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S N Jha



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India & The World

INDIA & USA

United States on 29 December 2013 initiated an inter-agency review to look at the lapses that happened in the Devyani Khobragade case that triggered uproar in India and strained bilateral ties. The decision on the review was taken following a tough stand of India on the arrest of Devyani Khobragade. The US departments involved in the review include the National Security Council of the White House, the State Department and the Justice Department. The matter of the diplomat has now landed up in the judiciary and it mainly depends on the judges for which the two bodies are engaged actively. There was a judgmental error in handling the case and an inter agency team that is led by the State Department is working 24x7 to get resolved the issue as quickly as it is possible. Devyani Khobragade a 1999-batch IFS officer is the India's Deputy Consul General in New York was arrested on alleged visa fraud charges. Devyani, the 39-year-old diplomat was strip searched and held with the criminals on the charges of making false declarations in the visa application of her maid Sangeeta Richard. In response to it India reacted strongly by downgrading the privileges of certain category of US diplomats among other steps.

Defence Cooperation with India & USA

India and United States of America (USA) signed a joint declaration on 27 September 2013 in defence cooperation in research in defence, defence technology transfer, co-development and co-production of defence articles and services and protecting each other's sensitive technology and information.

Highlights of the Joint declaration in defence cooperation

- The United States and India share common security interests and place each other at the same level as their closest partners. This principle will apply with respect to defence technology transfer, trade, research, co-development and co-production for defence articles and services, including the most advanced and sophisticated technology.
- Both countries will work to improve licensing processes, and, where applicable, follow expedited license approval processes to facilitate this cooperation.
- The U.S and India are also committed to protecting each other's sensitive technology and information.
- The two sides will continue their efforts to strengthen mutual understanding of their respective procurement systems and approval processes, and to address process-related difficulties in defence trade, technology transfer and collaboration.
- The two sides look forward to the identification of specific opportunities for cooperative and collaborative projects in advanced defence technologies and systems, within one year. Such opportunities will be pursued by both sides in accordance with their national policies and procedures, in a manner that would reflect the full potential of the relationship.
- The U.S. continues to fully support India's full membership in the four international export control regimes, which would further facilitate technology sharing.

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An Investigation into Indian Trade Policies

A Federal Agency of United States in last week of August 2013 launched an investigation into the trade policies of India. The federal agency has alleged that the Indian trade policies has discriminated the American trade and investment sector.

A joint Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on ways and means requested for the investigation named Trade, Investment and Industrial Policies in India: Effects on the U.S. Economy. An investigation report on recent policies and measures in India that affects the U.S. exports and investment would be presented by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC). The USITC will also evaluate the effects of such barriers on U.S. firms and the economy. While examining the Indian policies, the USITC will also produce details of restrictive trade and investment policies maintained or adopted by India in recent past to figure out the sectors that have been affected the most out of the policies. It will also provide the case studies of US firms that have seen the impact of Indian policies in forms of restrictions.

The Process of Investigation

A sample of US firms would be surveyed by the USITC for measurement of the sensitivity if Indian policies and its impact on US firms. The results of the survey would be based on the quantitative analysis trade policy effects, investment and US economy.

INDIA & SRILANKA

Sri Lankan court on 26 December 2013 extended the remand of 111 Indian fishermen, who were caught by the Navy of the country in December 2013. The Trincomalee magistrate's court has extended the remand on the charges of violating the international maritime boundary. The court has held 6 January 2013 to review the case. The same court, earlier also extended the remand of two groups of 30 fishermen each. Rajitha Senaratne, the Fisheries Minister of Sri Lanka has said that none of the boats or the fishermen of India

will be released until the 200 Sri Lankan fishermen, who are in the custody of the India were released. As per the Fisheries Minister of Sri Lanka, the two countries will held a meeting of the representative of the fishermen's associations of the two countries in January 2013. Also the Senaratne will visit New Delhi in January 2013 to discuss the issue with Sharad Pawar, the Union Agriculture Minister, who also holds the charge of the Indian fisheries department.

Maritime Boundaries: India and Sri Lanka

The Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Sri Lanka signed an agreement on 23 March 1976, establishing maritime boundaries in the Gulf of Manaar and the Bay of Bengal. Ratifications were exchanged and the agreement entered into force on 10 May 1976, two years after the two countries negotiated a boundary in the Palk Strait.

Article V of the signed agreement mentions

- (1) Each Party shall have sovereignty over the historic waters and territorial sea, as well as over the islands, falling on its side of the aforesaid boundary.
- (2) Each Party shall have sovereign rights and exclusive jurisdiction over the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone as well as over their resources, whether living or non-living, falling on its side of the aforesaid boundary.
- (3) Each Party shall respect rights of navigation through its territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in accordance with its laws and regulations and the rules of international law.

INDIA & PAKISTAN

Director Generals Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan took place on 24 December 2013 along the Wagah-Attari border. The meeting was held to work out a mechanism to ease tension between the two sides and to ensure peace at the Line of Control (LoC). Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia led the Indian side, whereas, Major General Aamer Riaz headed the Pakistani side. A brigadier and three lieutenant colonels also

participated in the talks from both each side. The DGMO-level talks of the two nations have been held after 14 years. Last time the key army commanders of India and Pakistan met in July 1999 after the Kargil war. The decision of holding the meet between India and Pakistan DGMOs was taken at political level. The DGMOs of the two country discussed major issues that pertains to tension on the LoC. They also discussed issues on the working boundary with a focus to maintain ceasefire and bring normalcy. The two sides met, three months before the proposed meeting of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to defuse tensions. Initially Pakistan proposed to include the Foreign Ministry officials in the meet of the military officers, which was rejected by India. In 1949, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was established. It was established under the resolution passed by the world body's council to supervise ceasefire along the LoC.

MoU Signed between PCPPI & AIAI

All-India Association of Industries (AIAI) on 8 October 2013 announced that it entered into an agreement with the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in order to promote the trade between India and Pakistan. For this purpose, a memorandum of understanding was signed with a purpose of enhancing the trade and investments between the two nations. The MoU also seeks to enhance the collaborations, joint ventures as well as technology transfers via an exchange of the business proposals. Apart from this, the MoU also aims to offer the mutual help in organisation of and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions. The MoU was signed between President of FCPPPI Zubair Ahmed Malik and with senior AIAI officials. With this, the AIAI's list of the agreements like this with the fellow lobbies increased to 205.

INDIA&UAE

India and United Arab Emirates on 12 December 2013 signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) that

would accelerate fresh capital investments of UAE in India. The BIPPA agreement was signed by Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, the Minister of State for Financial Affairs of UAE and Namo Narain Meena, the Minister of State for Finance of India. At present the Foreign Minister of UAE, Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan is on a visit to India. The BIPPA has been worked on as an exception to the norm of India to freeze all BIPPA agreements until a new template is in place. UAE wants to explore major infrastructure projects in India but was waiting till the signature of the BIPPA. India and UAE are the largest trading partners of each other with the total bilateral trade of 75 billion dollars. At present, the UAE invests in India about 3 billion dollar. UAE controls the second largest Sovereign Wealth Fund in the world under the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. At present, Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) wants to invest 700 million dollars in Himachal Pradesh in the electricity sector, whereas the DP World Operations is aimed at expansion of their footprint in the port sector in India. In February 2013, India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investments that was set up to speed up investment opportunities met but before proceeding UAE wanted to conclude the BIPPA. This signing of the agreement has opened the possibilities of High Level Task Force meetings in January 2014 to explore investment opportunities. With the signing of the India-UAE BIPPA, India now has such agreements with all GCC countries, which also opened the possibilities of pursuing India-GCC Free Trade Agreement, which has been on the backburner so far.

INDIA&NEPAL

India and Nepal on 22 December 2013 agreed to address each other's concerns on commerce and transit, including reduction of tariff barriers and checking illegal trade along the border. The decision was made during the two-day Inter-Governmental Committee meeting that concluded in Kathmandu. The delegations of the two sides were led by the Commerce Secretaries of the two countries namely SR Rao of India and Madhav Prasad Regmi of Nepal. India and Nepal has agreed on a 14-point agenda to enhance trade, promote

co-operation and address concerns of the private sector of both the countries. Institutional arrangements will be made to facilitate the third country import and export to build infrastructure in newly identified customs points. India has also agreed to provide 10000 cows to Nepal in response to the demand of milk and dairy products of the country. India has recognized the necessity of balancing trade to make it sustainable for both the countries. Both sides looked towards trade in goods to increase trade in services and investments

for balancing trade. Both the sides were able to sort out important bilateral issues. India will also help Nepal to reduce its trade deficit.

INDIA & THE ARAB LEAGUE

India and Arab League on 17 December 2013 inked an MoU to elevate the political, trade and cultural relations. The MoU was signed by Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India and Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States during his visit to India.

List of documents signed are:

| S.N. | Title | Signatory from Indian side | Signatory from Arab League side | Details |
|------|--|--|---|--|
| 1. | Memorandum of Cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Republic of India | Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister | Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States | The new Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) has replaced the existing MOC signed in December 2008. The new MOC provides for replacing the High Level Joint Committee of the existing MOC with new formats for future meetings, namely Ministerial and Senior Officials meeting, involving all the member states and the Arab League Secretariat. It also provides for setting up of an Executive Programme, which will be renewed every two years. |
| 2. | The Executive Program of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum between the League of Arab States and the Republic of India for 2014-2015 | Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister | Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States | The Executive Programme is much more specific in terms of the cooperation envisaged in diverse areas like trade & investment, energy, small and medium enterprises, culture, capacity building, etc. and attempts to specify the modality for each major activity. As per the EP, the League of Arab States Mission in New Delhi and the Indian Embassy in Cairo have been designated as the nodal points for coordination. |

INDIA & SOUTH SUDAN

India on 23 December 2013 evacuated all its employees from the strife torn South Sudan. It has also shut down all its oilfields amid escalating violence in the country. The 11 employees deputed by ONGC Videsh Ltd. at the Greater Nile Oil Project and Block 5A in Sudan working on 40000 barrels per day have been airlifted. Evacuation has happened in two batches and the airlifted employees have arrived safely to India. The company made all arrangements to evacuate its personnel as rebel forces loyal to deposed South Sudanese Vice President Riek Machar captured Unity state in which most of the oil fields are operating. ONGC Videsh Ltd. is the overseas arm of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). Earlier, United Kingdom sent an aircraft to Juba in South Sudan to

evacuate Britons amid fighting that followed a reported coup attempt.

Background

At present, South Sudan is facing an ethnic violence, which is led by the former Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar. The fighting in South Sudan broke on 15 December 2013 and by now it has claimed about 500 lives, which include a life of an Indian Soldier, who was working as United Nations peacekeeper. President Kiir, who is a member of the majority Dinka ethnic group, sacked the Vice President Machar, who belongs to Nuer community in July 2013. He was sacked on accuse of coup attempt. As per Machar, the President is carrying out the trying to clean of his rivals. Ethnic Nuer is the second largest group in South Sudan. Riek Machar was appointed as the Vice president

in 2005 and has retained the post even after independence of South Sudan in 2011, till the time he was sacked by the President.

INDIA & VENEZUELA

India and Venezuela on 20 December 2013 signed a Programme on Cultural Exchange. The programme was signed by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Ravindra Singh and Minister of State for the Promotion of Cultural Economy, Ministry of People's Power for Culture, Venezuela Javier Sarabia after delegation level talks between the two countries. Programme on Cultural Exchange shall be valid for three years. Thereafter, it shall be renewed automatically for a term of three years at a time unless either Party gives in writing an advance notice of its intention to terminate.

According to the Programme of Cultural Exchange both the countries have decided to

- To promote the exchange of bilingual publications (traditional and contemporary stories)
- On a reciprocal basis, participation of India in the Venezuela's International Book Fair
- To provide the customs and tax condition in accordance with their domestic legislation, in order to provide assistance to the International Book Fairs in their respective countries
- To encourage the participation of Venezuelan and Indian poets and writers in the literature festivals organized by both countries
- To encourage the participation of India in the Venezuela's World Festival of Poetry
- Make an issue of the magazine Actualidades (a CELARG publication) on India or on Indian writers

In the field of Film and Media according to the Programme of Cultural Exchange, both the countries have to undertake

- Indian will have to promote participation of Venezuelan film works at international movie exhibitions organized by India
- To encourage the participation of Indian movies in the National Film Library and community rooms of the Bolivarian Republic

of Venezuela.

- The diplomatic/consular/missions of both the countries will organize movie exhibitions
 - Fora should be organized with the purpose of exchange in the expertise between the film makers and representatives from both countries
 - Invite personalities and new film makers to give lectures at the National Lab of Film and Media in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
 - Encourage the institutional links between the Autonomous National Center of Film Making of Venezuela and the Institute of Cinema and Television of India.
 - Encourage the acquisition of Distribution Rights of Indian film works by the film distributor Amazonia Films
 - To promote the participation of Venezuelan film works at Indian international film festivals and vice versa
- In the field of Image and Space Arts, both the countries have to undertake
- To increase the exchange of knowledge with specialists in the field of drawing techniques with natural pigments, specialists in dying with natural inks and the use of enzymes
 - Six specialist will have to organize workshops together with the local specialist in the Venezuelan communities as per the interest of the Institute of Image and Space Arts
 - Participation of two artists, lecturers and/ or specialists to the events organized by the Institute of Image and Space Arts
 - Knowledge exchange with the purpose of training in the two states of the Venezuela with the help of a photographer or specialist from India, a group of thirty people consisting of students, artists, and members of the community in general
 - For the purpose of encouraging the photographic creation, the community management of photography, the curatorial and museum experience, the use of new means and technologies for the promotion of photography, its preservation or creation

of data bank and photo files Fundación Centro Nacional de la Fotografía de Venezuela- FUNDACENAF (Foundation National Center of Photography in Venezuela), will organize an event and invite one photographer and /or specialist in photography for the purpose to participate in the event

In the field of Stage and Music Arts, both the countries undertake to

- Participation of a Venezuelan theatre company in the New Delhi's Festival to diffuse the Venezuelan theatre in India
- Exchange of six specialists belonging to a Kathakali theatre group for the purpose of organizing workshops and presentations in the Venezuela for one week

- Participation of one dancer or couple of dancers from India at the International Dance Festivals Solos y Duetos (Solos & Duets)

INDIA AND RUSSIA

India and Russia on 18 November 2013 agreed to expand the range of strategic partnership in a significant manner in Moscow. The two countries will also hold a Joint Air Force Level exercise for the first time in 2014. The decision was taken during the 13th Meeting of the India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRITC-MTC) and it was co chaired by AK Antony, the Defence Minister of India and His counterpart of Russia, Sergey Shoigu. This decision was taken by the two countries within two days after commissioning of INS Vikramaditya into Indian Navy.

List of Bilateral Documents signed during 14th India-Russia Annual Summit

| S. No | Name of the Document | Details/Scope |
|-------|--|---|
| 1. | on Transfer of Sentenced Persons | The Treaty shall facilitate the process of social rehabilitation of persons sentenced in the other country by providing them the opportunity to serve out their remaining sentences (under certain conditions) in their country of nationality. It is expected to boost consular cooperation between the two countries. |
| 2. | MoU in the Field of Energy Efficiency | The MoU shall enhance cooperation in the field of energy saving and energy efficiency, including through joint implementation of activities and projects by organisations/companies of both the countries. The forms of cooperation envisaged include exchange of best practices in smart grids, energy audits, energy efficient building designs, industrially efficient technologies, etc. |
| 3. | MoU in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment | The objective of this MoU is to facilitate closer technical cooperation in the field of standardization through exchange of information, practices and expertise. It is expected to have beneficial effects for trade and commerce where standards/conformity assessments form an integral basis for transactions. |
| 4. | Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Technology and Innovation | The Programme aims to deepen cooperation in the field of innovation and S&T through implementation of Joint Programs and projects/exchanges involving educational, R&D and industrial institutions. The joint projects may also facilitate transfer of technology. The broad areas of cooperation include 'sunrise' sectors such as IT, nano-technology, environmental sciences and alternate energy. This Programme shall also reinforce the existing robust exchanges between the scientific institutions of the two sides. |
| 5. | Programme of Cooperation in the Area of Biotechnology for the period 2014-2017 | The Programme aims to broaden cooperation in the field of biotechnology and encourage industrial R&D & related investment flows. This is intended to be achieved through implementation of Joint Programs and projects/exchanges, etc. |

The Agreements

- The two countries agreed to hold a joint Air Force level exercise for the first time, which will happen in 2014 with a joint Navy Exercise in the Peter the Great Bay in the Sea of

Japan. Recently, the armies of the two countries held an Exercise Indra in Rajasthan with a focus on anti-terrorism.

- Agreement was reached between the two ministers on further cooperation at all levels,

especially in view of the regional and global challenges and to fight the menace of terrorism jointly. Both sides reviewed the situation in West Asia, especially in Syria and the evolving paradigm in Afghanistan.

- The two sides also agreed on to expand the cooperation not only in product design and development but also to involve various echelons of the Defence establishments in strategizing policies and cooperation in the fast changing global security scenario.

The Indian delegation in Russia also laid a wreath at the World War-II memorial at Poklonnaya Gora (Bow-Down Hill) of the Victory Park. A ceremonial guard of honour was also presented. Shoigu has also assured to India that the Indian pilots will be trained by the Naval Aviation Specialists to take offs and landing on the INS Vikramaditya, which may be held in Goa.

India-Russia Annual Summit

The 14th India-Russia Annual Summit was held at Moscow on 21 October 2013. The summit was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the Russia Vladimir V. Putin. During the meeting they discussed priority areas of bilateral cooperation and noted common positions on current international and regional issues. Both sides stressed their continued commitment to promote and strengthen in every possible way their special and privileged strategic partnership. During the 14th India-Russia Annual Summit, India and Russia signed bilateral Documents on transfer of Sentenced Persons, in the Field of Energy Efficiency, in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology, in the Fields of Science and in the area of Biotechnology.

External Affairs Minister Announced That India and Russia Will Expand Civil Nuclear Cooperation

The External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid on 6 October 2013 announced in Moscow that India and Russia will strengthen cooperation in civil nuclear energy and reach commercial agreements

for the third and fourth reactors of Kudankulam atomic power plant in Tamil Nadu. Salman Khurshid explained that the first reactor of Kudankulam plant will start producing electricity soon and go up to the level of generating 1000 megawatts of power. The second unit will go critical by April 2014. It is important to note that Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited is setting up two 1000 MW reactors at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with the help of Russia. The announcement was made in Moscow on the occasion of Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation ahead of the annual bilateral summit in Moscow in the last week of October 2013.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA

| S. No | Document | Australian Signatory | Indian Signatory | Remarks |
|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | Amendments on MoU between the Central Board of Excise & Customs of the Republic of India and the Australian Customs Service on Customs Cooperation on Mutual Administrative Assistance | Patrick Suckling Australian High Commissioner to India | Praveen Mahajan Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Customs | The amendments allow both parties to establish Joint Working Group for the effective implementation of the MOU |
| 2. | Statement of Intent between the Government of Australia and Nalanda University to Progress a three year arrangement towards a chair of Ecology and Environment Studies at the University | Patrick Suckling Australian High Commissioner to India | Gopa Sabharwal Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University | Both sides agree to work towards establishment of Chair of Ecology & Environment Studies at the University. |

India and Australia on 18 November 2013 signed two agreements in New Delhi during the visit of Foreign Minister of Australia, Julie Bishop to India. She was on four days visit to India from 15 November to 18 November 2013. List of documents signed during the visit of Foreign Minister of Australia to India:

BRICS Nations signed the Delhi Accord

The Heads of the Competition Authorities of BRICS Nations signed a Joint Accord namely Delhi Accord on 22 November 2013 at 3rd BRICS International Competition Conference (ICC) at New Delhi. The Delhi Accord was signed to ensure

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effective enforcement of competition rules, among the BRICS nations and to strengthen the co-operation among their fair trade regulators by exchanging views and boosting communication. BRICS Competition Authorities also considered the need of establishing good communication between the BRICS Competition Authorities on competition law and policy to further improving and strengthening the relationship between the BRICS Competition Authorities. BRICS Competition Authorities, while recognising the benefits of technical cooperation among the competition agencies, in sound and effective enforcement of competition laws expressed their resolve and commitment to exchange views on different aspects of competition policy. The Competition Authorities of BRICS also support the hosting of the Fourth BRICS ICC during 2015 at South Africa. The Delhi Accord was signed by Alessandro Serafin Octaviani Luis, Commissioner, CADE for the Brazilian Competition Policy System, by Andrey Tsarikovsky, Stats Secretary-Deputy Head of the FAS, Russia for the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation, by Ashok Chawla, Chairman, for the Competition Commission of India, by Sun Hongzhi, Vice Minister, for the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People's Republic of China and by Tembinkos Bonakele, Acting Commissioner for the Competition Commission of South Africa.

INDIA AND MALAYSIA

India and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 25 November 2013 to strengthen co-operation in public administration and governance as part of the efforts to enhance their strategic partnership. The MoU covers eight areas of co-operation including human resource management, e-governance, public delivery system, accountability and transparency, skills and capacity building and quality results. The MoU was signed by Malaysia's Public Service Department Director-General Mohamad Zabidi Zainal and the Secretary of India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Sanjay

Kothari. The MoU envisages cooperation via tours, workshops and conferences, sharing of public administration and governance information and expertise, common project implementation mechanisms and exchange of publications, state.

INDIA & BELGIUM

Princess Astrid of Belgium on 28 November 2013 inaugurated the Consulate General of Belgium in Chennai for expansion of the bilateral ties with India. This is the second Consulate General and the third diplomatic mission in India. Princess Astrid is the representative of the King of Belgium, who is on a visit to India from 23-30 November, 2013.

At present is leading a high power trade delegation to India. As per the Belgian Ambassador to India, Pierre Vaessen the initiative was part of his country's efforts to strengthen presence in India, mainly in South India. At present about 160 Belgian companies are operational in India, which of maximum are in South India. India and Belgium generally do trade of 15 billion, which mainly includes diamond business. The trade could also be diversified into different sectors like green technology, renewable energy and chemical and pharmacy industries.

INDIA & BANGLADESH

The first Integrated Checkpost along Agartala-Akhaura, India-Bangladesh border was jointly inaugurated on 17 November 2013 by Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. The chief Minister of Tripura, Manik Sarkar was also present on the occasion. The integrated checkpost has been created to facilitate easier movement for the goods and passengers across the border and this will help in promoting the relations between India and Bangladesh. The Agartala-Akhaura Integrated checkpost is the first of the seven Land Customs Border Stations has been upgraded by the Land Port Authority of India along the 4096 km border. The Integrated Checkpost houses all regulatory agencies, which includes Immigration, Customs and Border Security and it constitutes a single complex equipped with the state-of-art facilities with dedicated cargo and passenger terminals, ware-housing and banking.

The extradition

Treaty between India and Bangladesh

The extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh came into effect on 23 October 2013 with the handing over of the instruments of ratification. The treaty came into effect after Bangladesh Home Secretary C.Q.K. Mostaq Ahmad and Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran signed the documents in Dhaka. The treaty was signed between two nations on 28 January 2013. With this treaty in place, India will now be able to extradite ULFA leader Anup Chetia from Bangladesh.

Under the treaty the two countries will be able to exchange convicts and undertrials as required. The treaty provides for extradition of convicts sentenced to more than one year of imprisonment, but is not applicable to political prisoners and asylum seekers. Both countries can cancel the treaty at six month's notice. The treaty will allow India to extradite ULFA leader Anup Chetia, while it will allow Bangladesh to take back fugitive criminals from India like Sazzad Hossain and put them to trial.

India-Bangladesh Inked Pact for Enhanced Trade Facilitation and Combating Tax Evasion

India and Bangladesh on 22 October 2013 inked an agreement for enhanced trade facilitation and for combating evasion of duties and taxes. The agreement was signed during the India-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs meet in Dhaka. The agreement was signed by India's Revenue Secretary Sumit Bose and Md. Ghulam Hussain, Chairman of the Bangladesh National Board of Revenue. This was the ninth meeting under the Secretary-level Joint Group of Customs. The next meeting will take place in New Delhi in 2014.

About the Agreement

- Under the agreement, India and Bangladesh identified 16 Land Customs Stations of high bilateral trade for synchronisation of working hours and days, and extension of Car Pass System thereby allowing movement of trucks for unloading up to the point of Land Custom Station.
- India- Bangladesh also agreed to allow custom officials of both countries to cross

the borders to each other's land Custom Stations for coordination and resolving operational issues.

- Both countries also agreed to keep the Land customs Stations at Petrapole and Benapole and Agartala and Akhaura operational for 7 days a week from 1st January, 2014.
- They also agreed to improve institutional linkages between their customs administrations at operational and policy levels to facilitate trade and protect revenues.

INDIA&REPUBLICOFKOREA

The 7th India-Republic of Korea (South Korea) Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi on 8 November 2013. The Indian side was led by External Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid, while the Republic of Korea (ROK) side was led by Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.

The two nations did a comprehensive review of bilateral relations, which were upgraded to a Strategic Partnership and acquired range and depth over the past few years. Noting that high level political exchanges had imparted momentum to the relationship, India and South Korea discussed the possibility of a visit to India by ROK President Madame Park Geun-hye in early 2014. The JCM discussed ways to add strategic and economic content to bilateral ties including in the political, security, trade, investment, consular, scientific and cultural spheres. Regional and international issues of mutual interest were also discussed. The 8th India-ROK Joint Commission Meeting at a mutually convenient time will be held in Seoul in 2014.

INDIAANDJAPAN

India and Japan on 9 November 2013 decided to further strengthen their cooperation in the maritime sector as a part of the overall robust bilateral relations. The two countries agreed to enhance their interaction through the existing forums and through port-to-port exchanges. This was decided during the visit of Union Minister of Shipping G.K. Vasan, to Japan. India explained the developments that were taking place in its Ports sector and assured Japan that concerns regarding

infrastructure and connectivity of ports are being addressed expeditiously. The ports in Ennore and Chennai are catering to the Japanese car exporters like Toyota and Nissan who have so far exported about 42000 and 300000 cars respectively from these ports. During the talks, India thanked the Japanese government for its support to various Indian Ports and infrastructure projects through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It also mentioned the possibility of JICA assistance to VOC Port at Thoothukudi for the upcoming Outer Harbour Project. Japan acknowledged the existing cordial relationship between the two nations, assured that it will carry forward the momentum. Japan expressed its interest in shipbuilding and recycling industries in India.

About UN Board of Auditors

The General Assembly in 1946 established the UN Board of Auditors to audit of the accounts of the United Nations organisation and its funds and programmes and to report its findings and recommendations to the Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Auditors-Generals of UN member states are elected to the Board. India had last sat on the board in 1993 for six years. The United Nations Board of Auditors comprised of the heads of the Supreme Audit Institutions from three Member States, has for more than 60 years provided independent external audit services to the General Assembly. Board has involved certifying the accounts of the UN and its funds and programmes, and providing reports covering a wide array of managerial and value for money issues.

The overarching goal of the Board is to use the unique perspective of public external audit to both help the General Assembly to hold UN entities to account for the use of public resources, and add value by identifying ways to improve the delivery of international public services. The chairmanship of the Board is rotated every two years, and is currently held by Amyas Morse for the period 2013-2014. Amyas Morse is Comptroller and Auditor General, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

India and Japan signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

India and Japan signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 7 October 2013 to undertake a joint feasibility study of High Speed Railway system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. The MOU was signed by Katsuo MATSUMOTO, Director South Asia Division Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from the Japanese side and Girish Pillai, Adviser Infrastructure, Ministry of Railways from the Indian side.

Highlights of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- The MoU provided that the India and Japan will co-finance a joint feasibility study of Mumbai- Ahmedabad High Speed route.
- The main objective of the Joint study is to prepare a feasibility report of High Speed Railway system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route with speed of 300-350kmph.
- The study will do traffic forecasting, alignment surveys and undertake comparative Study of High Speed Railway Technology and System.
- A Joint Monitoring Committee shall be established comprising of the Ministry of Railways, Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs for the Indian side and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industries (METI), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Embassy of Japan (EoJ) in India)and JICA for the Japanese side.
- The cost of the study will be shared 50:50 between India and Japan.

India and Japan expand co-operation in the films Sector

India and Japan on 12 September 2013 agreed to expand co-operation in the films sector particularly in co-production of animation films. The agreement between India and Japan was signed by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Manish Tewari and visiting Japanese Minister for

Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Toshimitsu Motegi in New Delhi.

Major highlights of the Agreement

- The two countries agreed to form a Joint Working Group in order to tap the huge business potential in the co-production of films and animation, skill development, exchange programs between training institutes and such other areas which are mutually beneficial to both sides.
- During the meeting, Manish Tewari extended the invitation for Japanese partnership in setting up of the proposed National Centre for Excellence in Animation, Gaming and Special Effects (NCOE) in Mohali, Punjab.
- At the same time, the Japanese expertise was welcomed for developing special training courses at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and the Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute (SRFTII), Kolkata.
- It was decided during the meeting that Japan would be the Focus Country in the International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa this year. For this purpose, personal invitation to the Japanese Minister to attend IFFI, 2013 was extended.
- As a part of the beginning, co-production of films, particularly animation films has already been started.
- Joint Working Group in context with this agreement would be established in the near future.

development of Japanese Electronics Manufacturing Township

India and Japan on 10 September 2013 agreed to look forward for the development of a Japanese Electronics Manufacturing Township (JEMT) in New Delhi. The township will play a role in reducing the imports of electronic goods to India, which would help in containing the Indian trade deficit. Japan will make an investment of 4.5 billion US dollars in the Project. The Union Cabinet had approved an expenditure of 18500 crore Rupees on development of infrastructure for the project. The decision for setting up of JEMT was taken in a meet between the Commerce and Industry Minister

of India, Anand Sharma and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi. Last year, India imported electronic goods worth 32 billion U.S. dollars.

Other important projects of Japan in India

- Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project initiated in 2011
- Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project is under implementation. The project will cover seven states and cover a total distance of 1483 kilometers. Japan is providing a financial and technical support to the project.

During the same meet, both sides agreed on deepening the engagements between the two nations and enhance investments for creation of a netter business environment in partnership with state governments.

Economic Engagement of Japan in India in recent Past

- The bilateral trade between India and Japan in 2012-13 was 18.51 US dollars
- India has received 14.75 Billion US dollar in form of FDI between April 2000 and June 2013
- Japan has made 7 percent investment in India of India's total FDI

Bilateral trade between the two was USD 18.51 billion in 2012-13. Besides, India has received USD 14.75 billion FDI from Japan between April 2000 and June 2013. The Japanese investment accounts for 7 per cent of India's total FDI.

INDIA AND VIETNAM

India and Vietnam signed eight agreements on 20 November 2013 in areas of defence and security, oil exploration, civil aviation and scientific research. India will also assist Vietnam in the modernization and training of the defence and security forces of Vietnam and agreed to give a 100 million dollar line of credit to Vietnam for defence purchases. The agreements were signed by Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Nguyen Phu Trong in New Delhi after delegation level talks.

| S.No | Name | Vietnamese Signatory | Indian Signatory | Remarks |
|------|---|---|---|--|
| 1. | Air Service Agreement | Dinh La Thang, Minister for Transport | Ajit Singh, Minister for Civil Aviation | The ASA seeks to promote international air services, including direct flights between the two countries and also to promote an international aviation system based on competition among airlines. The ASA will ensure the highest degree of safety and security in international air services and reaffirms the grave concern about acts or threats against the security of aircraft, which jeopardize the safety of persons or property and adversely affects the operation of air services. |
| 2. | MOU for setting up of the Indra Gandhi Hightech Crime Lab (IGHCL) in Hanoi | Lieutenant General Le Quy Vuong, Deputy Minister for Public Security | Preeti Saran, Ambassador of India to Vietnam | The MoU reaffirms the desire to further strengthen and consolidate the cooperation between the two countries in the field of crime investigation, counter terrorism and other transnational organized crime, and other relevant areas. India shall provide financial grant towards procurement of technical equipment for IGHCL, teaching aids, training programmes for staff members and deputation of experts and Vietnam shall provide a permanent venue and related infrastructure to establish the IGHCL in Hanoi. |
| 3. | Agreement on Protection of Classified Information | Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh, Deputy Minister for Defence | Radha Krishna Mathur, Defence Secretary | The MoU is based on the principles of the MoU on Defence Cooperation signed between the two countries in November 2009 to recognise the benefits of sharing of information and to confirm mutual interest in protection of such information in accordance with the respective national laws and relevant provisions. |
| 4. | MOU between two Ministries of Finance | Vu Thi Mai, Deputy Minister for Finance | Arvind Mayaram, Secretary, Dept. of Economic Affairs | The MoU will permit the parties to strengthen exchanges and share experiences in the fiscal policies for transitional economies, macroeconomic management, budget management process, financial policies to support high technology and software technology development. Exchange of financial policies would be used to develop policies in related areas as mutually agreed by the Parties. |
| 5. | Cooperation Agreement between Hanoi National University and Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research | Prof. Phung Xuan Nha, President of Vietnam National University, Hanoi | Prof. Samir K Brahmachari, DG CSIR & Secretary, Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research | The purpose of the Agreement is to promote Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the two institutions aimed at developing long term S&T collaboration between the two countries and also promoting friendly relations. This would include exchange of Scientists, Research Scholars and Specialists etc. for the purpose of research, training and consultation. |
| 6. | MoU on Cooperation between India Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore and HCM National Academy of Public Administration | Prof. Truong Thi Thong, Vice President of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Public Administration | Prof. Devanath Tirupati, Director (In-Charge), IIMB | The MoU shall focus on the activities and programmes such as exchange of faculty members and students, joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, exchange of academic materials and other information, special short-term academic programmes, training programmes and study tours. The cooperation will initially be focused on Public Policy, Entrepreneurship, Corporate Governance, Training for executives from public and private sector enterprises, Social Sciences and Student & Faculty Exchanges. |
| 7. | MoU between Vietnam Oil and Gas Group and ONGC Videsh Limited(OVL) | Nguyen Vu Truong Son, Vice President of Petro Vietnam | D. K. Saraf Managing Director, OVL | The MoU provides for association in the field of exploration, development and production of petroleum resources between the two countries for new investments by OVL in oil and gas blocks in Vietnam for oil and gas exploration and production. Petro Vietnam is also invited to participate in open blocks in India and in third countries. |
| 8. | MOU between Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tata Power Ltd. on development of Long Phu 2 Thermal Power Project in Soc Trang, Vietnam | Nguyen Khac Tho, Deputy Director General of the Energy Department | Anil Sardana, Chief Executive Officer of Tata Power | The MoU approves TATA Power belonging to TATA Group to act as Investor to develop Long Phu 2, coal-fired Power Plant Project of 2x660 MW capacity. The Project will be designed, engineered, procured, contracted, constructed, owned, operated and maintained through a BOT Company owned by TATA Power and additional investors, with TATA Power as the lead member and will reach commercial operation in accordance with Agreements with the Vietnam side. |

INDIA&UKRAINE

The fifth session of India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation held in New Delhi on 13 November 2013. The Commission was chaired by E. Ahamed, the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Ihor Mykolayovych Prasolov, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. He was accompanied by a 15 member official and 12 member business delegations from Ukraine. During the session current status and future prospects of cooperation in trade and investment, heavy/light industry, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, mining and metallurgy, science and technology, energy (coal, nuclear), transportation, agriculture and food processing, education, culture and tourism were reviewed. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, and the State Administration of Ukraine on Medicinal Products signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Joint Ventures and Research and Development in Pharmaceuticals and Bio-pharmaceuticals.

The Ukrainian Business Delegation held an interactive session with Indian business community organized by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The Ukrainian side agreed to address the concerns of Indian pharmaceutical companies operating in Ukraine. Both sides also agreed to work on an agreement on simplification of visa procedures to ease movement of business people and tourists. The bulk of India's exports of pharmaceuticals to Ukraine amount to about 375 million US dollars per annum. India and Ukraine also agreed to increase trade beyond the existing level of 3.2 billion US dollars. The fourth session was held in Kyiv in June 2012 and the sixth session of the Commission will take place in 2014 at Kyiv.

INDIA&PHILIPPINES

Government of India on 14 November 2013 dispatched relief package that includes medicines, hygiene and chemicals, tentage, blankets, tarpaulins and ready to eat meals to Hurricane ravaged Philippines by an Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft

to Mactan. The relief package will help the people of Philippines to meet the urgent needs at the time of trouble like life-saving medical care, food supplies and construction of temporary shelters in this hour of need. A similar aid was provided to Philippines by India in 2006.

The Problem of Philippines

Super Typhoon Haiyan of category-5 struck Philippines on 8 November 2013 and left behind more than 10000 people dead. It also affected about 4 million people. This was one of the most powerful typhoons to hit Philippines.

Visa Waiver Agreements with Poland, Slovenia and Lithuania approved by India

The Union Cabinet on 7 November 2013 approved the visa waiver agreements with Poland, Slovenia and Lithuania. This move will help the Indians with diplomatic passports to visit the three countries. The agreements would be signed very soon. The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) cleared a proposal to disinvest 17 percent of paid up capital for Follow on Public Offering (FPO) of the state owned power grid corporation of India. As per the Power Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, 13 percent of fresh equity by the Public Sector Company and 4 percent stake sale by the government includes under the FPO. A similar agreement was cleared with Cuba in first week of November 2013. By now India has similar agreements with about 50 countries that include Japan, Russia and Israel.

India and Philippines Meeting of Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation

The 2nd meeting of the India- Philippines joint commission on bilateral cooperation was held on 21 October 2013 in Manila. The meeting was co-chaired by the Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the of India. During the meeting they discussed on political, defense, security, economic and cultural cooperation, and reviewed the progress of the Joint Working Groups on Trade and Investment, Tourism, Agriculture, Health and

Medicine, Joint Committee on Renewable Energy and of the Joint Defense Cooperation Committee.

Highlights of the 2nd India-Philippines Joint Commission meeting

- The Ministers affirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated their commitment to expand and deepen cooperation in counter terrorism. In this regard, they agreed to convene the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi in 2014 to discuss all issues related to terrorism and other transnational crimes.
- India and Philippines agreed to commence negotiations on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters (MLAT) in December 2013 and consider a Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement (TSP).
- The Ministers welcomed the convening of the 2nd meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC) in November 2013 in New Delhi.
- They also committed to increase exchanges in military training and education.
- The Ministers agreed to step up cooperation in combating non-traditional threats through exchange of experiences and capacity building in the areas of disaster management, food security and pandemics.
- The Philippines side welcomed the cash support of 100000 US Dollar provided by the Indian Government for disaster relief following the recent devastating earthquake in the Philippines.
- The Ministers committed to increase bilateral trade and investments between India and Philippines and to fully maximize the potential of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment to bring their bilateral trade to an even higher level.
- They welcomed the results of the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism and agreed to review the 1949 Bilateral Air Services Agreement.
- The Ministers agreed to convene the 2nd

Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture and the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Working Group in Health and Medicine as soon as possible.

- They also agreed that the 1987 Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology must be tapped and implemented through a Program of Cooperation.
- They also agreed to discuss a new Executive Program on Cultural Exchange for the years 2014 to 2016.
- The Ministers agreed that the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in 2015 in New Delhi.

INDIA&SLOVENIA

India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati and Radio-Television of Slovenia (RTV-SLO) on 13 November 2013 signed an MoU to develop and strengthen mutual friendly relations through an increased cooperation in the field of broadcasting. The agreement was signed by head of international department of RTV SLO, Suzana Vidas Karoli and Member Personnel of Prasar Bharati, VAM Hussain. The MoU allows to explore further opportunities in potential projects of production of programmes. It also entails exchange of programmes in the field of culture, education, entertainment, sports and news.

INDIAANDKUWAIT

India and Kuwait on 8 November 2013 agreed to expand cooperation in key areas, which includes energy and investment. Five pacts were signed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in culture and education during the India visit of the Prime Minister of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. During this India visit of the Kuwait Prime Minister to India five documents were signed including an agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons, cooperation in the field of sports and youth affairs and exchange of cultural and information programmes, besides cooperation in the field of education.

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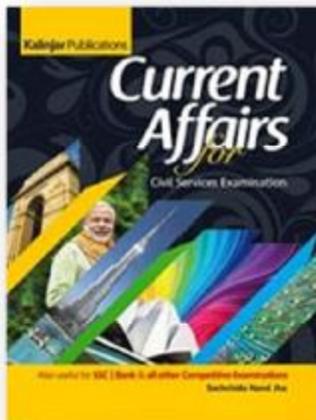
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| Name of Agreement/ MoU | Signatories from India | Signatories from Kuwait | Remarks |
|---|--|--|--|
| Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of India and the State of Kuwait on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Home Affairs | Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs | The Agreement aims to enable the transfer of sentenced persons of both the countries to serve their remaining sentences of imprisonment or any other form of punishment in their own country. |
| MoU between the Foreign Service Institute(FSI), Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Saud N. Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute(KDI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the State of Kuwait for Cooperation In Mutual Beneficial Area of Activities. | Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister | Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs | The MoU aims at promoting cooperation between the FSI and KDI, including exchange of information on structure and content of training programmes, exchange of trainees, students, faculty members, experts and researchers. |
| MOU on Cooperation in the field of Sports & Youth Affairs Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait | Jitendra Singh, MOS(IC) for Youth Affairs and Sports | Anas Al-Saleh Minister of commerce and industry | The MoU aims at promoting and strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of Sports & Youth through institutional exchanges particularly through exchange of youth and sports teams in various disciplines. |
| Executive Programme for Cultural and Information Exchanges Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait for the Years 2013-16 | Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary (Culture) | Khalid S. Al-jarallah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs | The Executive Programme aims at enhancing cultural cooperation between National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters of Kuwait and Indian Lalit Kala Akademi, between Rampur Raza Library, Rampur India and Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya Kuwait, exchange of TV and radio programmes for better understanding of the culture of each other's countries, increased participation in training programmes and courses and symposia of mutual interest in the field of libraries and information, visit of experts and archaeologists, cooperation on management and conservation of cultural heritage sites. |
| Educational Exchange Program Between the Government of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait on Cooperation in Education And Learning for the Years 2013-16 | Ashok Thakur, Secretary | Khalid S. Al-jarallah Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs | The Executive Programme aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education and learning by exchange of students, researchers in the field of education and learning, and academicians and specialists in the field of general education, adult education, special needs education, conducting research seminars in the fields of science and education, exchange of books, publications, audio-visual materials, microfiche and archives resources and other information to assist researchers in their fields of operations. |

INDIA AND CHINA

Indian and Chinese army are set to hold their third joint military exercises after a gap of 5 years. During the exercises the Indian army contingent of 150 people reached the Chengdu city on 4 November 2013 to take part in the anti-terrorism drills. The 10 day drill code has been named hand in hand was inaugurated in the Chengdu city on 5 November 2013. Earlier, the annual exercises began in 2007 and the first exercise was held in Kuming city of China, whereas the second round was held in India at Belgaum in Karnataka in 2008. Further, the next round of exercise was called off by India after the General who headed troops in Jammu and Kashmir was denied the visa on the grounds that the region part of disputed territory. The contact between the two nations was resumed after China withdrew its decision and started issuing the regular visas to residents of Jammu and Kashmir. This step facilitated a broad engagement between the two giant neighbours.

New Highway linking Medog to Zhamog

China on 31 October 2013 opened a new highway that links Medog to Zhamog-located near the border with Arunachal Pradesh. The highway linking Medog, the last roadless county in China, with neighboring Bome county in Tibet formally opened to traffic, ending the county's isolation from the outside world. The 117-km highway, which cost 950 million yuan (155 million U.S. dollars), links Zhamog Township, the county seat of Bome, and Medog in Nyingchi Prefecture in southeastern Tibet. The road will be accessible for 8 to 9 months per year, barring major natural disasters. The Zhamog-Medog starts along the Number 318 National Road in Zhamog township in Bomi County. It goes through the 4400-meter high Galung La Mountain and cross 6 rivers, to reach Medog. The opening of the Medog road will greatly lower transportation costs and will also improve medical care and educational facilities. With this new highway, every county in Tibet is now linked through the highway network, underlining the widening infrastructure gulf across the disputed border, even as India belatedly pushes forward an upgrading of border roads in more difficult terrain. China first

started attempting to build the highway to Medog – a landlocked county in Tibet's Nyingchi prefecture – in the 1960s, in the aftermath of the 1962 war with India.

INDIA AND CHINA

The Ministry of Power of the Government of India and the National Energy Administration of the Government of China on 23 October 2013 signed the deal to further strengthen and deepen cooperation in the energy sector under the India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue. The energy cooperation and the proposal for setting up Chinese Power Equipment Service Centres (PESCs) in India was discussed at the SED Working Group Meeting on Energy that took place in Beijing on 26 September 2013. India has become a strategic market for Chinese power equipment manufacturers and that 18 GW of thermal power projects were commissioned under India's 11th Five Year plan using Chinese-manufactured equipment and about 40GW of projects are currently under construction using Chinese-made equipment.

Important Provisions of Cooperation Programme

1. The service centres would be adequately provided with equipment, personnel, spares and other facilities so as to enable them to provide all requisite spars and services support within India.
2. The PESCs will be set up in India on market principles. The costs and terms of servicing power equipment will be decided between the PESCs and the end user.
3. The companies will make themselves fully conversant with the relevant rules/regulations/statutes/approvals and processes being applicable for setting up of such PESCs in India.
4. The PESCs would be directly responsible for provision of requisite services to the Indian power generating companies on mutually acceptable terms and conditions (between the PESCs and the Indian power generating companies) and in accordance with applicable Indian laws/rules/statutes and this MoU shall not in any-way confer any special or

preferential status/treatment to the PESCOs.

India and China Signed Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA)

India and China signed nine agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) including the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) on 23 October 2013.

The main objective of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement is to avoid border tensions and army face-offs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by deciding that neither side will use military capability to attack the other side nor tail patrols along the border. The other agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were Management of Trans- Border Rivers, MoU on Nalanda University, Cultural Exchange Programme 2013-15, MoU on Cooperation in Road Transport and Highways, MoU on Power Equipment Service Centres in India, Agreement between Delhi-Beijing on Establishment of Sister City Relationship, Agreement between Kolkata – Kunming on Establishment of Sister City Relationship.

Highlights of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA)

- India and China shall carry out border defense cooperation on the basis of their respective laws and relevant bilateral agreements.
- Both countries agreed to exchange of information including information about military exercises, aircrafts, demolition operations and unmarked mines-and take consequent measures conducive to the maintenance of peace, stability and tranquility along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas.
- Both countries agreed to work jointly to combat smuggling of arms, wildlife, wildlife articles and other contrabands.
- Both countries agreed that they shall not follow or tail patrols of the other side in areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control in the India-China border areas.
- In case a doubtful situation arises with reference to any activity by either side in border areas where there is no common understand-

ing of the line of actual control, either side has the right to seek a clarification from the other side. In such cases, the clarification shall be sought and replies to them shall be conveyed through any of the mechanisms established under this Agreement.

- Both countries agreed that if the border defense forces of the two sides come to a face-to-face situation in areas where there is no common understanding of the line of actual control, both sides shall exercise maximum self-restraint, refrain from any provocative actions, not use force or threaten to use force against the other side, treat each other with courtesy and prevent exchange of fire or armed conflict.
- Both countries shall implement this Agreement without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question.

India and China Signed 9 MoUs Including the Border Defense Cooperation Agreement

India and China signed 9 MoUs/agreements including the Border Defense Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) to maintain peace and tranquility on the Line of Actual Control, on 23 October 2013 during the official visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to China.

List of Agreements/MoUs signed between India and China during PM's Official Visit to China

| S. No. | Name of Agreement / MoU | Gist of Agreement / MOU |
|--------|--|--|
| 1. | Agreement on Border Defense Cooperation | An additional confidence building measure to ensure peace and tranquility on the border. |
| 2. | MoU on Nalanda University | Cooperation on Nalanda as part of East Asia Summit process. |
| 3. | MOU to Strengthen Cooperation on Trans-Border Rivers | Provides for expanded cooperation on trans-border rivers. |
| 4. | Cultural Exchange Programme 2013-15 | A listing of cultural exchanges till 2015. |
| 5. | MoU on Cooperation in Road Transport and Highways | Enabling agreement for cooperation in the roads sector. |
| 6. | MoU on Power Equipment Service Centres in India | Provides for establishment in India of Chinese power equipment service centres. |
| 7. | Agreement between Delhi-Beijing on Establishment of Sister City Relationship | Establishes sister city relations between Delhi and Beijing. |
| 8. | Agreement between Bengaluru – Chengdu on Establishment of Sister City Relationship | Establishes sister city relations between Bengaluru and Chengdu. |
| 9. | Agreement between Kolkata – Kunming on Establishment of Sister City Relationship | Establishes sister city relations between Kolkata and Kunming. |

INDIA AND CUBA

India and Cuba on 30 October 2013 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and Cuban Radio and Television Institute (ICRT). The MoU was signed by India's ambassador to Cuba Chinthapalli Rajasekhar and vice-president of the ICRT Emillio Moises Garcia Borroto. Under the agreement both countries will explore co-production opportunities on matters of mutual interest. The pact would facilitate exchange programmes in fields of cultural entertainment, education, science, sports and news. It also opens up avenues for co-production of broadcast content for creative ventures including films and coverage of events. The MoU was signed during the official visit of India's vice President Hamid Ansari to Cuba.

Vice-President of India, Hamid Ansari Visited Cuba

The Vice-president of India, Hamid Ansari on 30 October 2013 had a meeting with the revolutionary hero and the former President of Cuba, Fidel Castro. This was the first ever bilateral visit from Indian side to Cuba. During the meeting, India and Cuba signed an agreement on co-operation in broadcasting. It is important to note that India and Cuba are the founding members of Non Aligned Movement (NAM).

- Agreement signed between India and Cuba
- The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on broadcasting between Prasar Bharti and Cuban Radio and Television Institute was signed on 30 October 2013.
 - The MoU was signed by India's ambassador to Cuba Chinthapalli Rajasekhar and vice-president of the institute Emillio Moises Garcia Borroto.

Major Highlights of the visit

- During the tour, Hamid Ansari did the tour of Peru and signed four agreements.

- In the meanwhile, he also inaugurated the Festival of India which started off with Nrityarooma, a fusion of six classical dances.
- Delegation-level talks and discussions were held with the Cuban leaders.
- Hamid Ansari also visited the Biotechnology Centre in Cuba.
- He also visited the Revolution Plaza.

INDIA AND TURKEY

India and Turkey on 7 October 2013 agreed to resolve terrorism. Both also agreed to evolve a wider dialogue mechanism to discuss issues of common interest including defence cooperation.

Many such aspects of Indo-Turkish relationship were discussed between President Pranab Mukherji and Abdullah Gul, his Turkish counterpart and the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara during former's visit to Turkey.

During this visit, India conveyed to Turkey India's concern on terrorism with reference to recent activities of cross border terrorism. There is a 200 strong Indian diaspora in Turkey. The people-to-people link is a great asset in the building of closer bilateral relations between India and Turkey.

INDIA AND PERU

India and Peru signed 4 documents/Mous on during the official visit of the Vice President of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari to Peru on 29 October 2013. The Vice President of India visited Peru to celebrate the 50th year of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The Vice President of India held detailed discussions with the President of the Republic of Peru, Ollanta Humala Tasso and the first Vice President of Peru, Marisol Espinoza and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Ms. Eda Rivas Franchini. India and Peru signed documents in the field of education, defence cooperation, in the fields of Museum Development, Conversation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage.

List of documents signed during the official visit of Vice President of India to Peru

| Sr. No | Document | Gist of the agreement/document |
|--------|--|--|
| 1. | Exchange Programme in the field of Education | The exchange programme encourages exchange of research material, teaching aides; organization of joint conferences, training programmes; twining of institutions ; setting up chairs on contemporary studies; providing of scholarships for higher education |
| 2. | Agreement on Defence Cooperation | Aims at enhancing cooperation in the prevention of spread of weapons of mass destruction and tackling non-conventional threats like drugs & piracy; exchange of training expertise and personnel for military courses and collaborate in the spheres of defence equipment exports for mutual benefit |
| 3. | MoU between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of Peru on Establishment of a Joint Commission | India and Peru agree to establish a Joint Commission which will be an intergovernmental consultation mechanism at the Foreign Ministerial level to promote, strengthen and diversify bilateral relations |
| 4. | Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry Culture of the Republic of Peru for Cooperation in the fields of Museum Development, Conversation of Movable Cultural Property and Dissemination and Promotion of Cultural Heritage | Agree to create specific cooperation programmes for exchange of experiences and training of specialists in the Museum sector; organizing international temporary exhibitions for dissemination of information on cultural heritage of both countries |

INDIA AND HUNGARY

India and Hungary signed the bilateral agreement for the promotion and development of traditional systems of medicine on 17 October 2013. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on behalf of India by Santosh Chowdhary, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Zolton Banog, Minister of National Resources of Hungary in the presence of Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, at Hyderabad House.

Highlights of the MoU

- The main objective of this MoU is to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.
- The MoU encourages and promotes cooperation to enhance the use of traditional systems of medicine, exchange of regulatory information on operational licensing to practice traditional medicine.

- It also encourages marketing authorization of medicines in both countries; promote the exchange of experts for training of practitioners, para-medics, scientists, teaching professionals and students in traditional systems of medicine.
- The signing of MoU will give boost to bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of traditional medicines which will open new vistas for exploring the potential of economic, commercial and tourism development in both the countries.
- With the help of this MoU, India will be able to establish the Indian systems of medicines namely Ayurveda, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy, Siddha, Homeopathy and Sowa-Rigpa (Namchi) that will help in establishing the global recognition of India's well established systems in the world over.

It is important to note that India has already signed the agreements like these with other countries such as Malaysia and Trinidad and Tobago and is in the process of signing agreements with Russia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Serbia and Mexico.

INDIA AND INDONESIA

Government of India and Indonesia on 11 October 2013 signed six Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in Jakarta in various fields to strengthen the cooperation between the two nations. The MoUs were inked in the presence of Prime minister Manmohan singh and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Istana Merdeka (presidential secretariat) in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

These MoUs were signed during the first bilateral visit of Prime minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh to Indonesia from 10 to 12 October 2013.

The agreements are in the fields of

1. Health and family welfare.
2. Cooperation on Combating Corruption.
3. Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics, Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors.
4. Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.
5. Training administrators and
6. Promoting friendly, cooperative and collaborative institutional relations.

INDIA AND SWEDEN

Harald Sandberg, the Swedish Ambassador on 25 October 2013 inaugurated the Nobel Memorial Wall in Kolkata. The Nobel Memorial Wall has been set up at the Esplanade Metro Station in Kolkata. Seven of the Nobel Laureates from India are portrayed in the metro station along with the Rabindranath Tagore. The Memorial Wall was inaugurated of centenary when Tagore received the Nobel Prize for Literature. The portraits on the Memorial Wall also carry the information related to the life and achievements in the respective field of the Nobel Laureates with the year when they were awarded the Nobel in three languages, namely English, Hindi and Bangla. Two more memorial walls would be established at metro stations of Gitanjali and Jorasanko. The work on the Nobel Memorial Wall was done as the part of the seventh edition of the Sweden-India Nobel Memorial wee.

INDIA AND BRAZIL

The Sixth India- Brazil Joint Commission Meeting was held in Brasilia on 14 -15 October 2013. The main issues discussed in the meeting were the entire gamut of India-Brazil Strategic Partnership including Political, Economic and Commercial, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Defence, Cultural, Hydrocarbon etc. The Sixth India- Brazil Joint Commission Meeting was co-chaired by Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of Republic of India.

Highlights of the Sixth

India- Brazil Joint Commission Meeting

- The Ministers welcomed the signature of a bilateral protocol to the Brazil-India Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement that amends its Article 26, regarding the exchange of information. The protocol is a further step in the global effort to establish an international financial system based on co-operation between countries, transparency and effective exchange of information in tax matters.
- Both Ministers discussed the issue of the ratification of the bilateral Agreement on Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters which will strengthen cooperation between customs authorities, in order to enforce customs laws and regulations
- They signed an Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which will enhance prospects of a closer cooperation between Brazil and India in legal assistance matters.
- They also renewed the Agreement on Cooperation between their respective diplomatic academies, the Foreign Service Institute and Instituto Rio Branco, signed in 2007. The agreement has offered so far a most valuable opportunity for the new generations of Brazilian and Indian diplomats to deepen mutual understanding and better know each other's values and traditions.
- Brazil expressed its interest in implementing

the new program for the interchange of professors between the two diplomatic academies, still in 2013.

About India and Brazil international relations

- India and Brazil were established their diplomatic relations in 1948.
- Although the two countries are divided by geography and distance, they share common democratic values and developmental aspirations.
- Both countries enjoy cordial and friendly relations, which are characterized by regular exchange of visits at all levels, shared values and convergence of views on issues of mutual interest.
- Both are large developing countries, each an important player in its region, both stable, secular, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, large democracies as well as trillion-dollar economies.
- Shared vision of India and Brazil enabled forging of close cooperation and coordination in the multilateral arena be in IBSA, BRICS, G-4, BASIC, G-20 or other organizations.

INDIA AND FINLAND

India signed an agreement with Finland on 15 October 2013 to produce indigenous ethanol and reduce country's dependence on its import. It is a first-of-its-kind initiative to promote use of clean technology in India.

The agreement was inked between Finnish Minister for European Affairs Alexander Stubb and India's Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Panabaka Lakshmi in New Delhi. According to the agreement State-run explorer Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) and Finnish clean technology firm Chempolis will set up a pilot project to produce ethanol, bio-chemicals and bio-coal from biomass residual matters. While signing the agreement the ONGC Chairman Sudhir Vasudeva told that since 75 per cent of India's ethanol requirements are met through imports, there is a large requirement which is not being met by indigenous production.

INDIA & RUSSIA

Russia and Government of India on 21 September 2013 agreed on collaboration to jointly develop and manufacture civilian aircraft and helicopters for especially for emergency relief and medical purposes. Russian Government also offered to set up manufacturing facilities in the India for joint production of defence hardware. Russia and Government of India also reached an understanding for setting up two major projects in a joint venture for producing civil choppers and aircraft.

This was decided during the 7th India Russian Forum on Trade and Investment meet between Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Rogozin and Russia's Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov in St. Petersburg. Anand Sharma and Dmitry Rogozin agreed on collaboration to jointly develop and manufacture civilian aircraft and helicopters for especially for emergency relief and medical purposes.

And both Russia and India stated that these two aircraft projects should not be seen only for domestic use but will also explore the possibilities of third country exports.

For production of Civilian Aircrafts

- One of the projects under collaboration for civilian aircrafts or helicopters envisages the setting up of the joint venture for manufacturing in Indian factories different modifications of light helicopters Ka-226T for medical, rescue and other purposes. The Russiangovernment also mooted a new proposal involving IL-112V.

For Setting up of manufacturing facility

- Russia also proposed to India for setting up manufacturing facilities in the country for production of defence equipment in various fields. The opportunity could also be used to make India as the export base for such defence hardware.

India and Russia have also developed a framework for tracking key priority projects at the

Ministerial level. The sectors covered under this joint understanding include automobile, industrial and road-building machinery, chemical and petrochemical industry, civil aircraft construction, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, energy, diamonds, IT, automobiles, and agro and processed foods.

7th India-Russia Trade Investment Forum held in St. Petersburg

7th India Russia meeting on trade and investment was held at St. Petersburg, Russia on 20 September 2013. A high level delegation of 120 Indian business leaders led by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry participated in the meeting. It discussed various business opportunities with their Russian counterparts. The special focus was on Pharmaceutical and Medical Industry, Tourism and Medical Tourism and Trade in goods, services and innovative products.

At the forum Pharmaceutical sector received major attention as India is looking at the opportunities that the 2020 Pharma programme offers. India sought regulatory simplifications for Indian companies who not only want to have market access but also look for establishing manufacturing base in Russia. In recently concluded 19th India Russia Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IRWGTEC) meeting in Moscow Indian side had conveyed the details of barriers in the trade of pharmaceutical products to Russia. These barriers included substantial delay in all approvals and dossier evaluation due to insufficient number of competent specialists, huge number of backlog of dossiers accumulated by the Russian health authorities, lack of information about stage of approval etc. All this leads to avoidable delay in supplies, commencement of production, and launch of new product in the market.

Fertilizer sector has also attracted Indian interest for setting up manufacturing in Russia. Production of Phosphate and Potash in Russia by way of JV with Indian Fertilizer entities was discussed. There exist complementarity between availability of fertilizer resources in Russia and growing fertilizer demand in India which should result in strategic partnership in this field. AKRON

and ORGSINTEZ, the two Russian companies are in discussion with IFFCO as they have Potassic and Phosphatic resources. Both side discussed the need to support the proposal of M/s AKRON of Russia for setting up of facilities for production of Phosphate and Potash in Russia by way of JV with Indian Fertilizer entities. Furthermore, In January 2013, Secretary (Fertilizer) met the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade and Russian fertilizer companies to explain new investment policy changes in urea production in India and invite them to invest in India under the new policy. A non-paper was also shared with the Russian side. During this visit Shri Sharma was informed of Russian companies expressing interest in the proposition and companies on both sides are expected to identify opportunities for investment in urea production in India.

The Forum in its 7th edition with specific purpose of 'encouraging discussion among the businesses of the two sides to increase economic engagement for common benefits' concluded that fresh initiatives need to be taken to further exploit complementarities in other sectors such as fertilizers, industrial machinery, diamonds etc. Other new areas such as automobiles, electrical equipment, chemicals, mining and processed foods need to be explored as they have immense potential in both countries. Another area identified for focused approach between India and Russia is IT Services. This conclusion is an endorsement of the sector that have been identified in Joint Understanding & Intention on Possible Plans and Priority Investment Projects for Enhancing Indo-Russian Economic & Investment Cooperation Under which a total of 15 high value, high tech projects have been selected for special attention for ministerial supervision.

Some of the projects are as following

- The establishment of India-Russian Joint venture with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) as joint centre of development the helicopters.
- Production of Nitrogen Tetra Oxide for Space programme

- Possible future cooperation between MMTC and ALROSA for long term supply of rough diamonds
- ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL)'s prospects for further hydrocarbon collaboration with Russian energy companies
- Joint project of Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited (RLL) and Government of Yaroslavl region
- Participation of Russian companies in urea production in India under new investment policy.
- Plant construction for manufacturing butyl rubber with capacity of 100000 tons per year at the production site of Reliance Industries in Jamnagar (India).

INDIA & CHINA

The 4th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was held in Beijing on 29-30 September 2013. The Indian delegation was led by Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia) and comprised of representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs as well as members of the Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The Chinese delegation was led by Ouyang Yujing, Director General, Department of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defence of the People's Republic of China. The talks were held in a candid, constructive and forward looking atmosphere. Reviewing recent developments in the India-China border areas, especially in the Western Sector, the two nations agreed that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations. To this end, both sides discussed further measures to maintain stability on the border, building on existing understandings and arrangements. The 5th meeting of the Working Mechanism will be held in India at a mutually convenient time.

Sixth Financial Dialogue

India and China held sixth Financial Dialogue in Beijing. The annual dialogue was held on 25 and 26 September 2013 ahead of Prime Minister Dr.

Manmohan Singh's proposed visit to Beijing in October 2013. During this Dialogue, the two sides held in-depth discussions on new challenges facing the global economy, macro-economic situations and policies in China and India, progress on structural reforms in both countries, cooperation under multilateral frameworks as well as bilateral financial cooperation. Both nations agreed to strengthen regular communication and coordination at various levels on macro-economic policies and major international economic and financial issues. Both sides agreed to strengthen regular communication and coordination at various levels on macro-economic policies and major international economic and financial issues.

At the end of the dialogue they issued a joint statement which called for early conclusion of IMF quota reforms. The statement stated that the two nations agreed to intensify cooperation with other BRICS nations to push for reforms in international institutions. They will also work for implementation of the commitment to implement IMF Quota and Governance Reforms. Both nations agreed to work together to promote the implementation of the important consensus reached in the G-20 St. Petersburg summit, strengthen the momentum of global recovery, push for faster economic growth, generate better jobs, and build on the foundation for long-term growth.

Both nations agreed to hold the 7th India-China Financial Dialogue in 2014 in New Delhi.

5 MoUs for Procuring 338 Million USD Indian Products

India and China on 23 September 2013 signed total of 15 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in a structured process of procurement of Indian products worth value of 338 million US Dollar. The MoU was signed at the India-China Business Matchmaking Symposium for promoting exports from India to China held on 23 September 2013 in New Delhi.

The products regarding which procurement MoUs were signed include zinc concentrates and copper concentrates, cotton yarn, frozen fish/linter, cotton and cotton yarn, menthol, castor oil and guar

gum, acrylic tow, Indian granite block and cedrus deodara seed. It is important to note that the Department of Commerce of India in co-ordination with Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China is facilitating visit of an important Chinese business delegation to India to explore procurement opportunities with their Indian Counterparts companies. The local co-organiser of this is CII. The delegation is led by Jia Guoyong, Vice Director General of Trade Development Bureau, MOFCOM with representatives from 27 national level Chinese companies. The sectoral composition of the delegation included companies from various sectors such as Textile, Infrastructure, Minerals and Metals, Chemicals, Plastics, Light Industrial Products, Aero technology, Steel, Glassware and Arts and Crafts. From Indian side, around 60 companies from varied sectors attended the Symposium and the B2B meetings. Nearly 150 B2B interactions between Indian and Chinese enterprises were scheduled at the Symposium. The inaugural session was followed by B2B meetings between Chinese and Indian companies.

Cooperation in the Media Sector

India and China on 16 September 2013 agreed to initiate steps to include Media cooperation as part of 2014 celebrations being observed to commemorate Friendly Exchanges between these two countries. The agreement was a part of the first meeting of the India-China Media Forum being held in New Delhi. The meeting took place between Manish Tewari, Minister for Information & Broadcasting of India and Cai Ming Zhao, Minister of State Council Information Office of China.

Major points agreed upon during the meeting

- As a part of the agreement, India and China agreed to proactively consider steps to promote high level media exchanges and facilitation between the two nations.
- Apart from this, it was also agreed to outline a roadmap to include specific projects and proposals as part of the initiative under the Media domain to be considered under activities to mark the commemoration of the Friendly Exchanges.

- During the discussions between the two delegations it was also agreed to explore possible areas of cooperation in the field of Capacity Building, Co-production Agreements related to Films, sharing of the experience of institutionalizing Digitisation in the Broadcasting sector and enhanced participation during the Film Festivals being held in both countries.
- It was also suggested that all possible areas could be identified under the aegis of the Working Group set up between the two countries.
- In view of the vibrant Media and Entertainment industry in both countries, both sides also agreed to share experiences with regard to strategy, policy initiatives, innovation and implementation across different media platforms.

During the meeting, Cai Ming Zhao, Minister of State Council Information Office of China also extended an invitation to Manish Tewari (Minister of I&B, India) to visit China in 2014 as part of the celebrations to observe 2014- as the Year of Friendly Exchanges. It is important to note that the Chinese minister is on the visit to India to participate in the first meeting of the India-China Media Forum being held in New Delhi on 16 September 2013.

INDIA & GERMANY

Germany, in the month of September 2013 extended financial and technical assistance to India for the Green Energy Corridors.

This assistance includes Financial Assistance of Euro 250 Million as Reduced Interest Loan.

Technical Assistance

The technical assistance extended by Germany includes:

- Euro 2 million for Indo-German Energy Programme – New component on Green Energy Corridors
- Euro 2 million for Integration of Renewable Energies into the Indian Electricity System (I-RE)

The information about financial and technical assistance was disclosed during the Indo-German Annual Negotiation meeting held in New Delhi in July 2013.

Germany, in the meanwhile, also indicated towards concessional loans from KFW of up to one billion euro for financing the Green Energy Corridors project under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme over the next six years. The Green Energy Corridors project will help in integrating renewable energy into the National grid. It comprises of both inter-state and intra-state schemes for evacuation of power from wind and solar projects.

INDIA&LAOS

The 7th India-Lao Joint Commission Meeting on bilateral cooperation was held in Vientiane on 9 September 2013. The JMC was held during External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid's ongoing visit to Lao PDR (Laos) to participate in the 7th India-Lao Joint Commission Meeting (JMC) on Bilateral Cooperation. An Agreement under Line of Credit for four Irrigation Projects in three provinces in the Lao PDR for 30.94 million US dollars was signed and conversion of another Line of Credit to substitute the Nam Boun-2 hydro power plant by the extension of transmission lines to Thasala-Laksao amounting to 35.25 million US dollars was approved. The projects will contribute to socio-economic development in Lao PDR.

During the JCM, (Joint Commission Meeting) both Ministers expressed satisfaction with the development in bilateral relations and noted that close cooperation and partnership between the two countries have expanded rapidly for mutual benefit, in recent years. India reiterated its preparedness to continue to provide assistance to the areas of water management and irrigation, energy generation and transmission and capacity building. It was recognized that our soft credit and grant projects have improved the visibility of India and Indian products in Lao. The two nations identified agriculture, defence, ICT, culture, education, health, trade and investment promotion, mining as priority areas of cooperation between

the two countries that would give further impetus to bilateral relations. A number of new initiatives were taken to promote people-to-people contacts, training and scholarship opportunities and expansion of private sector participation in trade and investment, as well as in health and education.

India and Lao PDR also exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to strengthen coordination on ASEAN and multilateral issues. Lao has extended financial support to the Nalanda University, which is being developed as a centre of international excellence. Lao reiterated its support to India on UN and other multilateral issues. The 2nd Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks was inaugurated on 10 September 2013 during the meeting.

INDIA&AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan in the month of September 2013, for the first time directly sent Afghan dry fruits to India using the Chabahar port. Before this, Afghanistan used to send their goods using Karachi port of Pakistan. Because of the political restrictions and high storage cost, Afghanistan was facing problems in exporting their goods to India. To overcome this problem the Indian embassies in Kabul and Tehran had been working closely with the Governments of Afghanistan and Iran for the past few months to ensure that the shipment goes through the Iranian Chabahar port. India officially confirmed participation in the Chabahar port project in May 2013, when External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid visited Tehran for the 17th meeting of the India-Iran Joint Commission.

About Chabahar port

- Chabahar port is a sea port in Chah Bahar in southeastern Iran.
- It is located between Indian Ocean and Oman Sea.
- The port was partially funded by India.

India-Iran Joint Commission

India and Iran hold regular bilateral discussions on economic and trade related issues within the framework of India-Iran Joint

Commission. The 17th India-Iran Joint Commission meeting was held from 3-5 May 2013 in Tehran.

Seat for Sikh and Hindu Nationals in Lower House of Afghan Parliament

President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai on 4 September 2013 approved, through a legislative decree, a special seat allocated for Sikh and Hindu Afghan Nationals in the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament. As per the provisions mentioned in Article 79 of the Constitution of Afghanistan, President Karzai approved the Cabinet amendments of 26 August 2013 to the Election Law, designating a particular seat in the Lower House of the Parliament for Sikh and Hindu nationals of Afghanistan. In the Presidential decree, the President assigned the Ministers of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to submit the decree within 30 days after the National Assembly of Afghanistan resumes its first session. The Afghan President has the power to issue legislative decrees when the Parliament is on vacation. The decree was issued after the lawmakers declined to reserve a special seat for Hindus and Sikhs through a law. The decree further adds that the amendments to the Election Law that came into force upon signature by the President. It would be published along with the relevant Cabinet resolution in the official gazette.

About the National Assembly of Afghanistan

The National Assembly of Afghanistan is a bicameral body comprises of two chambers, Wolesi Jirga (House of the People or Lower House) with 249 seats and Meshrano Jirga (Upper House or House of Elders) with 102 seats. The designated seat has increased the number of seats in Afghanistan's lower house to 250.

INDIA & CHILE

India and Chile on 13 September 2013 agreed to enhance their cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy at Ankara during India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah's visit to Chile. India plans to add over 30 GW of renewable energy to its energy mix in the next 5 years alone. He also dwelt on the success of the

wind programme as well as the significant cost reductions in solar energy through the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM). Chile is almost entirely dependent on imports for its energy needs and is therefore extremely keen to diversify its energy mix by introducing a large component of renewables. It has considerable potential in wind, hydro, solar and geothermal energy. India has considerable achievements and strengths in the sector of renewable energy and noted that India had made large strides in the same. India offered its support and expertise to Chile in setting up renewable projects. It offered the services of Indian experts and institutions like Centre for Wind Energy, Solar Energy Centre, Alternate Hydro Energy Centre for resource assessment of renewable energy sources, training of personnel and also preparation of projects for exploiting these technologies in Chile. It also offered training slots in India to Chilean scientists, engineers and technicians through the Indian Technical And Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

INDIA & BHUTAN

The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India since 30 August 2013 to 4 September 2013. During this visit, India and Bhutan discussed all areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

The main outcomes of the discussions were:

1. Government of India reiterated its commitment to Bhutan's socio-economic development. The two countries agreed to work together to further strengthen bilateral relations. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay thanked India for the support extended for Bhutan's development and expressed keenness to strengthen people-to-people links.
2. Government of India's Assistance Package for Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018, was agreed upon. At Bhutan's request, India will contribute 4500 Crores rupees towards Bhutan's 11th Plan, as well as 500 Crores rupees towards an Economic Stimulus Package.

3. The importance of continued cooperation in developing hydroelectric projects in Bhutan was also agreed upon. India reiterated its commitment to install an additional 10000 MW of generating capacity. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress in the three ongoing projects.
4. India expressed its satisfaction at being a privileged partner of Bhutan in its socio-economic development, and reassured the Bhutanese Prime Minister of its commitment to capacity building in Bhutan.
5. India and Bhutan reaffirmed the trust and confidence between the two countries and their mutual security interests. They agreed to continue their close coordination and cooperation with each other on issues relating to their national interest.

INDIA AND ARMENIA

India and Armenia held their seventh round of Foreign Office Consultations along with the sixth meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission in New Delhi on 25-26 September 2013. Sergey D. Manassarian, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and Ashok K. Kantha, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs held wide-ranging Foreign Office level consultations on 25 September. The nations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They also discussed regional and international matters and exchanged views on the current international situation. They expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation in international fora between the two countries.

The sixth session of the India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation was also held in New Delhi on 25-26 September 2013.

Discussions included a review of ongoing cooperation in various fields like Information Technology, Science and Technology, Health, Development Cooperation, Tourism & Civil Aviation and Culture. Both decided to intensify bilateral efforts to implement various project related proposals. They also agreed that bilateral

agreements currently under discussion would be finalized expeditiously. Both co-chairs Sergey D. Manassarian and Mr. Ashok K. Kantha signed a Protocol on the outcome of the IGC session.

INDIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

Bilateral security matters between India and Mozambique were reviewed at the Minister's level meeting held in New Delhi on 12 September 2013. At the meeting, Indian side was led by Mullappally Ramachandran, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and the Mozambique side by Jose Mandra, Deputy Minister of Interior.

Issues reviewed during the meeting

During the meeting, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India and Deputy Minister of Interior of Mozambique reviewed the following issues:

- training of police personnel
- supply of security related equipment
- visa for the citizens of India and Mozambique
- immigration issues
- disaster management

During the meeting, India and Mozambique resolved to strengthen their bilateral security cooperation.

INDIA & LESOTHO

The second meeting of the India-Lesotho Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation (JBCC) was held during 12-13 September 2013 in Maseru, Lesotho to discuss the current state of bilateral relations and the follow up of decisions taken at India Africa Forum Summit.

This was the first meeting of the JBCC to be held in Lesotho. India and Lesotho enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations which are multifaceted. There is a strong cooperation in bilateral matters and excellent coordination of views in regional and international fora. India-Lesotho cooperation has developed through capacity building programmes, training and sharing of experience in diverse fields including defence and security.

During the discussions, both nations also reviewed implementation of decisions taken at the

first meeting of the JBCC in March 2009 as well as those under the two India Africa Forum Summits. Both nations held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest. Cooperation under the India Africa Forum Summit, defence and security cooperation and Lines of Credit offered by the Government of India were also discussed at length. It was also agreed to propose that the next JBCC meeting will be held in New Delhi on mutually convenient dates.

INDIA AND LATVIA

The Government of India on 18 September 2013 signed an agreement with Latvia on Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.

The Agreement and the Agreed Note were signed by Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India and Mr. Edgars Rinkevics, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. Latvia is the third Baltic country with which DTAA has been signed by India. Earlier DTAA's were signed with Lithuania and Estonia. The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment (PE) in the source state. The Agreement provides for fixed place of permanent establishment (PE), building site, construction or assembly PE, service PE, Off-shore exploration/exploitation PE and agency PE.

Double Tax Avoidance Agreement contains following provisions

- Dividends, interest and royalties and fees for technical services income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. The low level of withholding rates of taxation for dividend, interest and royalties and fees for technical services (10 percent) will promote greater investments, flow of technology and technical services between India and Latvia.
- The Agreement incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information between tax authorities of the two countries in line with latest international standards, including exchange of banking information and supplying of information without recourse to domestic interest.
- The Agreement included an article on assistance in collection of taxes. This article also included provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Agreement incorporates anti-abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreements are availed of by the genuine residents of India and Latvia.
- The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Latvia. It will also facilitate mutual economic cooperation between India and Latvia.

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