play an important role in enriching the discussions on sustainable development at the Rio+20.

India supports the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

We are working for governance reform in our local bodies to make them a catalyst for change. Our efforts have involved greater representation of all sections of society in local authorities, and expansion of their functional domain to focus on environment, local economic development, as well as innovative resource mobilization.

Mr. Chairperson,

India is a founding member of UN-Habitat and has been an active member of the organization. We support the Medium-term Strategic

and Institutional Plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2008-2013, particularly the focus on strengthening the catalytic and pre-investment role of UN-Habitat.

In this context, we urge upon all entities to contribute to further capitalization of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to enable UN-Habitat to provide more financial and seed capital support for slum upgrading and prevention, as well for pro-poor investment in urban water and sanitation.

We welcome the developments towards early operationalization of the reimbursable seeding operations activities, which will permit UN-Habitat to assist national housing development programmes. India has been active, particularly through public housing finance institutions, in promoting institutional housing finance for the poor and the economically weaker sections.

Mr. Chairperson,

India's economic growth in the past decades has led to a massive shift in its population from rural to urban areas. This trend would continue in the future. We have added 65 million people to our urban population in the decade of the 90's alone, and we are poised to having nearly 50% of India living in our cities by the earlier part of the present century.

To meet the challenges of rapid urban development in an integrated manner, India launched a National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in 2007. The policy seeks to realize the goal of "Affordable Housing for All", through sustainable development of habitat, towards ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.

An important element of this policy is the "Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission". This programme seeks to provide seven basic services to the poor, namely, land tenure, affordable shelter, water, sanitation, education, health and social security.

With majority of its population still living in rural areas, India has also been actively promoting affordable rural housing. Dedicated programmes

such as "Indira Awaas Yojna", provide direct support through grant-in-aid for construction of dwelling units and upgradation of temporary houses.

The report of the Secretary-General has highlighted the significance of rational land-use planning, green building codes and energy efficient transport options to reducing energy consumption and emissions. In this context, I am happy to mention that India has adopted an Energy Conservation Act and an Energy Efficiency Code for new commercial buildings, and has been promoting use of compressed natural gas for public transport.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is satisfying that the resource mobilization efforts of UN-Habitat have borne fruit. However, it is of concern that regular budget, which provides non-earmarked and predictable funding, remains low. We fully support the demand for enhanced budgetary resources for UN-Habitat.

Enhanced efforts by the international community to provide financial and technical assistance, including transfer of technology, in the areas of poverty eradication and infrastructure support, remain crucial if the human settlements related Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by developing countries.

I would like to highlight that India has been privileged to share appropriate housing technology, particularly in the field of cost-effective, environment friendly and disaster resistant construction, with fellow developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation. The international community could strengthen such initiatives through triangular cooperation.

I thank you.



728. Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 61 - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Questions Relating to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Questions at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 3, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his report as well as presentation under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Sixty years ago, when UNHCR was created for a period of three years, it might not have been anticipated that the institution which was to handle a transient problem of refugee following the World War II, would become a permanent institution. This is a sad indicator of the fact that the situation of refugees has remained protracted. Even today, we continue to remain concerned at these protracted refugee situations. This issue has become increasingly challenging with the numbers of 'populations of concern' rising and the UNHCR is unable to adequately access the very people it is supposed to protect.

Nevertheless, let me take this opportunity to commend the UNHCR for the commendable work done since the last 60 years. They have been delivering under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions protection as well as quick emergency response to refugees. We endorse the UNHCR's advocacy of the approach of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction to bring together humanitarian and development actors and funds to ensure allocation of greater resources for conducive environment for sustainable repatriation and returnees.

It is worth noting that the refugees and stateless persons are a particularly vulnerable group, forced to leave the country of their nationality or origin for various reasons. We have long held that adequate attention has not been paid to the widespread and abject poverty and deprivation in which

the refugee movements in the developing countries have and continue to take place. We would urge a better analysis and understanding of the underlying reasons that impede durable solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

The latest UNHCR report indicates that at the end of 2009, there were 36.5 million 'people of concern' to UNHCR, including around 10.4 million refugees. As per the same report, the number of internally displaced people has increased to 27.1 million, out of which 15.6 million benefit from UNHCR in some manner. Regrettably, the number of returned refugees (251,000) has steadily decreased since 2004, with 2009 being the lowest level in the last two decades. Yet another alarming statistics has been that in 2009, nearly 0.9 million individuals claimed for asylum or refugee status to various Governments or UNHCR offices, which is an increase of 5 percent compared to last year. This is a pointer to the enormity of the challenge.

In this context, we would also like to acknowledge the changing nature of conflict with the emergence of the role of non-state actors in situations of armed conflict. The international community must address the issue of accountability of these non-state actors, and the limited leverage that the international human rights and humanitarian framework and machinery have over non-state actors. Further, it is equally imperative that the determination of refugee status should conform strictly to UNHCR's mandate to ensure that those guilty of terrorist and criminal acts do not abuse the national asylum systems and the international protection regime.

It is a well recognized fact that the challenges posed by internal displacement is well beyond the capacity of any single organization to handle. We also believe that the primary responsibility to look after the IDPs lies with national authorities. The UNHCR's involvement, therefore, can only complement the efforts of national authorities and cannot substitute them. We would, once again, underline that UNHCR's involvement in IDPs should only be with the concurrence of national authorities. Further, such involvement should be based on due consideration of its mandate, modality of intervention, availability of

resources and careful examination of all implications before mainstreaming such activities.

UNHCR represents our collective endeavour to address global refugee concerns. Given the importance and significance of this mandate, it goes without saying that UNHCR must remain a non-partisan and impartial humanitarian actor. We commend it for being one.

A large number of developing countries with limited resources continue to honour their humanitarian obligations, often risking their delicate economies. As is well known, it is predominantly developing countries that constitute countries of origin as well as asylum. Their problems deserve particular attention. In this context the relationship between UNHCR and Member-States must be strengthened further to recognize and acknowledge the in-kind contribution and services of the States hosting refugees.

We are aware of a body of opinion, which places an overwhelming importance on States acceding to Conventions and Protocols as a measure of their commitment to the refugee issue. This is a narrow and restrictive way of looking at this global challenge. We are convinced that the international solidarity and burden sharing are the foundations on which refugee protection rests. The essence of partnership on this issue is in having a shared objective, in accepting the humanitarian dimension of the issue and the need for a global response.

India is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention on Refugees. This is because we believe that this Convention does not address the problem of massive refugee flows or factors like mixed migration, which accompany such flows. Nevertheless, our commitment to humanitarian issues is second to none. We host a large number of refugees, and our programmes relating to them are managed entirely from our resources. At all times, India has demonstrated its abiding commitment to the principles of protection and non-refoulement. Also, the refugees in India have been enjoying full protection of the rule of law, based on the principle of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

Mr. Chairman,

India remains committed to working in concert with the UNHCR and the international community to address the international protection agenda for refugees in the region and beyond in a spirit of solidarity. The challenge of ending displacement is inseparable from the challenge of establishing and maintaining peace. The time has also come, to move away from narrow, legalistic approaches, to comprehensive practical solutions, from rhetoric to meaningful action.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



729. Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 66-Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination, Agenda Item 67- Rights of Peoples of Self-Determination at the Third Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 3, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General for his various reports on the agenda items 'Elimination of racism and racial discrimination' and 'Right of peoples to self-determination' and also thank all the speakers for their useful and valuable presentations. My delegation broadly associates itself with statement made by the Chair of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

India, the land of "ahimsa" or non-violence, has and will always be fully committed toward the indispensable goal of elimination of racism and the right of peoples to self-determination. Our fight to end racism stems from the significant contribution of our great leaders more than a century ago when our venerable monk Swami Vivekananda spoke about the concept of universal brotherhood. Mahatma Gandhi's tireless struggle

against the abhorrent crime of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerances is historic, significant and memorable.

It was, therefore innate and instinctive that at independence, adequate safeguards were built into the Indian Constitution and the Indian Penal Code against racism. Our commitment is inherent in Article 14 and 15 of our Constitution, which enshrines the principle of equality and expressly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race.

These Constitutional and legal provisions are effectively and vigorously implemented by various instruments of governance in India and are further buttressed by the energetic and committed civil society and a vocal media that provides necessary vigil as well as support for elimination of all forms of discrimination.

Mr Chairman,

Though the era of colonialism and imperialism is now well behind us, it is unfortunate that even today people's attitudes and their very deeply imbibed beliefs fuel racial hatred and discrimination. As we work towards a world free of the racial prejudices of the past. The recrudescence of racism and xenophobia in different parts of the world has been a disturbing phenomenon. The world today continues to see real and tenacious manifestations of racial discrimination, despite the fact that none want to be seen as racist themselves.

Mr. Chairman,

We would also like to caution against the improbable linkage of racial discrimination with some of the other forms of discriminations or intolerance. We would in particular like to emphasize on the improper association of religious intolerance with racial discrimination. The discourse on the so-called "multiple discrimination" should not be allowed to dilute the commitment and determination necessary to combat racial discrimination and related intolerance.

We have to continue our fight, not just in the United Nations, but also in our own countries by promulgating stringent national laws, strict implementation and most importantly, ensure that attitudinal behaviour

of people are changed. The mindful nurturing of multi-cultural, democratic and pluralistic traditions; inculcation of tolerance and respect for diversity; and implementation of appropriate educational and legislative strategies would perhaps provide the surest guarantee against racial prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia.

We would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and seek to create more effective measures to enhance its effective implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Self-determination has long been recognized as the right of peoples of non-self governing colonies and trust territories to independence and self-government. India's ongoing efforts to secure the right of peoples to self-determination is momentous and India has played a vital role in the struggle for decolonization, in order to ensure that people who live under subjugation, domination and exploitation, are afforded the right to freely determine their own political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Mr. Chairman

India's support to Palestine has always been unwavering and we will continue to extend solidarity to its people. India believes that the solution to the Palestine issue should be based on the relevant UN Resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Roadmap resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to remind the distinguished representative of Pakistan, who made innumerable references to the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir in his statement, that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Union of India where free and fair elections have been time and again. India, Mr Chairman, is an open, inclusive and democratic

polity with a vibrant public and media discourse and adequate mechanisms to redress issues concerning our people. I would urge the delegation of Pakistan to refrain from using this forum to detract from the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman

With freedom, comes responsibility. The right to self-determination cannot be abused to encourage secession and undermine pluralistic and democratic states.

Moreover, there is no room for self-determination to be distorted and misinterpreted as a right of a group, on the basis of ethnicity, religion or racial criteria, or any other such categorization, and use it to attempt to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of state. Ethnic or religious segregation cannot be legitimised on the ground that societies need to be constituted on homogenous lines before they can be tolerant towards diversity and accept multi-culturalism. Such a view will only aid forces of extreme nationalism. Lastly, the international community and the world at large must work toward the total and complete elimination of racism, as lukewarm acceptance is more bewildering than outright rejection.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.



730. Statement by Gopinath Pandurang Munde, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 63 - Report of the Human Rights Council at the UNGA.

New York, November 3, 2010.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the President of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for his presentation as well as report under the agenda item 63 titled "Report of the Human Rights Council".

Mr. President,

Since its creation in 2006, the Human Rights Council has played a commendable role. This has helped the Council to achieve its pre-eminent, legitimate and premier position in dealing with human rights issue in the international scene.

We are encouraged by the broad consensus that the Council has been a considerable improvement over its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, and has addressed human rights issues in a more constructive manner.

This has been possible mainly owing to the Council's basic shift in emphasis on principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and capacity-building that underlie its mechanisms, agenda and programme of work, and methods of work.

Mr. President,

The Council's strength also lies in its emphasis on dialogue, cooperation, transparency and non-selectivity in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedom for all.

In substantive terms, the enthusiastic participation of Member States in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process till date is a pointer in this direction. This also underscores the success of this innovative mechanism, which has provided a platform for sharing of national experiences and best practices in consultation and with the consent of the country concerned.

It is also worth noting that the UPR has generated a new momentum towards ratification of core international human rights instruments, submission of periodic reports to treaty bodies, better cooperation with special procedures, greater openness towards human rights complaints procedures, and enactment of national measures in line with the obligations of a State Party under relevant human rights instruments.

Mr. President,

I am happy to note the proactive attitude of the Human Rights Council in examining and reacting to several emergent human rights situations. Since its creation, the Council, in addition to its fifteen regular meetings, has also convened thirteen special sessions to deliberate on issues of special concerns. This has helped in further reinforcing and strengthening the Council's credibility internationally and also provided an appropriate forum for Member States to raise human rights issue.

Mr. President,

We are in the fifth year of the establishment of the Council. This has given us an opportunity to ensure that we learn from the current functioning and practices of the Council and formalise them in the ongoing review of the Human Rights Council. We hope that our review efforts are based on an inclusive approach, which respects diversity in historical national experiences, cultures and development.

In this regard, we would like to welcome the discussions which took place last week in first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Review of the Work and Functioning of the Human Rights Council.

During the review process, we feel that the Council should consider streamline its programme of work by meeting in two regular sessions for a total of eight weeks every year, with the remaining third session of two weeks be added to the existing programme for Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In addition, in order to give necessary focus on the intergovernmental nature of the Council, we would support preserving the procedural and organisational role for the President of the Human Rights Council and the Bureau.

We would also like to reiterate that the Complaint Procedure with the Council should be retained while exploring the possibility of streamlining its functioning. We believe that it serves a useful purpose and its effectiveness can be judged from the relatively high rate of both quality and timely responses from States.

Mr. President,

Having created the Human Rights Council as the subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, we appreciate the current practice of the presentation of the report of the Council in the General Assembly directly, with the understanding that all its recommendations are considered and acted upon by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly.

We would also call for putting in place mechanisms and procedures by which the decisions of the General Assembly, especially those with financial implications, on the report of the Council can be acted upon quickly by shortening the time of consideration of financial implications by ACABQ and the Fifth Committee, so as to minimize the time-lag being experienced currently.

Mr. President,

India attaches considerable importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. India remains committed in making the Human Rights Council a strong, effective and efficient body capable of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

I would also like to say that a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding should guide the work of the Human Rights Council. We reiterate our firm commitment to continue to engage constructively with all Member States, and strive to ensure that the Council retains its preeminent place in the international human rights arena.

Thank you, Mr. President.



731. Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 18 ([a] Macroeconomic Policy Questions: International Trade and Development at the Second Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 4, 2010.

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".

Mr. Chairperson,

We are yet to overcome the after effects of the multiple crises. The global economy, though on its recovery path, is still fragile. As such, our collective efforts must be geared to ensure a strong, sustained and balanced global economic growth. This is a pre-requisite for addressing poverty eradication, employment creation and attainment of the MDGs, especially in developing countries.

International trade has an important role to play in enhancing global economic recovery and in promoting a sustainable and job oriented growth in developing countries. However, due to difficulties in market access, lack of capacity for trade and lack of concessional finance and credit, developing countries especially the LDCs are hardly in position to optimize their share in global commerce.

The LDCs share in global trade in 2009 was about 1% and if oil is excluded from it, it would go down to 0.4%.

UNCTAD in its report on trade and development has highlighted the need to maintain balance between domestic and overseas demand for sustainable economic growth. We fully concur with this suggestion.

To offset the negative impact of an export led growth, we are of the view that countries must pursue an export strategy that looks for diversification of markets and products.

The lower volatility of services export to income shocks highlighted the relative resilience of services trade to the crisis. Hence, export diversification by developing countries into the services sector would be conducive to building economic resilience and reducing excessive dependence on commodity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The onus lies on the global community to create an international trading regime which is equitable and fair; one from which developing countries can truly benefit. We must also find solutions to adding value to the products of developing countries, in place of simply perpetuating the role of developing countries being providers of raw materials.

In this regard, we look forward to an ambitious, fair, balanced and equitable outcome of the Doha Round; one that corrects the present imbalances and truly reflects a developmental agenda.

We also need to work to lower trade barriers and shun protectionism to stimulate global trade.

There is a heightened sense of food insecurity today, especially in poor countries. Livelihood of billions of people depends on agriculture in the developing world. India, therefore, places high importance to the Special Safeguard Mechanism in the Doha Round and on the need to maintain a balance between agriculture and NAMA in the text.

Mr. Chairperson,

Promoting the benefits of trade must take into account the special needs of developing countries, particularly the Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries.

India also calls for the full implementation of the Duty Free Quota Free market access for the LDCs by the international community as mandated by the Hong Kong WTO Declaration.

Technology plays a key role in promoting development. Issues that affect humankind at large must be given special treatment.

India supports flexibilities in the Agreement on TRIPS for public health concerns and stresses the need to extend such flexibilities to climate-

change technology transfer. We also support measures to make intellectual property rules fully supportive of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The reform of global financial and economic institutions lies at the heart of creating a more responsive, equitable and democratic global economic order.

India seeks to strengthen the voice of developing countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions. In this regard, we welcome the recent IMF quota shift of over six % to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries by 2012.

I thank you.



732. Statement by Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Member of Parliament, on the Situation in Afgahnistan at the UNGA.

New York, Novemebr 4, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express India's appreciation for scheduling this discussion on a subject of great significance for us, our region and the world. I also commend the German delegation for coordinating inter-governmental negotiations in an excellent manner that has led us to this annual General Assembly resolution on the "Situation in Afghanistan".

As we have been doing for the last several years, we are happy to co-sponsor this resolution, which is traditionally adopted by consensus.

Mr. President,

The efforts of the international community in Afghanistan have increasingly focused on security, development, governance and regional and international cooperation issues with the overall objective of the Afghan

government eventually assuming full responsibility and taking charge of Afghanistan's destiny. There have been significant political developments during this year including the London Conference, the Kabul Conference and the Parliamentary elections.

The Kabul Conference marked a new phase in the partnership of the Afghan Government and international community - the Kabul Process and a renewed commitment to a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan. The Conference demonstrated Afghan Government's determination to take full responsibility for Afghanistan's own development, security and governance, and the international community's willingness to realign international assistance in accordance with Afghanistan's priorities and action plans. The success of Kabul Process largely depends on detailing and implementing the commitments flowing from the Kabul Conference.

Tangible and sustained improvements on the security front are a prerequisite for realizing these shared goals. Indeed, improved security could create an enabling environment for an accelerated progress on development and governance issues. This is also critical in expanding the footprint of the Afghan Government and ensuring the greater ownership of these processes by the Afghan people. For these processes to be enduring, Afghan ownership should go hand-in-hand with Afghan leadership.

The holding of national assembly elections on September 18, 2010 was an important step forward in strengthening the democratic framework in Afghanistan. India appreciates the resoluteness and determination of the Afghan people who participated in these elections, notwithstanding threats and intimidation by the Taliban. I would be remiss if I do not place on record our appreciation for the Afghan Government's lead role and the critical supportive role played by the UN and the international community towards organizing these elections.

Mr. President,

India's relationship with Afghanistan is multi-faceted characterized by civilizational, trade and cultural exchanges stretching back to antiquity.

India is committed to the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan underpinned by democracy and cohesive pluralism and free from external interference. India has contributed to these goals through our Development

Partnership which is implemented entirely in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan Government and people. Our Assistance programmes are spread all over Afghanistan and cover all sectors of development: humanitarian, infrastructural, institution and capacity building, small-scale quick gestation projects, and agriculture. The ultimate aim of our assistance, which presently stands at over US\$ 1.3 bn, is to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan state and people to stand on their own feet in the areas of governance and services for the Afghan people.

Turning to the regional aspect, Mr. President, Afghanistan's stability and economic development depend a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Afghanistan's greatest economic potential perhaps resides in its immense potential as a trade, transport and energy hub, and as a bridge linking Central, West, South Asia and the Gulf. Its prosperity also depends on the consumer market of nearly 1.5 billion people in the South-Asian sub-continent.

However, for this to materialize, Afghanistan's neighbours need to come together to forge greater regional cooperation and facilitate trade and transit. We must expand, rather than hinder, trade, transit and transport ties, including overland transit and trade. That is the best way of bringing the regional dimension into play in a positive manner.

Growing economic inter-dependence will also help in weaning disaffected youth away from insurgency and militancy and in creating a zone of co-prosperity in the region. We support the wishes of the Government of Afghanistan to take the lead in this direction.

Mr. President,

Peace and reintegration efforts in Afghanistan could succeed provided they are fully Afghan-led and Afghan-owned and carry all sections of Afghanistan's population together as well as abide by the redlines agreed to at the London Conference and later reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference, i.e., giving up violence, cutting off all links with terrorist groups, and accepting the democratic and pluralistic values of the Afghan Constitution, including women's rights.

Moving forward, it is important that the international community must keep in mind the lessons learnt from past experiences at negotiating with

fundamentalist and extremist organizations and ensure that any peace process is conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner. Adequate capacity of the Afghan security forces and other Afghan institutions is a sine qua non for protecting Afghanistan's sovereignty, plurality and democracy. Gains of the last nine years stand to be squandered if this aspect does not receive the attention that it deserves as the international community ponders its next steps regarding Afghanistan.

Security and stabilization of Afghanistan will remain a distant goal unless we are able to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism, which includes elements of Al Qaeda, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders. The fight against terrorism cannot be compartmentalized. It is essential to ensure that support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorist organizations from outside Afghanistan are ended forthwith.

It is worrisome that despite reinforced International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)'s presence, there has been a continuing deterioration in the security environment. The latest report of the UNSG notes that there has been a 69% increase in security incidents as compared to the same months in 2009.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, in the arduous journey for lasting peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan, Afghanistan needs a long-term commitment of the international community to successfully confront the challenges that lie ahead while progressively taking charge of its own destiny.

The international community must remain steadfast in its commitment in supporting Afghanistan. The Kabul Conference was a major step in the right direction. We welcome these efforts and are fully supportive of them. We appreciate the good work done by UNAMA.

Thank you



733. Statement by Gopinath Munde, Member of Parliament, on Peacebuilding Fund at the Annual High-level Stakeholders Meeting of the UNGA.

New York, November 4, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset welcome and thank you for convening this Peacebuilding Annual High-Level Stakeholders Meeting today at a time when our endeavours for peace and security, globally, stand at a critical juncture. Mr. Chairman, international community's response to post-conflict societies stands enriched with what UN peacekeepers have been delivering tirelessly on the ground and with the recent Peacebuilding initiatives.

India recognizes PBF as a critical constituent of the larger architecture in our quest to achieve lasting, enduring and sustainable peace in post conflict societies. In this regard, today's event is timely, relevant and opportune for us to take stock of what we have achieved thus far and the way forward.

Mr. Chairman,

As a contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund and as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, India has remained actively engaged in the critical task of peacebuilding. We will continue our active association with both, the Commission and the Fund, with a view to enable these institutions fulfill their assigned tasks.

Mr. Chairman, in this spirit, I am happy to announce a fresh contribution of 2 million dollars (USD) to the Peacebuilding Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

India believes that Peacebuilding Commission has bridged a critical gap in attaining peace and security. We believe and hope that the Commission will make significant contributions to the recovery, reconstruction and development of countries emerging from conflict,

wherever it agrees to act upon a request for advice and assistance by a Member State.

It is with this conviction that India had engaged proactively in formulating the revised terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund and had co-sponsored a resolution in the same spirit. We are happy to note that the Secretary General's Annual Report on the Peacebuilding Fund notes that its revised terms of reference have enabled the Fund "to serve as a fast-disbursing, agile, responsive, and risk-taking peacebuilding instrument".

Mr. Chairman,

It is imperative that the relationship between the Commission and the donors is managed creatively, so that the synergies presents in the Peacebuilding Architecture are harnessed optimally.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by stressing two important imperatives:

First, we must always strive to ensure that there is an effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Commission itself through at all stages. Second, there is a need to improve the governance structure of the peacebuilding architecture. PBC and PBF should be in a position to respond swiftly and with greater efficiency so that all available resources that are geared towards peacebuilding in post conflict situations are harnessed optimally and expeditiously.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman



734. Statement By Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament, at the 2010 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities at the UNGA.

New York, November 8, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you, and other members of the Bureau, on your election as Chairman of the 2010 United Nations Pledging Conference.

India is strongly committed to the development mandate of the United Nations, which must be accorded the highest priority. Our participation in this Pledging Conference demonstrates India's continued and unwavering faith in the development agenda of the United Nations.

At the recently concluded High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating poverty, disease and hunger that transcends national borders, as well as their resolve to work together to ensure that the right to development is a reality for everyone sooner rather than later.

We are particularly sensitive to the multi-dimensional impact of underdevelopment and poverty in vulnerable countries including the Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing countries and most of Africa. The international community must strengthen the role of the United Nations in multilateral development cooperation to help address their special needs.

One of the most important factors in stepping up our struggle to bring development to vulnerable populations worldwide will be the quantum of resources marshaled by the international community in this effort. It hardly bears mentioning that stagnation or, worse still, a decline in funding to the development activities of the UN poses a threat to the viability of operational activities and severely circumscribes its ability to work at the country level.

Despite our own challenges and constraints, India has consistently contributed to both increasing core resources availability to the UN Funds and Programmes and to enhancing the predictability of the funds provided to operational activities of the UN system.

This year, we would like to welcome the creation of the newly created consolidated gender entity UN WOMEN. I wish to pledge India's full and unequivocal support to UN WOMEN in its critical mandate of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

I now have the honour to announce India's pledges of contributions for operational activities for development of the UN system for the year 2011.

UNDP	US\$ 4,500,000
UNICEF	US\$ 900,000
UNRWA	US\$ 1,000,000
UNEP	US\$ 100,000
UNCHS (HABITAT)	US\$ 80,000
WFP (biennium)	US\$1,920,000
UNODC	US\$ 500,000
UNFPA	US\$ 500,000
UNCPCJF	US\$ 3000

In addition, our commitment to the UNIFEM and INSTRAW part of UN WOMEN of US\$ 20,000 and US\$ 1,100 respectively remains in place for 2011 too.

I thank you, Mr. President.



735. Statement by R.K. Singh Patel, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 140 - Administration of Justice at the Fifth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 10, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation thanks the Executive Director of the Office of the Administration of Justice, Mr. Andrei Terekhov for introducing the report of the Secretary General on Administration of Justice at the United Nations. We also thank the United Nations Ombudsman, Mr. Johnston Barkat, for introducing the report of the Secretary General on the activities of his Office. We convey our appreciation to Ms. Susan Mclurg, the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing the related report of the advisory committee. We further thank the Vice-President of the Staff-Management Coordination Committee (SMCC), Ms. Paulina Analena for her statement.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is encouraged with the progress recorded by the new system of internal justice since its birth in July 2009. Even in the short time that the system has been operational, it is evident that it represents a marked improvement over its predecessor. Some of the benefits from the new system are already visible. We particularly welcome the timelier disposition of cases since last year with finalization of a case taking an average of six months. The new system accords primacy of place to the fundamental axiom of "justice delayed is justice denied."

In this regard, we would like to place on record our appreciation of the commendable effort and dedication demonstrated by the judges and staff in navigating the transition from the old system.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain supportive of informal conflict resolution through the use of ombudsman and mediation services as a first step of recourse under the new system. These efforts should be further strengthened, so as to enhance accountability and have a positive impact on human resources management by facilitating speedier resolution of disputes and promoting mutual trust, harmony and understanding between the staff and the management.

We share the disappointment of the ACABQ with regard to delays in finalizing cost sharing agreements with the funds and programmes. We reiterate paragraph 62 of resolution 62/228, wherein the General Assembly had approved the cost sharing arrangement for the new system of administration of justice on the basis of "headcount" approach, rather than on the basis of actual cases disposed, as proposed by the funds and programmes. We urge the Secretary-General to expedite early conclusion of the cost-sharing arrangement.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation broadly concurs with the ACABQ's reasoning that any meaningful assessment of the new system would require more time and experience before a determination on what more needs to be done is taken. Nevertheless, we remain open to considering specific resource requests on a case-by-case basis. We further support strengthening of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance as we believe that the continued availability of legal assistance to staff is crucial to the efficacy of the new system.

We have noted the Secretary-General's requests for adequate funds for translation and interpretation services, and for granting travel entitlements to the Appeals Tribunal judges based on that provided to former judges of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, it must be underscored that the new system will ultimately be judged by the confidence it inspires amongst Staff that their

grievances will be addressed professionally, fairly and in a timely manner. We further hope that the new system of administration of justice would remain consistent with the outcome of the overall reform of human resources management within the United Nations System.

A good beginning has been made. Let us build on it so as to meet the goal of an independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of internal justice.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



736. Statement by Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 29 - Report of the Security Council; and 119 - Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other Related Matters at the UNGA.

New York, Novemebr 11, 2010.

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country on the Report of the Security Council and the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

We thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for introducing the annual report of the Security Council for the period 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. We would also like to thank the delegation of Nigeria for their efforts in preparing the "Introduction" section of the report.

My delegation would also like to place on record our appreciation for the delegation of Uganda for convening an informal meeting with Member States on 21 October for the preparation of the report.

At the outset, let me state that we align ourselves with the statement to be made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the L.69 Group on Security Council reforms.

Mr. President,

In our view, the report of the Security Council is an important means for facilitating interaction between the most representative organ of the United Nations and its most empowered brethren. The UN Charter itself bestows on the report a profound gravitas as is evident from the fact that there exists a separate provision mandating such a report, rather than clubbing it with the provision for reports from other UN bodies.

It is, therefore, imperative that the annual report of the Security Council inform, highlight and analyze the measures that it has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security during the reporting period.

The membership of the General Assembly has repeatedly requested that this report be more analytical and incisive than becoming a mere narration of events. It is important the General Assembly be aware not only of what decisions were taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership of the General Assembly.

At the same time, however, let us give credit where it is due. I refer in particular to the resolution adopted by the 64th UN General Assembly on "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly." Operative Paragraph 9 refers to the improvements that have been made in the quality of the annual reports and encourages the Council to make further improvements as necessary.

Like other delegations, we are of the view that while we may have covered a few yards, but we still have miles ahead of us.

Mr. President,

The UN membership must recognize that the lacunae in the report are a manifestation of the underlying problems of representation and working methods of the Council, which remain opaque and non-inclusive. The report, this year too, continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents.

There is no other option but to recognize that the real solution not only for a more credible, legitimate and representative Council, but even for

a more thorough report lies in the comprehensive reform of the Council, including expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, and its working methods.

In this context, it is important to note that an overwhelming majority of member states have clearly expressed their preference for such a reform during the five rounds of intergovernmental negotiations held so far on the issue of reform of the Council.

Mr. President,

We are enthused by the fact that you have undertaken a number of quick and commendable steps thereby ensuring that the General Assembly remains faithful to the central directive of its Decision No.64/568 of 13 September, namely "to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session."

At the earliest instance, on 1st October this year to be precise, you re-appointed Ambassador Zahir Tanin as the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on Council reforms. And on 21 October you convened a meeting of the entire UN membership on this important issue.

My delegation welcomes these steps which reflect the resolve of the vast majority of the UN membership for achieving early reform.

These actions hopefully bode well for the process. There exists sufficient basis for optimism that, by the end of the current session of the General Assembly, we will be able to achieve concrete results on Security Council reform under your stewardship and guidance.

Equally, Mr. President, we are happy that with each passing day, countries and leaders around the world are publicly articulating their support for India's candidature as a new permanent member of an expanded Security Council. Most recently, India received affirmation of support from the US President Barack Obama. The Indian delegation takes this opportunity to thank the US side for this kind gesture. We also call on other nations to extend their valuable support to us.

We also hope that the UN Secretary General will complement your initiative and enthusiasm in the context of Council reforms. This issue,

without doubt acquires salience in the coming year as the Secretary General prepares for his second term.

Mr. President,

In both our individual capacity, and as a member of two groupings devoted to early reform of the Council, namely the G4 and the L69, India would like to highlight certain salient features of the various proposals and positions as captured in the negotiation text.

First, the overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their clear preference for expansion of the Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories.

Second, on the size of the Council, there is convergence on the need for expansion from the current fifteen to a figure in the mid-twenties. Also, most of the positions have called for a mandatory review after a period ranging from eight to fifteen years.

Third, the G4 position on the "question of the veto" is unambiguous and constructive. We stress the need for an outcome that ensures the democratization of decision-making within the Council. India is willing to engage with all concerned with an open mind on this key issue.

Fourth, India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council.

Fifth, on the issue of regional representation, we lay great store by the principle of equitable geographical distribution. India supports a Charter-based distribution of seats that addresses the lack of representation of African, Latin American and Caribbean countries and the lack of adequate representation of Asian countries in the permanent membership; as well as the lack of adequate representation of developing countries, including least developed, landlocked countries and small island states in the non-permanent membership.

And finally, 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.

Mr. President,

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.

We need to shorten the negotiation text and then proceed wholeheartedly into real negotiations. This is the view of the overwhelming majority of the UN membership, besides being the only logical course of action for anyone even remotely committed to reform.

Let me assure you and the rest of the UN membership 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, Mr. President.



737. Statement by Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Member of Parliament, on Agenda Item 161 - Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country at the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

New York, November 11, 2010.

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the Chairperson of the "Committee on Relations with the Host Country" for his Report.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country provides a useful forum for addressing issues relating to the functioning of Missions of Member States and for enabling their representatives to perform their functions without hindrance.

This year the Committee examined a number of problems raised by interested delegations on "acceleration of immigration and custom procedures", "entry visas issued by the host country", and "security of

missions and safety of their personnel", "question of privileges and immunities", "transportation" and other matters. The open and transparent exchange of views in this forum helped in addressing the issues in question in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law.

Madam Chairperson,

India had brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of property taxes being imposed by the City of New York on diplomatic premises used by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations to house its diplomats. The issue is presently being pursued in New York Courts.

I am pleased to inform this Committee that while an appeal from the decision of the District Court's decision was pending, the United States Department of State issued a Notice pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act, designating as a "benefit" under the Act an exemption from real property taxes on property owned by foreign governments and used to house the staff of permanent missions to the United Nations or the Organization of American States or of consular posts. The Notice states that the benefit determination preempts all inconsistent state and local laws, and also applies to all property taxes that "have been or will be assessed," on such property.

In a historic 3-0 judgment on 17 August 2010, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that the Notice issued by the Department of State was a lawful exercise of the Department's authority under the Foreign Missions Act, and that the Notice operates in this case to render Appellants exempt from the property taxes imposed by the City, and so nullifies the City's existing tax liens against Appellants.

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the Host Government for their active cooperation. Issuance of the Notification is in accordance with international law, the Headquarters Agreement between the UN and the United States, and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We look forward to the continued support and active involvement of the Department of State as the City of New York has decided to go in appeal to the United States Supreme Court against the judgment of the Court of Appeals.

Nevertheless, we continue to believe that under international law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, my government, being a sovereign, is not liable to pay property tax in respect of the portion of the building of the Permanent Mission owned by it and occupied by its diplomats for residential purposes.

We understand that many Permanent Missions are facing a similar problem. We again urge the host country to do its utmost to resolve the situation that has arisen from a given interpretation of its law. As a friendly country, India does not wish to be seen agitating on such issues in US courts.

Madam Chairperson,

We recognize that the host country has a right to monitor and control entry into its territory and to adopt the requisite security measures it deems necessary. This has to be balanced, on the one hand with the right of the delegations to participate in the work of the United Nations in a timely manner and on the other to ensure that the delegations do not misuse their privileges and immunities.

As regards entry visas, we support the Committee's recommendation that the host country enhance its efforts to ensure their issuance in a timely manner to enable representatives of Member States to attend official meetings in a timely manner.

We welcome the steps taken by the host country to address the parking problems of diplomatic missions through the efficient implementation of the Parking Program for Diplomatic Vehicles and hope that the remaining issues in this respect, including the request for change of allotted parking slots allotted to our Mission, would be addressed soon.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



738. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, on Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council at the Security Council.

New York, Novemebr 15, 2010.

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council. I would also like to thank the three distinguished Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1540 for their briefings and sharing of their experiences while carrying out the work of these Committees.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the most abhorrent and heinous crime against humanity as a whole. It continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat not only to global security but also to the core values of the United Nations. It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, as criminal and unjustifiable.

There are deep concerns about the potential nexus between clandestine proliferation and terrorism and the ever-present danger of such weapons or vulnerable nuclear materials falling into the hands of non-state actors.

Being a victim of terrorism and worst sufferer for the last many decades, India fully supports all efforts for greater and more meaningful international cooperation in countering and combating the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. President,

We support the anti-terrorism mechanisms established by the United Nations, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267, related to sanctions against Al-Qaeda/ Taliban; United Nations Security

Council Resolution 1373, which led to the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee; and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which addressed the issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

We support measures to strengthen the review process of the listings in the Consolidated List through the Office of the Ombudsperson pursuant to the 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.

We fully support the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)'s efforts to play a more effective role in countering terrorism. As the CTED's mandate comes up for renewal next month, the endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the UN. We appreciate the Counter Terrorism Committee's efforts to organize thematic briefings, streamlining its working methods and give more focus to substantive and analytic work.

We have also taken note of the recommendations made in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. This requires careful examination and further consideration.

We support efforts of the 1540 Committee towards handling assistance requests by countries and to find means to address the most commonly found gaps in the implementation of Resolution 1540. However, it is important that these activities are performed at the request of Member States while keeping in mind their varying national capacities, procedures and systems.

We look forward to greater efforts to bring together inter-related aspects of the operational mechanism of the 1267 Committee, 1540 Committee and the Counter Terrorism Committee. In this context, the institutionalization

of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2009 is a positive step in strengthening UN efforts to countering terrorism by providing an umbrella under which different UN entities can effectively work in a coordinated and coherent manner.

India has an abiding interest in expeditiously concluding the long-pending Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). An early adoption of CCIT is in the interests of all Member States and would provide impetus to multilateral and collective action to countering international terrorism efforts. The UNSG in his latest report A/64/818 on the Global Counter Terrorist Strategy has rightly pointed out in paragraph 139 that the comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the CCIT.

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.

During our membership of the Security Council from January 2011 onwards, we intend to work very closely with the counter terrorism mechanisms. It would be our endeavour to strengthen ongoing efforts to promote open dialogue and interactive discussions to ensure wider participation of the membership.

Thank You



739. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative of India at the special commemorative event to pay tribute to the late Secretary-General of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Mr. Néstor Kirchner (organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, in its capacity as President of UNASUR) at the UNGA.

New York, 15 November 2010.

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General and

Your Excellency the Permanent Representative of Ecuador,

It is indeed with a heavy heart that I am standing here on this solemn occasion to deliver a statement on behalf of the Asian Group.

The Asian Group thanks the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, in its capacity as President of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) for organizing today's special commemorative event to pay tribute to President Kirchner.

Mr. President,

President Néstor Kirchner was a very important leader who made significant contributions not only to the American continent during the course of a long and impressive political career, but also for the international community, his region and all of us in the South.

Dr. Kirchner was not only a patriot, a politician, a statesman but also an active human rights activist. His untimely demise is not only a great loss to the friendly people of Argentina but will also be mourned by peace-loving admirers in other countries around the world.

As President of Argentina, he played a guiding role for the national economy at a time of serious crisis. His stewardship of the UNASUR was exemplary as was his positive contribution to regional cooperation and development in his region.

We have no doubt that the international community shares the sense of loss and sorrow that our South American brethren are feeling with the passing away of President Kirchner.

On behalf of the Asian Group and the Permanent Mission of India here, I would like to convey heartfelt condolences to Her Excellency, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic and her family and to the grieving people of Argentina. We share in your sense of loss and stand by you during these sad times.

Mr. President,

Please allow me also, to convey, on behalf of the Government and people of India, our profound grief and deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Argentina in the very sad demise of President Néstor Kirchner. In the demise of H.E. Dr. Nestor Kirchner on 27 October 2010, Argentina lost one of its greatest leaders.

Thank you.



740. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on [a] Agenda Item 13- Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and followup to the outcomes of the major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields [b] Agenda Item 115 - Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit-notes by the Secretary-General and [c] Agenda Item 120 - Strengthening of the United Nations System - Notes by Secretary-General at the UNGA.

New York, November 23, 2010.

Mr. President,

At the outset I wish to express our sympathies to New Zealand for the trapped miners and Cambodia for the very tragic deaths in a stampede.

Thank you for organizing today's joint debate on agenda items 13, 115 and 120. The issues that they deal with are central to our collective efforts to strengthen the UN system and even more relevant for the theme that you have chosen for the current General Assembly "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance".

Mr. President,

India has all along emphasized that sustaining economic growth is the key for poverty eradication. It is also imperative that the fruits of development reach across the board and result in inclusive growth and the achievement of MDGs.

We are happy to co-sponsor the resolution titled "Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of MDGs" for adoption by the General Assembly today.

In this regard, we recognise the crucial role of the Economic and Social Council in pushing for a comprehensive development agenda at the United Nations through an integrated and coordinated approach.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to the WHO report. We, of course, align ourselves with the statement by the Chair of G-77 on the report

Like many other countries, India is also undergoing "epidemiologic transition" with the initial high burden of disease and mortality due to infectious diseases gradually giving way to Non Communicable Diseases, injuries and geriatric problems as the main burden of disease.

It is estimated that today 42% of all deaths in India are due to NCD and we have lost millions of potentially productive years of life, due to premature deaths caused by cardiovascular disease in the age group of 35-64 years. This also signifies the enormity of the challenge we face.

There is also emerging evidence that poor people are particularly vulnerable to NCDs owing to high rates of smoking and tobacco use, occupational risks, and living conditions.

Mr. President,

The Government of India has accorded very high priority to the health care in our country. The Flagship National Rural Health Mission is using innovative and decentralized approaches to public health with strong involvement of the local community.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India have also formulated various national programmes for NCDs including national programme for prevention and control of diabetes, cardio-vascular disease and cerebro-vascular diseases (stroke); National Cancer Control Program and National Mental Health Programme.

While obviously, much is being invested on the prevention and health promotion side, we, of course, need to tackle the need for affordable treatment. With NCD becoming a major issue globally, it is imperative that policies on access to safe drugs also ensure their affordability for all.

We look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, as it would give us an opportunity to bring global attention to this important and growing developmental challenge.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the report of the JIU on "selection and conditions of service of Executive Heads in the United Nations system organizations." It is a long

overdue evaluation of the legal and institutional framework and practices in the selection and appointment of such senior officials.

We are firmly of the view that the relevant legislative bodies, whether it is the General Assembly in the case of the Secretary-General or the governing bodies in the case of the Funds, Programmes and specialized agencies, should have a greater role in such appointments.

My delegation has repeatedly voiced our strong support for a greater say for the General Assembly in the process of selection of the Secretary General, most recently in the context of our discussion on "Revitalization of the General Assembly".

This report of the JIU should give an impetus to the discussion amongst Member-States to enhance the role of the General Assembly in selection of the Secretary-General.

The situation is not much different in the case of executive heads of the Funds and Programmes. The process of consulting the governing bodies must involve real engagement with members. We would not like to see it reduced to a mere proforma exercise which is regrettably the case at present, with members given unrealistically tight time frames to react to the Secretary-General's recommendation.

My delegation believes the JIU has offered useful recommendations on selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system. It supports the objective of making the process and system more transparent, effective, and accountable by involving its principal stake-holders. We urge Member-States to give it careful consideration.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**741. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 37
"Question of Palestine" at the UNGA.**

New York, November 30, 2010.

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this discussion on the Question of Palestine at the General Assembly. Yesterday we marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This allows all of us to underline our support for the people of Palestine in their quest for peace and justice.

Mr. President,

The support for the Palestinian cause has been a central feature of India's foreign policy even before it achieved independence in 1947. Starting with

our vote against partition of Palestine, through India's recognition of the PLO in 1974 as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and our recognition of the state of Palestine in 1988, India has consistently stood by the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

Our Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has 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.

India's solidarity with Palestine's struggle for the realization of its fundamental rights is an article of faith for us and enjoys national consensus in India. 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.

Towards this objective, India extended further budgetary support of US \$ 10 million to the Palestine National Authority earlier this year in addition to a similar contribution last, to assist in their work of reconstruction and development. India has also continued to support UNRWA through its annual contribution of \$ 1 million.

Mr. President,

India welcomes the direct talks between Israel and Palestine and reiterates its full support for efforts to achieve a durable, comprehensive and just settlement. We sincerely hope that the talks and negotiations would lead to a comprehensive peace process for final resolution of the Middle East conflict.

We remain convinced that lasting peace in the region will contribute to global stability and prosperity.

Thank You.



742. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 117: Implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations & Agenda Item 118: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the UNGA.

New York, December 6, 2010.

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of India at today's joint debate. We believe that the issue of General Assembly revitalization has assumed particular significance in recent years.

My delegation was therefore encouraged by the theme chosen by the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Joseph Deiss for the general debate of the 65th General Assembly in September this year, namely, "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" for which we would like to place on record our appreciation. We also welcome his personal attention to matters of badly needed institutional reforms, in particular reform of the Security Council and revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

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. 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, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

Mr. President,

My delegation participated actively in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly revitalization in the 64th session. We provided a number of inputs at the meetings held during the 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.

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, Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia and Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina. 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.

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, Mr. President, that we have some distance to travel.

Mr. President,

Let me place on record my delegation's resolve to continue to actively participate in the deliberations on this issue in the current session. We are enthused by the fact that you have chosen two outstanding and distinguished colleagues of mine, H.E. Mr. Camillo Gonsalves, the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Mr. Dalius Cekoulis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to Co-Chair this year's Ad Hoc Working Group. They can count on the Indian delegation as they go about their important task.

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 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. 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.

As we prepare to join the Security Council, after a gap of 19 years, 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, though seemingly important, which 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-emphasise 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.

The General Assembly can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

Thank You.



743. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 116 - Follow-up to the Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the UNGA.

New York, December 9, 2010.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Secretary General for his report under the agenda item, "Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade".

Mr. President,

Transatlantic slave trade is one of the most shameful chapters in human history.

The wrenching of people and their transportation away from their own people and homes to distant lands, across an ocean, makes every other atrocity committed in the history of mankind pale into insignificance.

The work of the United Nations can never be complete until we emphatically and without any reservation condemn the transatlantic slave trade. We firmly believe there should be a genuine sense of acceptance that these horrific crimes took place along with sincere repentance of the same.

It is also imperative that the international community takes upon itself the commitment to never let such crimes ever take place again. Additionally, at the level of the United Nations we must take all initiatives to ensure that future generations do not forget the grief and tragedy borne by the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

The construction of a Permanent Memorial will be a fitting tribute of the United Nations to the millions of victims of the transatlantic slave trade. We are humbled and honoured to be part of the initiative to erect a Permanent Memorial.

Mr. President,

With our contribution of US \$ 260,000/-, India is proud to be the lead contributor to the "United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships - Permanent Memorial" for receiving contributions to erect the Permanent Memorial.

India's contribution is reflective of our firm belief that the international community must pay homage to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

The Trust Fund, however, as of date has only received a mere US \$ 800,000. This falls significantly short of the anticipated expenditure of US \$ 4.5 million for the construction of the Memorial.

It is, therefore, obvious that there is an imperative for the international community to actually come forward and contribute to this noble cause. We, therefore, strongly urge all countries, and especially those who benefited from the transatlantic slave trade, to come forth and generously contribute to show their earnest acceptance that wrongs were committed and there is a sense of repentance.

The international community cannot let the idea of this memorial just remain on its design board.

We also hope that the Committee which has been established to oversee the construction of the Permanent Memorial finalizes its Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO at the earliest so that the international design competition for the Memorial could be launched as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

I would like to place on record India's support for the various activities and programmes undertaken by the Department of Public Information to commemorate the "International Day of Remembrance" every year on March 25.

We would also like to support the call for adequate, regular and predictable financial allocation to the Department of Public Information in organising these events in New York as well as in various countries through the network of the UN information centres.

Education has a critical role in creating awareness amongst present and future generations, about the history, causes and impact of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. Its importance cannot be overemphasized.

Mr. President,

We are happy that the CARICOM has today introduced their draft resolution titled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade". We have been co-sponsoring this resolution since 2007 and today I am happy to co-sponsor this resolution again.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by quoting George Mason, one of the founding fathers of the United States, who said, "the augmentation of slaves weakens the states; and such a trade is diabolical in itself and disgraceful to mankind".

We have a chance to pay tribute to the victims who suffered this disgrace by openheartedly contributing to the Trust Fund.

This is, Mr. President, the least we can do.

Thank you.



744 Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 124 Global Health and Foreign Policy on Behalf of Asian Group at the UNGA.

New York, December 9, 2010.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asian Group on Agenda Item 124 entitled "Global Health and Foreign Policy".

Let me begin by thanking the delegation of Thailand for preparing this statement on behalf of the Asian group and also the delegation of Pakistan for coordinating the same as the Chair of the Open Ended Working Group on "Enhancing the role of the Asian Group in the UN Affairs".

Mr. President,

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts in preparing the report under this agenda item. The report contains a rich and very timely discussion on the increasing prominence and relevance of global health issues in the international and foreign policy agendas. Furthermore, it highlights and follows important developments on the synergies between these two policy arenas. It suggests that mutual benefits and strengthened global health responses can result when we explore ways to enhance policy coordination and coherence between global health and foreign policy.

Mr. President,

The Asian Group fully acknowledges that global health has always been and continues to be a pressing concern on the international agenda. In September of this year, the General Assembly convened a High Level Plenary Meeting of its sixty-fifth session on the Millennium Development Goals, which was attended by an impressive number of high level dignitaries from around the world. Throughout the course of the

Summit, the international community was reminded of the important place occupied by health issues and the three health-related MDGs within the overall discussions on socio-economic.

Furthermore, the MDG Summit, and the outcome document in particular, also reaffirmed the interdependent nature of all the Millennium Development Goals, while underscoring that the best way to successfully accelerate achievement in any one MDG is through taking a holistic and comprehensive approach to all MDGs. Making progress on the health-related MDGs would therefore entail a multi-sectoral approach that places equal emphasis on the attainment of all the other goals ranging from poverty and hunger eradication, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women to promoting global partnership and achieving environmental sustainability, including necessary measures in the areas of safe water and sanitation.

In this regard, the Asian group supports "the Sustainable Sanitation; Five Year Drive" initiated by the United Nation Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) as a follow up of the International Year of Sanitation 2008."

Among the health-related MDGs, a holistic and comprehensive approach is also pertinent and the Asian Group remains seriously concerned about the lack of progress, in particular, in ameliorating maternal, newborn and child health. In this respect, the Group welcomes the introduction of the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and expects the strategy to be implemented by a broad range of partners in a well harmonized and integrated manner.

Mr. President,

The MDG Summit served as a strong reminder for the international community that the promotion of global health cannot be achieved in isolation. Despite the earnest efforts of all countries to promote and protect the right of every person to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, substantial gaps persist. It has become all too clear that we must reinvigorate our efforts to strengthen our national health systems so that we may be better able to deliver equitable health outcomes. In this regard, we must continue to build sustainable health systems and strengthen national capacities to deliver comprehensive, accessible, affordable and quality healthcare, including

through providing and strengthening comprehensive and affordable community-based primary health-care services so as to ensure a continuum from health promotion and disease prevention.

Hence, the role of foreign policy and international cooperation cannot be overemphasized, in particular the role of aid targeted towards the health sector, ODA-related commitments, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in support of national plans and strategies, as well as innovative sources of financing.

Furthermore, global health must be a priority consideration when dealing with trade issues. We must continue to promote universal access to medicines, fairer access to vaccines -- in particular in situations of pandemics -- and increasing global vaccine production capacity.

The Asian Group also welcomes all health related initiatives at national, regional and global levels supporting the global health agenda. In this regard, the Asian Group looks forward to the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, during the Prince Mahidol Award Conference, in Bangkok, Thailand in 2011.

Mr. President,

The Asian Group is of the view that in-depth discussions are best left to competent health professionals. However, the positive and perhaps even catalytic political support for promoting such discussions with a view to concluding them can and oftentimes must come from the General Assembly.

In the past, numerous high level meetings on important global health concerns were convened at the General Assembly. These have duly highlighted the fact that global health concerns are not addressed merely by medical responses, but require sustained political will and effective international cooperation and partnership. In this regard, the Asian Group supports the General Assembly's continued engagement in global health concerns and looks forward to participating actively in the high level meetings currently being planned on the issue of non-communicable diseases as well as the United Nations Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Review in 2011.

Mr. President,

I wish to underline that a firm and collective commitment to global health is paramount to surmounting the multiple financial, economic and other crises and challenges that we face today and may face tomorrow. Considering that two of our members are part of the core group of seven "Oslo Group" countries behind the resolution being submitted under this agenda item today, I can assure you that the Asian Group stands ready to work closely with its partners in promoting global health around the world and looks forward to seeing the resolution adopted without a vote.

Mr. President,

In closing, allow me to say a few words in my national capacity on the progress made by India in the field of health. In 2005, we launched our flagship National Rural Health Mission, which continues to be perhaps one of the biggest interventions of its kind in the health sector in the world. This programme has helped us strengthen the public health infrastructure with the appointment of over 100,000 healthcare providers and over 700,000 trained community workers.

India is presently spending over US \$ 3.5 billion each year on health services, with substantial expenditure on services aimed towards women's and children's health. Currently, India is focusing on strengthening its efforts in the 235 districts that account for nearly 70% of all infant and maternal deaths. We have also made commendable South-South cooperation in the field of public health. With our unique position as a source of cost-effective generic medicines, we are currently assisting many developing countries in ensuring easy and ready availability of affordable and quality vaccines and medicines to vulnerable people. We also call on all countries to support rather than hinder or create barrier to such legitimate efforts. We are also ready to provide technical assistance to other countries and share our experience in the field of public health.

In view of our commitment to global health, we are happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution "Global Health and Foreign Policy".

I thank you, Mr. President.



745. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Annual High-Level Conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund at the 65th Session of the UNGA.

New York, December 14, 2010.

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank you for your strong leadership and OCHA for organizing this annual event.

I would also like to thank the Secretary General and you for update on CERF funded relief operations.

We are happy to note that CERF has been effective in mobilizing resources and implementing its mandate. In the short span of five years it has become a valuable and impartial tool for prompt and significant UN humanitarian action

We are also happy to see Fund acquiring a greater profile and role in rapid response to humanitarian emergencies. CERF assistance this year was critical in the international response to the earthquake in Haiti and floods in Pakistan.

There is little doubt that with an increasing number of natural disasters requiring the help of the international community, the role of the Fund will become even more relevant in the coming years.

Madam Chair,

India accords the highest importance to the role of the United Nations in coordinating international emergency humanitarian assistance and of providing support to national authorities in responding to humanitarian emergencies. India also values the multilateral setting, voluntary and impartial nature of such humanitarian assistance adhering to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law.

India has always been forthcoming in extending assistance to countries affected by humanitarian disasters. India contributed US Dollars Twenty Million to the UN for assistance to Pakistan earlier this year. And, in

February, we contributed US Dollars Five Million for the Government of Haiti to meet its immediate needs in the aftermath of the earthquake. We have also joined Brazil and South Africa as part of our joint IBSA Trust Fund to establish a waste management project in Haiti.

India has made a commitment of contributing US\$1.5 million to CERF over a three-year period from 2009. In accordance with this we had contributed US\$500,000 in 2009 and 2010. I am happy to announce that we will continue with our contribution of US\$500,000 in 2011.

Thank you.



746 Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the "IBSA - Joint Statement": Open Consultations on Enhanced Cooperation at the UN.

New York, December 14, 2010.

Mr. Chairman.

I am presenting this statement on behalf of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA).

2. Mr. Chairman, the IBSA is a coalition of three countries of the South, that is, India, Brazil and South Africa. This coalition was established in 2003 and is aimed at contributing to the construction of a new international order and for the three countries to coordinate, cooperate and convey the same message on pertinent global issues. In addition to the same vision, the IBSA countries share similar principles of democracy, multilateralism and the respect for international law. The Internet governance is one of the issues the IBSA countries have common interest in.

3. In April 2010, in Brasilia, the IBSA Heads of State highlighted the importance of "building a wide political concertation at international level for making the global Internet governance regime as multilateral, democratic and transparent as provided by the World Summit on Information Society".

4. The IBSA countries recognize the importance of the democratization of Internet governance. The Tunis Agenda of 2005 recognizes 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, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues". The purpose of enhanced cooperation is therefore to enable States to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in Internet governance - international Internet related public policy issues. Further, the process towards enhanced cooperation, was mandated to be started by the UN Secretary-General, "by the end of the first quarter of 2006, involving all stakeholders in their respective roles, and proceeding as quickly as possible consistent with legal process" as contained in para 71 of the Tunis Agenda. It has been almost five years since the Tunis Agenda had

5. Apart from technical aspects, the discussion on Internet governance has several critical public policy implications that necessitate the involvement of governments. These include among others, issues such as stability of the internet; interoperability; accessibility and openness (costs and human rights); specified first quarter of 2006 to begin Enhanced Cooperation. The need for Enhanced Cooperation has grown exponentially and become more urgent since 2005 owing to the rapid expansion of the internet and its growing impact on public policy and other issues. Therefore, the IBSA views this consultation as long-overdue, yet opportune, to initiate the process towards enhanced cooperation as stated in paragraphs 68, 69 and 71 of the Tunis Agenda.

5. Apart from technical aspects, the discussion on Internet governance has several critical public policy implications that necessitate the involvement of governments. These include among others, issues such as stability of the internet; interoperability; accessibility and openness (costs and human rights); network neutrality; access to knowledge and the balanced approach between openness, security and privacy aspects of the Internet; cyber security and the ICTs (as they

relate to the Internet) and development nexus. A central issue in Internet governance is the management of Critical Internet Resources. Although there is a positive movement towards improving transparency and accountability in the activities of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), its legal status remains problematic. The fact that only one country, instead of the international community of States, is the provider and guarantor of the management of names and numbers of the Internet in all countries contravenes established UN principles and universally accepted tenets of multilateralism.

6. Unfortunately, these issues are yet to be discussed among UN Member States in depth from a public policy point of view due to the absence of an intergovernmental platform mandated to systematically discuss them and make decisions as appropriate. It is thus necessary for governments to be provided a formal platform under the U.N that is mandated to discuss these issues. Such a platform would also complement the Internet Governance Forum, a multi-stakeholder forum for discussing, sharing experiences and networking on Internet governance.

7. The IBSA believes that this platform once identified and established will allow the international community to accomplish the developmental objectives of the Tunis Agenda, including inter alia paragraph 65 of the Tunis Agenda that expresses the "the need to maximize the participation of developing countries in decisions regarding Internet governance, which should reflect their interests, as well as in development and capacity building". It would also allow for meaningful implementation of para 89 of the Tunis Agenda which emphasizes the need "to improve international, regional and national connectivity and affordable access to ICTs and information through an enhanced international cooperation of all stakeholders that promotes technology exchange and technology transfer, human resource development and training, thus increasing the capacity of developing countries to innovate and to participate fully in, and contribute to, the Information Society". Operationalizing Enhanced Cooperation will also enable the Internet to realize its well-recognized potential as a powerful tool for development and poverty reduction,

and of achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

8. Keeping in view the urgency and importance of establishing such a platform, the IBSA countries reiterate the need to ensure that the present consultations result in a clear roadmap for operationalizing Enhanced Cooperation. In this context, we would like to propose that an inter-governmental working group be established under the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the focal point in the UN system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of WSIS. The Working Group should be mandated to prepare a report on the possible institutional design for enhanced cooperation in consultation with all stakeholders, and asked to submit its report to the UN General Assembly in 2011. The Working Group should also take on board inputs from all international organizations including the ITU, and should recommend on the feasibility and desirability of placing the Enhanced Cooperation mechanism within an existing international organization or recommend establishing a new body for dealing with Enhanced Cooperation.

9. In order to allay any misgivings about a so-called "UN takeover" of Internet governance, the IBSA reaffirms its commitment to the stability and security of the Internet as a global facility based on the full participation of all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities in line with paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda.

10. The IBSA urges the UN Secretary General to continue the process of consultations with Member States and all stakeholders with a view to facilitating forward movement towards operationalizing Enhanced Cooperation.



747 Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Commemorative Meeting on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of The Adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and peoples on behalf of Asian Group, at the UNGA.

New York, December 14, 2010.

Madam President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asian Group and would like to express appreciation of all members of the Asian Group to you for taking this initiative to organize this meeting on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

I wish to place on record my appreciation to the delegation of Pakistan as chair of our open ended working group on coordinating such statements for having done in this case too.

In the late 1940s when many countries in Asia were emerging from the dark shadow of colonial rule, the cardinal importance of independence from colonial rule was highlighted like never before. Indeed, birth of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also echoed this sentiment.

Madam President,

The Charter provisions on Non-Self Governing Territories were given a new thrust when this august body adopted the landmark 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Many Asian countries were co-sponsors of the Declaration. 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 these initiatives in which Asian countries were at the forefront.

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 elected the first Chairman of the Decolonization Committee. As members of the Committee of 24, as it came to be called, Asian countries have ceaselessly struggled for an end to colonialism.

Today, the majority of the membership of the UN comprises former colonies; this is clearly a measure of the success of the historic struggle against colonial rule. The fact that today, fewer than 2 Million people live under colonial rule in remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories when compared to 750 Million in 1945 is a testimony to the efforts to this august body and of the crucial role of the Declaration.

Madam President,

Asian countries have supported numerous resolutions in the UN fora on decolonization. For coming generations, colonialism may be a part of history: new challenges of tomorrow have to be faced. However, it was the struggle against colonialism, successfully waged in solidarity by the Asian countries, which has brought them to a stage where they can set the goals of economic and social development for their societies.

It should be our common endeavour to work with the people of the remaining non-self-governing territories to realise what they perceive to be in their best interest. They should be given an opportunity to determine this freely from a well-informed standpoint. The way ahead must be a judicious mix of urgency and activism on the one hand, and on the other, one of sensitivity and circumscription, that takes into account, first and foremost, the needs of the people of the Territories and their special circumstances.

Today, as we commemorate the Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the cherished ideals of freedom, democracy, human rights, dignity and peaceful co-existence, while also reaffirming our commitment to achieve the goal of decolonization to which, we as member of the UN family, have subscribed.

Madam President

Please allow me also to say a few words in my national capacity coming as I am from the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru two of the tallest leaders among tall leaders fought against colonialism and the right of the need of justice for all.

Given that we are a country which experienced colonialism, and earned independence through a non-violent struggle in the exercise of its right of self-determination, India has always supported the legitimate right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination an adopted under the

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

I thank you Madam President.



748. Intervention by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the informal meeting (closed) of the plenary on the 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, December 14, 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by welcoming the decision of Ambassador Zahir Tanin, the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform for his decision to convene this meeting today. His letter of 24 November has encouraged and provided us with a faint ray of hope on the way ahead and possibly some light at the end of the tunnel.

The time for decisive action is at hand.

The UN membership has been in intergovernmental negotiations since March 2009. With each passing day, the distressing realization that an

unreformed Security Council reflecting the realities of 1945 and the "to the victor belong the spoils" approach continues. This is so only because there is a perception that there are some member-states that do not want to reform the Organization and the Council because they themselves lack the confidence to make a bid for permanent membership.

We have repeatedly stressed that reform of the Security Council is necessary in order to align it with today's 21st century realities and to bring to the table large unrepresented parts of the world-Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Small Island Developing States and others.

Even more unacceptable, in my delegation's view, is the lethargy which in turn reflects not the position of the member-states but the cynical perception of those who view the status quo as serving their own interests.

An eleven member Council with five permanent members in 1945 at a time when the UN membership was just above 50 cannot claim to be the legitimate and linear progenitor of today's 15 member Council with the same set of P5 in the midst of a UN membership that has quadrupled in the last six decades.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to align myself with the statement made by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe, PR of Jamaica on behalf of the L.69 Group.

As you are well aware, the L.69 is a group of UN member-states that comprises a diverse group of countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Today's statement by the L.69 Group is a game changer for the reform process as it reaches out to various countries by incorporating the aspirations of our brothers from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Small Island Developing States. The core message of the L.69 Group is the call for comprehensive reform of the Council which has as its central element an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. Also it provides the contours of what a final settlement would look like.

My delegation calls for a much shorter text amenable to real negotiations that does not exceed two or three pages. This text should first and foremost capture the prevailing and unchallenged sense of this august assembly, namely, the urgent need for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UN Security Council.

Those who differ should feel encouraged to put their own proposals into the text. Not doing so could result in their missing the boat.

We are confident that Ambassador Zahir Tanin will be able to produce such a shorter text by the middle of January 2011.

Mr. Chairman,

India's position on Security Council reform is too well known to require reiteration. In both our individual capacity, and as a member of two groupings devoted to early reform of the Council, namely the G4 and the L69, India would like to mention the elements that need to be in the negotiation text.

First, the overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their clear preference for expansion of the Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories.

Second, the shorter text should faithfully reflect the 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.

Third, new permanent members shall have the same rights and obligations as the current permanent members. However, if some of

the new permanent members decide not to enforce their veto right 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.

Fourth, India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council.

Fifth, 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.

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 the rest of the UN membership 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.



**749. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative on the debate on Sexual
Violence in Conflict at the UNSC.**

New York, December 17, 2010.

Madam President,

I would like to thank you for organising this important open debate on Sexual Violence and Conflict in the broader context of the discourse on Women, Peace and Security.

There is a saying that all that is necessary for evil to continue is for good men to do nothing.

My delegation believes that the community of nations must ensure that the human rights of all are respected. Universal respect for human rights is, in our view, the basis of the common and better future that we seek to build.

The weakest, Madam President, are the biggest victims of conflict and as the Secretary General points out in his report, women continue to suffer appallingly in conflicts around the world.

Sexual violence is, according to the report, not merely a consequence of conflict but a driver. It perpetuates conflict and locks its victims into a vicious cycle of violence and oppression.

The international community has not just the responsibility, but the obligation to do its utmost to ensure the security of women and children, to ensure that they are not handicapped in any respect and that every possible effort is made to create conditions where they can realize their potential.

Madam President,

Two important strands of international concern converge in this debate. These are the struggle to empower women and the constant endeavor of the United Nations to preserve peace and international security.

The struggle to empower women has moved from declaratory resolutions to a more comprehensive approach. The 1995 Beijing Declaration and

Platform of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Commission on Status of Women have been milestones in this journey.

I was myself pro-actively involved in the final stages of the critical negotiations that led to the creation of UN WOMEN. We have, indeed, very high expectations from this entity as women's empowerment and gender equality are among our key national development priorities.

No country can be absolved from the responsibility of acting against sexual violence, one of the more abhorrent forms of violence against women. My delegation is therefore committed to the creation and augmentation of international regimes that furthers these objectives.

The proceedings of the Council today will build upon and add to the edifice that has been created by UNSC Resolutions 1325, 1612, 1820, 1882 and 1888. These resolutions and other associated decisions of the UN Security Council on inter alia Sexual Violence, Children and Protection of Civilians have led to a significant accretion in the corpus of international law. We also welcome the appointment of Ms. Margot Wallstrom as SRSG for Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Madam President,

The resolve of the international community in the area of Sexual Violence in Conflict has also oriented the operational and peacekeeping activities of the United Nations towards recognizing the plight of women and children in conflict areas and to be proactive in working towards preventing violence against them.

India supports these developments. These are, however, first steps towards ensuring that no woman lives in fear, even if we cannot ensure that she is free from want.

The Resolution that is being adopted today, and which we have co-sponsored, will add a number of new dimensions to the ongoing work in this area.

The provenance of the concepts that have been introduced in the resolution today is the structure that has been created in respect of Children in Armed Conflict.

While the objectives of this framework are laudable, its implementation remains and will remain work in progress for some time. As a delegation that will join the Security Council in January 2011 we will remain seriously engaged with both the evolution of the normative side and its implementation.

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, in particular, which is to provide the data on the basis of which this system is to operate needs close supervision by the Member States to also ensure its veracity and credibility.

The process of data collection and analysis and that of listing and de-listing should also be carried out in a transparent and judicious manner under the close supervision of Member States.

Madam President,

It is not enough for the Security Council to mandate. It must make available the resources that are required to implement the ambitious legislative framework that it has created. UN peacekeeping missions and peacekeepers in the ground are being asked to do more and more with less and less.

The resolution that is being adopted today is a case in point. While the decision of the Council will expand the scope of peacekeeping mandates, no cognizance is taken of the fact that resources to implement the existing mandates are already inadequate.

Accountability must be established for those who mandate but do not provide resources.

Being the largest troop contributing country in UN history, with more than 100,000 peacekeepers in 40 UN missions, India has perhaps more experience than most in implementing Security Council mandates. It is, indeed, Indian troops along with the peacekeepers of fellow TCCs, who convert the intent of this Council into deed.

We take great pride in the stellar record of our peacekeepers, both men and women, in the protection of women, children and the weak.

The Council has been briefed that Indian troops have apprehended some of the principal culprits behind the recent sexual violence in MONUSCO.

We can do much more if more troops are deployed, if more resources, capacities and enablers are made available. It is a matter of concern that the Council is unable to address these deficits.

Martin Luther King once said that "Injustice anywhere diminishes justice everywhere." My delegation believes that the perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice. We believe that the national capacities to adjudicate and to punish must be strengthened and supported to ensure that justice is done and the guilty punished.

Madam President,

My delegation is of the view that the UN Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes can do more. We have consistently held the view that greater participation of women in the areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace keeping and post conflict reconstruction is an essential pre-requisite for lasting peace and security.

Today's resolution identifies Women Protection Advisors as key components of the implementation strategy. We support this concept. We believe that Advisors need to have direct and relevant experience and would be happy to contribute personnel who have what would be required to be effective.

I would also like, at this point, to state that we value the contributions of Civil Society in this arena. We look forward to working with them in taking this common agenda forward.

Madam President,

I belong to the Sikh faith. Four centuries ago, Guru Gobind Singh, at a time when conditions in India were unstable and conflict-ridden, ordered us to treat women captured in battle with the greatest respect. This is the Indian ethos in respect of women, particularly during situations of conflict. This is what we are committed to and this is what we will uphold.

Thank You.



**750. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative, on the Situation in
Afghanistan at the United Nations Security Council.**

New York, December 22, 2010.

Madam President,

I would like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary-General and are appreciative of the briefing by the SRSG Staffan de Mistura. We also thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, PR of Afghanistan for his statement.

Madam President,

I join others in expressing our sincere condolences on passing away of Mr. Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan. An accomplished diplomat, Mr. Holbrooke served his country and the cause of international peace and security with great distinction in difficult conditions in various parts of the world. He will be missed by us all.

As the year draws to a close, today's meeting offers us a timely opportunity to comprehensively review the goals and commitments that we have been able to achieve and fulfill in Afghanistan and the tasks that remained unaccomplished so far on the long road to lasting peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan.

The overarching objective of the efforts of the international community has been to create an enabling environment for the Afghan government to eventually assume full responsibility and take charge of its own destiny. The London Conference in January, the Kabul Conference in July and the Parliamentary elections in September have been significant political milestones in this direction.

The Kabul Conference marked the beginning of Kabul process - a new phase in the partnership of the Afghan Government and international community. I am happy to note that the focus of the Kabul process has now shifted from planning towards implementation and delivery, an

important step on the road to transition to greater Afghan ownership. The UNSG's latest report also highlights that a framework for detailing of implementation plans for the short and medium terms of all the 22 national priority programmes has been put in place.

The holding of national assembly elections, despite threats by Taliban and other illegal armed groups in September, 2010, has been an important step in the consolidation of the democratic framework in Afghanistan. We are particularly encouraged by the robust participation and campaigning by around 2500 candidates, including 396 women in these elections. We hope the uncertainty regarding the results of the elections is settled sooner rather than later.

In our shared pursuit of sustained and tangible improvements in security, governance and development, the unity of purpose of efforts is indeed imperative to enhance the efficiency and over all coordination of the international community's presence in Afghanistan.

I am pleased to note that UNAMA is assuming a greater role in generating a coherent approach to coordinate donor assistance and the alignment of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, donors and other implementation partners to the government led processes including at the sub-national level. I could not agree more with the observation in the UNSG's report that 'as the process of transition to full Afghan leadership and ownership advances, both the Government and the international community should be guided by realities rather than schedules'.

Madam President,

We need to guard against the impulses to consider the peace process as a short-cut to facilitate transition. Going down this path without respecting the 'redlines' for the process laid out at the London Conference and endorsed at the Kabul Conference would risk Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorists and extremist groups.

The international community must bear in mind the lessons learnt from past experiences at negotiating with fundamentalist and extremist organizations and ensure that the process must remain Afghan-led, inclusive and transparent.

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.

As the ISAF prepares to gradually withdraw from Afghanistan, there is a need for adequate capacity building of Afghan security forces, along with adequate enablers, prior to the transition of security responsibility to them. The necessity of dealing with the terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens beyond Afghanistan borders is equally important in this context. Adequate capacity of the Afghan security forces and other Afghan institutions is a sine qua non for protecting Afghanistan's sovereignty, plurality and democracy.

Security and stabilization of Afghanistan will remain a distant goal unless we are able to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism, which includes elements of Al Qaeda, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders.

As we discuss today, though we appreciate the gains made in southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand against Taliban strongholds, it is worrisome that deterioration in the security environment, especially in the North has been a continuous trend this year. The UNSG report notes that there has been a 66% increase in security incidents in Afghanistan as compared to the same period in 2009.

Madam President,

Afghanistan's stability and economic development depend a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Afghanistan's greatest economic potential perhaps resides in its immense potential as a trade, transport and energy hub, and as a bridge linking Central, West and South Asia, given Afghanistan's traditional cultural and economic moorings in South Asia.

Growing economic inter-dependence will also help in weaning disaffected youth away from insurgency and militancy and in promoting

regional cooperation. We support the wishes of the Government of Afghanistan to take the lead in this direction.

In India's efforts towards stabilization of Afghanistan, the focus has been on developmental and humanitarian work to assist the Afghan people as they build a peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic nation. We have sought to assist Afghanistan within our means. Our US \$ 1.3 billion assistance programme is aimed at building infrastructure, capacity building in critical areas of governance, health, education, agriculture etc. and in generating Afghan capacity and employment.

Madam President,

At the dawn of New Year, it is our earnest hope that the international community would remain steadfast in its commitment in supporting Afghanistan. Enhanced synergy and coherence of efforts of the international community are critical in creating an enabling environment which facilitates transition to greater Afghan ownership and puts Afghanistan firmly on road to peace, progress and stability. We support the good work done by UNAMA.

Thank you

