



# **INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS—2010 DOCUMENTS**

Introduced & Edited by  
**AVTAR SINGH BHASIN**

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

**GEETIKA PUBLISHERS**

# **INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS—2010**

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

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

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

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# ABOUT THE EDITOR



**AVTAR SINGH BHASIN** (b. 1935). BA (HONS); MA in History. Initially he had short stints of service in the National Archives of India and the Ministry of Defence. In 1963 he joined the Ministry of External

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

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

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## P R E F A C E

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Avtar Singh Bhasin**

## INTRODUCTION

### I

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

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

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

## II

### NEIGHBOURS

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

#### **Afghanistan**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Bangladesh**

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

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

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

### **Nepal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Sri Lanka**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Pakistan**

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

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

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

### III

#### **SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA**

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

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

### **China**

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

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

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

### **Japan**

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

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

### **Malaysia**

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

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

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

### **Laos and Cambodia**

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

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

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

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

#### IV

#### WEST ASIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

## V

**AFRICA**

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

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

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

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

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

## VI

### EUROPE

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

#### France

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Russia**

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

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

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

**United Kingdom**

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

**Germany**

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

**Poland**

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

**Ice Land**

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

**Turkey**

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

**VII****UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VIII

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

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

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

## IX

**MULTILATERAL COOPERATION****ASEAN**

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

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

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

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

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

### **SAARC**

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

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

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

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

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

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

### **BRIC and IBSA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Nuclear Security Conference**

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

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

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

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

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

### **G-20**

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

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

### **ASEM**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## X

### TERRORISM

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

## XI

### NUCLEAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

## XII

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

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

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

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



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750.	Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Situation in Afghanistan at the United Nations Security Council. New York, December 22, 2010.	2475	—

