

**05**

**COMMITTEE  
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2024-25)**

**EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2025-26)**

**FIFTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*MARCH 2025 / Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)*

**FIFTH REPORT**  
**COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**(2024-25)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**  
**(2025-26)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 17 March, 2025*  
*Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 17 March, 2025*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*MARCH 2025 / Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)*

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2024-25)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **REPORT**

<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2024-25</b>	<b>1-25</b>
	Overall Budgetary Allocation	
	Classification of Budget of MEA	
	Review of Past Performance	
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>SECTORAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>26-83</b>
	Administration and Establishment	
	Embassies And Missions	
	Passport	
	Emigration	
	South Asian University And Nalanda University	
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION</b>	<b>84-128</b>
	Aid to Bangladesh	
	Aid to Bhutan	
	Aid to Nepal	
	Aid to Sri Lanka	
	Aid to Myanmar	
	Aid to African Countries	
	Aid to Afghanistan	
	Aid to Latin American Countries	
	Chabahar Port	
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS</b>	<b>129-139</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b>ASSISTANCE TO AUTONOMOUS BODIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>140-174</b>
	Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)	
	Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA)	
	Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)	
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	<b>POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH</b>	<b>175-185</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix I</b>	Minutes of the Twelve Sitting of the Committee held on 27.02.2025	<b>189-192</b>
<b>Appendix II</b>	Minutes of the Sixteenth Sitting of the Committee held on 11.03.2025	<b>193-194</b>
<b>ANNEXURES</b>		<b>195-247</b>

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2024-25)

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Chairperson**

### **Lok Sabha**

2. Smt. D. K. Aruna
3. Shri Vijay Baghel
4. Shri Mitesh Patel Bakabhai
5. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
6. Shri Arun Govil
7. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
8. Shri Navaskani K.
9. Shri Kripanath Mallah
10. Shri Brijendra Singh Ola
11. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
12. Shri Sanatan Pandey
13. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy
14. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
15. Shri Y. S. Avinash Reddy
16. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
17. Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant
18. Ms. Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde
19. Ms. Bansuri Swaraj
20. Shri Akshay Yadav
21. Vacant

### **Rajya Sabha**

22. Dr. John Brittas
23. Smt. Kiran Choudhry
24. Smt. Sagarika Ghose
25. Dr. K. Laxman
26. Ms. Kavita Patidar
27. Shri A. D. Singh
28. Kunwar Ratanjeet Pratap Narayan Singh
29. Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi
30. Shri Rajeev Shukla
31. Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu

### **Secretariat**

- |                              |   |                             |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri Anjani Kumar         | — | Joint Secretary             |
| 2. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | — | Director                    |
| 3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut   | — | Deputy Secretary            |
| 4. Ms. Smita Singh           | — | Assistant Committee Officer |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report of the Committee on External Affairs (2024-25) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Committee heard the views of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs at their Twelfth Sitting held on 27 February, 2025.

3. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs for placing before them the material and information that the Committee desired and also appearing before the Committee for placing their considered views before them in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2025-26).

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sixteenth Sitting held on 11 March, 2025.

5. The Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 27 February 2025 and 11 March 2025 are given in Appendix-I and II to the Report.

6. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold.

**NEW DELHI**  
***11 March, 2025***  
***20 Phalgun, 1946 (Saka)***

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor,**  
***Chairperson,***  
***Committee on External Affairs***

## CHAPTER 1

### ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) formulates and conducts India's foreign policy within the framework of our values and principles of fostering international peace and cooperation with the overall objective of meeting India's strategic aims and aspirations as well as to secure our national interests. In pursuance of its mandated objectives, the MEA headquarters in New Delhi is assisted by 216 Missions and Posts abroad, its Branch Secretariats and 38 Passport Offices in India, and autonomous bodies funded by it. The Ministry is also supported by other Ministries and State Governments who also contribute to India's international engagement in consultation and coordination with MEA.

1.2 Under the Constitution of India [Article 113 (2)], estimates of expenditure is submitted to Lok Sabha in the form of Demands for Grants. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs (Demand No. 29) was laid on the table of the House in February 2025.

#### I. OVERALL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

1.3 MEA's budget allocation in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 was Rs. 22154.67 crores. The allocation in Revised Estimates (RE) 2024-25 is Rs. 25277.20 crores and the actual expenditure of the Ministry in FY 2024-25 is Rs. 18376.23 crores [up to December 2024] (83% of BE 2024-25 & 73% of RE 2024-25). The allocation in BE 2025-26 is Rs 20516.61 crore, which is 7.39% lesser than BE 2024-25 allocation and 18.83% lesser than RE 2024-25 allocation. The total budgetary allocation during the last five years along with the Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for the respective years including Actuals & shortfall/excess in utilization of RE is as follows:

*(Rs. in crore)*

Financial Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Increase/ Decrease at RE Stage
2020-21	17346.71	15000.00	14365.84	-2346.71
2021-22	18154.73	16000.00	14173.70	-2154.73
2022-23	17250.00	16972.79	16684.78	-277.21
2023-24	18050.00	29121.85	29002.40	+11,071.88

<b>2024-25</b>	22154.67	25277.20	18376.23*	+3122.53
<b>2025-26</b>	20516.61	-	-	-

Actual Expenditure upto 31 December 2024

1.4 The Budget Estimate (BE) for the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2025-26 has been reduced to Rs. 20,516.61 crores, reflecting a decrease of 7.39% compared to the BE for 2024-25 and 18.83% compared to the RE for 2024-25. Explicating the rationale and strategic reasoning behind this reduction in allocation, the Ministry stated that it undertook an assessment of the fund requirements for various heads in the MEA budget for suitable allocation within the BE 2025-26 ceiling of Rs. 20,516.61 crores, to ensure that the on-going projects, schemes and programmes as per the ongoing pace of the projects, schemes and programmes. The allocated BE for 2025-26 does not include any allocation for expenditure to be charged to the Guarantee Redemption Fund upon invocation of the GoI Guarantee by Exim Bank, unlike the allocation made for the previous year. Therefore, BE 2025-26 ceiling of Rs. 20516.61 crores (increase of Rs. 2744.91 crores *i.e.* 15.45 % from productive BE 2024-25 *i.e.* BE 2024-25 minus LOC provisioning).

1.5 MEA's budgetary allocation to the GOI budget for the last ten financial years is provided below:

*(in Rs cr)*

<b>FY</b>	<b>MEA Budget</b>	<b>GoI Budget</b>	<b>% of GoI</b>
2014-15	14730.39	1451493.96	1.01
2015-16	14966.83	1567081.78	0.96
2016-17	14662.66	1729508.45	0.85
2017-18	14798.55	2146735.00	0.69
2018-19	15011.00	2442213.00	0.61
2019-20	17884.78	2786349.00	0.64
2020-21	17346.71	3042230.00	0.57
2021-22	18154.73	3483235.63	0.52
2022-23	17250.00	3944908.67	0.44
2023-24	18050.00	4503097.45	0.40
2024-25	22154.67	4820512.08	0.46
2025-26	20516.61	5065345.04	0.41



1.6 Over the issue of MEA's percentage allocation to GOI's budget, the Foreign Secretary testimony made the following submission on 27 February 2025:

“We are at 0.4 % of the overall GOI Budget currently. We take solace in the fact that the Government's overall budget is increasing; the size of that budget is increasing and even though as a percentage our share may be dropping, our allocations are increasing from year to year. But we could always do much better, sir. The 0.4 per cent share does appear to be low, but we have been, as I said, managing to meet our international obligations and as I said, the Union Government's own budget has been increasing in overall terms.”

1.7 The top ten Ministries in terms of budgetary allocation in the BE 2025-26 are:

Sl. No.	Ministry	BE 2025-26 (in INR crore)
1.	Finance	1939001.26
2.	Defence	681210.27
3.	Road Transport and Highways	287333.16
4.	Railways	255445.18
5.	Home Affairs	233210.68
6.	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	215767.09
7.	Rural Development	190405.53
8.	Chemicals and Fertilisers	161965.21
9.	Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	137756.55
10.	Education	128650.05

MEA is ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> with BE allocation of Rs. 20516.61 crore.

1.8 Looking at the MEA's standing, the Ministry was specifically asked whether foreign affairs has been perceived as requiring fewer resources in comparison to other high-priority sectors such as education, defense, etc. The Ministry responded that it undertakes detailed assessment with concerned spending units of the fund requirement pertaining to Ministry's budget for suitable allocation as well as utilization at various stages of budgeting, also taking into consideration the pace of various ongoing projects, schemes, and programmes. Each GOI Ministry makes demands for grants based on its own requirements and allocations are provided to them by Ministry of Finance as per its assessment. The demand and allocations of various GOI Ministries may not be comparable as each Ministry's requirements would be based on their own on-going and planned programmes. Further, the demands of each Ministry are not shared by Ministry of Finance with other Ministries. Detailed discussions on budget demands take place in

Quarterly Budget Management meetings with Division Heads and are further reviewed in meetings chaired by the Ministry of Finance, following a whole-of-government approach to budget management.

1.9 On being asked whether the budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2025-26 is adequate to meet the expanding mandate and increasing global role, the Ministry replied that anticipation of expenditure progress in the fiscal year is regularly assessed, which makes budgetary demand and allocation a dynamic process. Instruments for re-appropriating money, such as Supplementary requests, permit re-prioritization and re-allocation of funds in order to allocate budgetary resources fully and effectively. Therefore, funding provided to the Ministry in RE 2024–25 reflects a fair evaluation of our current international obligations, predicted spending growth, and realistic assessment of requirements in BE 2025–26. The quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations put in place by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings reinforce the beneficial reallocation of budgetary distribution with a preference towards the Ministry's development partnership portfolio. It is Ministry's assessment, that allocated budget in RE 2024-25 would suffice our expenditure commitments in FY 2024-25. For FY 2025-26, additional allocations, if required will be suitably taken up with Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

1.10 In continuation of the Ministry's response, the Committee are left wondering about the logic of its persistent recommendation for enhanced allocation when the Ministry itself expresses satisfaction with the current budget allocation. On the Committee's specific question about the areas that require enhanced budgetary support in the coming fiscal year, the Ministry stated that it takes guidance from the Hon'ble Committee's recommendation for an increase in funding by submitting demands for higher allocation of funds to the Ministry of Finance at both the RE and BE stages. The Ministry makes every effort to efficiently utilize the funds allocated by the Ministry of Finance to meet the requirements of respective budget heads. Whenever the actual allocation provided by the Ministry of Finance is found to be insufficient to meet the Ministry's requirements for a given year, the Ministry reappropriates funds from the savings available and/or requests the Ministry of Finance for additional funds at the Supplementary/RE/FE stage, as applicable.

1.11 Further, In the Ministry's assessment, areas where Ministry could further expand with enhanced budget support in the coming fiscal year: (i) the budget for "capital outlay on public works and housing" since there are proposals underway for acquisition of properties abroad for our chanceries and residences, (ii) the budget for "technical and economic cooperation with other countries" to meet the various commitments to our development partners, and (iii) the budget head for "Embassies and Missions" since there are plans underway for phased operationalization of new Missions/Posts abroad.

1.12 During the course of oral evidence, the Committee specifically asked the Foreign Secretary to spell out the areas that required better resources, to which he submitted as under:

"You asked which the areas that need more resources are. At the top of my head, I can point to three priorities. One is obviously development assistance. I think, there is not enough appreciation for the fact that of much diplomatic capital and goodwill our development partnership expenditure gains us. The reason for that is that it is not a like for like. We do a project. It is not as if that country gives us something. But it is possible that three years after the project is done, we may actually have a very important ask of that country and we get. That is the value in the development partnership systems. So, the more we can do, the greater goodwill we garner, the more we can secure our strategic objectives in whichever are the countries where we pursue these objectives. So, that would be number one, top of the priority, more funding for our development assistance projects.

The second would be obviously in support of our human resources. Every time we create posts abroad; we need expenditure for that. Then, there is associated expenditure for the facilities that are needed for personnel that we send abroad. So, more money for more people abroad, and that is obviously connected to the cadre review exercise that we carry out from time to time. This is just one of the three things of the top of my head.

The third thing would be that we do still not have in all countries in the world the right real estate that befits a country of India's size and stature whether it is in terms of the Embassy buildings or the residences of our heads of mission or the residences of the officers of the Embassies. In some places that one can count on the fingers of one or two hands, they are very good. They are excellent. But in the bulk of the places, I would say that we are significantly below the mark were we should be, even if you are aiming for an average. So, that would be the third area that we would require funding to be able to acquire real estate. We obviously want to move away from rentals because rentals are very high in a lot of places. Given the budgets that we have available, we are not able to

rent good and impressive living quarters or working areas. So, those are the three things that I would say from the funding perspective.”

1.13 The Committee were keen to know the reason for non-inclusion of provision for the Line of Credit (LoC) in this year’s MEA budget. The Ministry responded that Concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) are extended by the Government of India under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) through the Exim Bank of India. Government of India provides guarantee to the Exim Bank of India for each LOC ensuring payment security. These guarantees have been invoked by the Exim Bank in the case of delinquent/restructured loans, resulting in Provisioning. As a one-time measure, RBI stipulated that the total outstanding amount arrived on a notional basis, may be provisioned in a staggered manner, equally over a period of three years, starting from FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25. Accordingly, MEA has paid INR 4630.32 crores in FY 2022-23, and INR 3561.37 crores in FY 2023-24 to the EXIM Bank of India under provisioning. The EXIM Bank of India is also required to remit to GoI the amount received as repayments from provisioned countries. So far, the Exim Bank has remitted approximately INR 833 crores to GoI in this regard.

1.14 While giving evidence before the Committee on 27 February 2024, the Foreign Secretary highlighted that “It is important to note that this apparent decrease in the Budget is mainly because at this stage, no allocation has been made in the MEA’s Budget towards EXIM bank provisioning in the MEA’s budgetary figures.” On the Committee’s insistence, he clarified in details about EXIM bank provisioning as under:

“the EXIM bank extends lines of credit at our behest to partner nations and countries abroad. Those countries are then expected after a period of moratorium to start remitting and repaying that loan which includes, as all of us who ever taken housing loan will be familiar with, includes the interest that is accrued on the loan as well as the portion of the principal and the payment is spread out over a number of years.

Normally, this process should go on without difficulty but in recent times, as debt stress has grown in certain countries, a country may be unable to repay the EXIM at a particular point in time which essentially means that particular loan gets classified as a non-performing asset or a bad debt on the bank books. The bank then needs to be in a sense compensated for that particular because any loan is classified as an asset in the banks’ balance sheet. If the asset is not repaying, the bank is itself coming under a certain amount of stress. So, in order for that asset to continue to pay for the bank and for the

bank not to be out of pocket, in a sense, the Government of India as the sovereign authority takes it upon itself to set right the EXIM banks' budgetary position.

Ordinarily, because the provisioning issue is a phenomenon only in the last couple of years, ordinarily, this would have been done either by the Government of India or it would have been allowed to persist as an asset that is not performing. But due to fresh guidelines that have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India and the by the Department of Economic Affairs, we, the Ministry of External Affairs is now required to maintain provisioning for this particular purpose. So, essentially, if there is a hole in the EXIM banks finances, the Government of India uses the MEA Budget to provide to fill that hole. It could have been done directly.”

1.15 When the Ministry was specifically asked whether it plans to make a case to the Ministry of Finance for allocating LoC provisions separately, considering they are non-productive in nature and should be over and above the regular budgetary allocation, it submitted that the budgetary allocation under provisioning is an exercise that involves the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of External Affairs and the EXIM Bank. MEA is in regular touch with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance on this issue. The payment towards provisioning by MEA to Exim Bank is done on the basis of sanction and funds made available by DEA. If the RBI insists on continuing provisioning to the Exim Bank of India, MEA could consider requesting DEA to allocate funds for provisioning separately. Total funds allocated to MEA for other expenditure should be over and above the funds allocated for provisioning. Provisioning is done to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the books of Exim Bank due to the regulator's directives. It does not have any implication for our ongoing bilateral development projects in partner countries. This does not, in any way, reduce the liability of the borrowing countries against the loans taken under GOI LoCs.

1.16 The details of budget sought and actual allocations to MEA for the past four years are given below:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>FY</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>BE Allocation</b>	<b>RE Demand</b>	<b>RE Allocation</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
2022-23	20707.18	17250.00	19095.45	16972.79	16684.78
2023-24	21552.24	18050.00	31872.50	29121.88	29003.38
2024-25	27865.04	22154.67	28234.31	25277.20	20861.45*
2025-26	30871.82	20516.61	-	-	-

*\*- Upto Jan 2025*

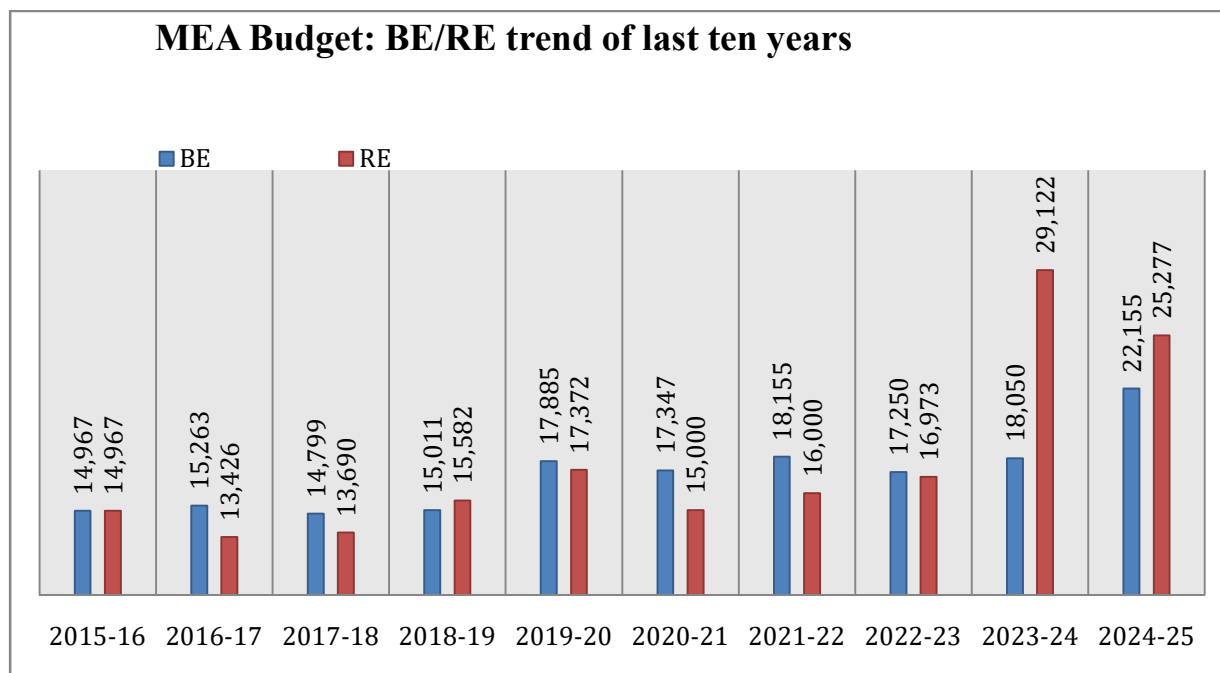
1.17 It has been observed from the table above that the budgetary demands of MEA had been slashed down by the Ministry of Finance. Out of the budgetary demand of Rs. 30871.82 crores for FY 2025-26, the Ministry of Finance has allocated only Rs. 20516.61 crores. The demand–allocation differential is the highest so far at Rs. 10355.21 crore. When asked about the reasons for seeking higher budgetary allocations for BE 2025-26 and the justifications put forth by the Ministry of Finance for lesser allocations, MEA submitted that The Ministry’s anticipation of expenditure progress in the fiscal year is regularly assessed, which makes budgetary demand and allocation a dynamic process. The Ministry undertakes detailed assessment with concerned spending units of the fund requirement pertaining to the Ministry’s budget for suitable allocation as well as utilization at various stages of budgeting, also taking into consideration the pace of various ongoing projects, schemes, and programmes. The Ministry makes demands for grants based on requirements of ongoing and planned programmes and allocations are provided by the Ministry of Finance as per its assessment of demands made by all the Ministries. Based on the actual overall allocation provided by the Ministry of Finance, this Ministry has accorded due consideration in ensuring adequate funds are allocated to the various budget heads as per requirement.

1.18 The BE-RE (Budget Estimates - Revised Estimates) differentials for the Ministry of External Affairs over the last ten financial years are provided as under:

*(Rs. in crores)*

<b>FY</b>	<b>Budget Estimates</b>	<b>Revised Estimates</b>
2015-16	14966.83	14966.83
2016-17	14662.66	13426.00
2017-18	14798.55	13690.00
2018-19	15011.00	15582.00
2019-20	17884.78	17372.27
2020-21	17346.71	15000.00
2021-22	18154.73	16000.00
2022-23	17250.00	16972.79
2023-24	18050.00	29121.88
2024-25	22154.67	25277.20
2025-26	20516.61	-

1.19 The following graph represents the BE-RE trends of MEA for the last ten years:



1.20 In pursuance of the Committee's persistent recommendation, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) has examined empirical trends in MEA Budget through an inter-Ministerial comparison and cross-country comparison of different countries in their Report titled 'Analysis of Trends of MEA Budgetary Allocation'. The Committee were keen to know whether the Ministry has utilized the RIS Report to advocate for a higher budgetary allocation in line with India's growing global profile and activities. The Ministry stated that as per the finding of the report, the Ministry continues to make efforts to reduce the gap between demand and allocation by rationalizing our demand to make it more realistic, need-based, and aligned to targets, as recommended by the Hon'ble Committee, and by working more closely with the Ministry of Finance to facilitate a better appreciation by the latter of MEA's important initiatives and associated funds requirements.

1.21 There has been an enhancement of Rs. 3122.53 crores in the budgetary allocation for MEA during the Revised Estimate (RE) for the fiscal year 2024-25. Elaborating on the key factors that have contributed to upward revision in allocations at the RE stage, the Ministry stated that it had projected a budgetary demand Rs. 28,234.31 Cr for RE 2024-25 to the Ministry of Finance, accompanied by detailed justification. Against the demand an allocation of Rs

25277.20 Cr has been received for RE 2024-25. As per the recommendations of the Hon'ble Standing Committee and best practices in budgetary management, the Ministry continues to strive for more rigorous budget planning. This involves creating expenditure plans based on anticipated progress in ongoing projects, potential new initiatives, and challenges in individual projects, all of which are considered when formulating budgetary demands and allocation. Detailed discussions on budget demands take place in Quarterly Budget Management meetings with Division heads and are further reviewed in meetings chaired by the Ministry of Finance, following a whole-of-government approach to budget management. The RE 2024-25 allocation for the Ministry is Rs. 25,277.20 crores (increase of Rs. 3122.53 crores *i.e.* 14.10% from BE 2024-25) and BE 2025-26 ceiling of Rs. 20516.61 crores (increase of Rs. 2744.91 Cr *i.e.* 15.45% from productive BE 2024-25 *i.e.* BE 2024-25 minus LOC provisioning). A consistent improvement in the Ministry's RE and BE demand-allocation indicates realistic projections and a constructive appreciation of Ministry's requirements by Ministry of Finance.

1.22 On Committee's query, the Ministry furnished a detailed breakdown of the head-wise allocation for which enhanced allocation has been provisioned at the RE stage as under:

(in cr Rs)

Head	Enhanced Allocation	Reasons
Printing and Procurement of Travel Documents	750	Payment required to pay pending bills of ISP Nasik for printing of passport booklets and e-passport booklets.
Passport Seva Projects	140	Payment to NICSI for printing of Passports & Ghost images. Deptt. of Posts,
United Nations Organisation	335	All anticipated expenditure is contributions that are assessed/pledged/important contributions.
South Asian University	19.08	Additional funds were required towards the payment of mandatory contribution towards South Asian University.
Aid to Bhutan	594.92	Funds for committed budgetary assistance to Bhutan and for critical ongoing projects, is essential and cannot be postponed.
Aid to Sri Lanka	55	Additional funds are required towards



		various ongoing projects such as Housing Project Phase III & IV etc.
Aid to Maldives	70	Additional funds are required for the Anticipated Expenditure under ongoing projects e.g., UTF and Greater Male Connectivity.
Aid to Myanmar	150	Additional funds are required for the Anticipated Expenditure under Kaladan project, Kalewa Yargi Road project.
Aid to Disaster Relief	50	Additional funds are required towards humanitarian assistance to various countries
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	241	Additional funds are required, as the expenditure is discretionary in nature.
Investment Promotion & Publicity Programme	461.53	Payment of Interest Equalisation Support (IES) bills in respect of GOI LOCs extended to Govt. of Bangladesh and Govt. of Nepal. Increase in interest rates-LIBOR/SOFR & Exchange rate fluctuations lead to higher expenditure
Aid to Latin American Countries	30	Additional expenditure is on account of pending payment towards supply of APIs as grant to Republic of Cuba, supplied in July 2024 etc.
Aid to Mauritius	206	Additional funds are required for the Anticipated Expenditure towards Supply of E- Buses etc.
ITEC Programme	20	Additional funds are required towards the increase in ITEC slots
<b>Total</b>	<b>3122.53</b>	

1.23 On the Committee's query about the manner in which the Ministry's budget been adapted to address emerging global challenges such as cyber security, climate change, public health crises, and advancements in emerging technologies, the latter stated that Ministry's budget includes various components that address emerging global challenges. For instance, the autonomous policy research bodies funded by the Ministry, viz. the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), undertake several research and academic activities on a broad range of subjects including cyber

security, climate change, public health, emerging technologies, migration and mobility. Ministry's Multilateral Economic Relations Programme budget head caters to India's contribution to the South Centre, Geneva for supporting climate change activities. The Quad Cooperation budget head supports initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region relating to climate change and public health such as off-grid solar projects and the Quad Cancer Moonshot for providing HPV sampling kits, detection kits, and cervical cancer vaccines. The ITEC programme offers training courses in contemporary subject matters such as govtech, IT, digital economy, and emerging technologies (block chain, artificial intelligence, etc.). In FY 2024-25, a new head has been created labelled "Aid to Tech Infrastructure Project", to support projects pertaining to Digital Public Infrastructure, Small and Medium Enterprises, and green technology/solar/ water projects.

1.24 Giving specific example, the Ministry further stated that it has administrative provisions in its budget for actively participating in international dialogues and negotiations pertaining to cyber security, climate change, public health, and emerging technologies, in close coordination with nodal Ministries and agencies in the Government. However, it may be noted that the substantive portfolio relating to these matters reside with the respective line Ministries of the Union Government.

1.25 When asked about the main budgetary constraints being faced by the MEA, and areas are underfunded the latter responded that budgetary demand and allocation is a dynamic exercise aided by regular assessment of Ministry's expectation of expenditure progress in a given financial year. Instruments of re-appropriation of budget, supplementary demands etc., allow re-prioritisation and re-allocation of funds for full and efficient allocation of budgetary resources. The quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations put in place by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings reinforce the beneficial reallocation of budgetary distribution with a preference towards the Ministry's development partnership portfolio. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of majority of the Ministry's spending being in foreign countries, where diverse local conditions, inter-alia including geological, security, administrative, legal & economic ecosystems and varying project development and implementation schedules posing significant challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle. Ministry's budgetary

& expenditure management thus is unlike any other Ministry in Government, with global diversity of various ecosystems, in which our projects are executed & expenditure managed.

1.26 On Committee's specific question on incorporation of the dimension of gender budgeting in proposing the budgetary demands, it has been submitted that the Ministry has constituted a gender budget cell, which has been tasked with evaluating gender related contributions of projects implemented by the Ministry. A data collection exercise with respect to the gender related aspects of the projects, has been undertaken and the data is presently being analysed with a view to initiating further action based on the analysis. In this regard, two officers of the Gender Budget Cell were also trained on gender budgeting in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

**1.27 Upon a detailed examination of the budgetary allocation of the Ministry of External Affairs' for the fiscal year 2025-26, the Committee observe with dismay that despite India's growing global profile and expanding diplomatic and development responsibilities, the Ministry's allocation remains disproportionately low compared to the increasing global role that India is expected to play. The allocation in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2025-26, at Rs. 20,516.61 crores, represents a 7.39% reduction from BE 2024-25 and an 18.83% decrease compared to the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2024-25. India's diplomatic influence is growing, and the country is taking on an increasingly important role in global affairs, including multilateral engagements, regional security, development partnerships, and responding to emerging challenges such as climate change, cyber security and global public health. However, MEA's allocation as a percentage of the Government of India's total budget continues to decline from 0.46% in FY 2024-25 to 0.41% in FY 2025-26. This reduction in MEA's share is alarming, particularly given the broadening scope of India's international outreach and responsibilities. While the Ministry has worked within its means, managing to fulfill its international obligations, it must be acknowledged that India's role on the global stage continues to expand, with increasingly complex diplomatic engagements, security concerns and development commitments that demand more robust financial support. The Committee are of the firm view that the current allocation does not adequately support India's foreign policy priorities and international stature and urgently calls for a substantial increase in the MEA's budget to ensure that India can meet its**

diplomatic and development objectives effectively and assert its growing influence on the world stage. The Committee, therefore recommend that the Government should consider increasing the budgetary allocation of MEA by at least 20 % in the next fiscal year to meet the expanding needs and ensure more effective engagement on the global stage.

*(Recommendation No.1)*

**1.28** The Committee underscores that the current budget allocation for the Ministry of External Affairs is neither reflective of India's growing stature on the world stage, nor does it adequately support the expanding mandate of the Ministry in line with the country's foreign policy aspirations. While the Ministry has provided a comprehensive assessment of its funding requirements, including the identification of critical areas in need of enhanced financial support, the Committee emphasize that the allocation remains insufficient given the challenges and opportunities India faces internationally. The Committee would like to highlight three key areas that require urgent attention: human resource development to strengthen India's diplomatic cadre; embassy and mission operations to enhance India's presence abroad; and acquisition of diplomatic real estate to establish more permanent and cost-effective missions globally, alongside increased funding for development assistance to further India's strategic objectives through goodwill and partnerships. The Committee strongly urge the Government to prioritize these critical areas by providing substantial additional resources to MEA. These funds are necessary to ensure that the Ministry can effectively build a robust diplomatic infrastructure capable of meeting the demands of India's expanding global role. The Committee also call on the Government to reassess the Ministry's budget allocations, not only at the Revised Estimates (RE) stage but also in future budget cycles, to ensure that the Ministry has the resources it needs to fully capitalize on India's diplomatic and development opportunities. Such an investment will enable India to maximize its influence and uphold its interests on the world stage, positioning it as a leader in addressing both regional and global challenges.

*(Recommendation No.2)*

**1.29** The Committee find that this year's budgetary allocation of Rs. 20,516.61 crore for MEA excludes the Indian Exim Bank sovereign guarantees which in BE 2024-25 had

accounted for 15.45% increase (Rs. 2744.91 crore) from the productive BE 2024-25. The Committee acknowledge the clarification provided by the Ministry regarding the non-inclusion of a provision for the Lines of Credit (LoC) in the Ministry's budget for the fiscal year 2025-26. The Committee understand that LoC provisioning, which is a necessary mechanism to address the non-performing assets in the Exim Bank's balance sheet, has been a significant and somewhat unforeseen budgetary requirement in recent years. However, the Committee are of the view that the inclusion of such provisions within the regular budget distorts the correct picture of actual allocation to the MEA and also impinges on its ability to meet core diplomatic and development responsibilities, as the provisioning for the Indian Exim Bank are non-productive in nature and do not contribute directly to the foreign policy objectives of the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of External Affairs make a compelling case to the Ministry of Finance to treat EXIM Bank provisioning as a separate item. The provisioning for non-performing loans should be allocated outside of the regular MEA budget, over and above the core funding necessary for the Ministry's diplomatic and developmental functions. This distinction will ensure that the Ministry's essential international responsibilities are adequately funded, without being compromised by non-productive and non-diplomatic financial obligations.

*(Recommendation No.3)*

1.30 The Committee has observed with concern the consistent trend of significant gaps between the budgetary demands and the actual allocations for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) over the past few years. The most notable instance is the sharp differential observed in the allocation for BE 2025-26, where the Ministry's demand for Rs. 30,871.82 crore has been slashed down to Rs. 20,516.61 crores, resulting in a differential of Rs. 10,355.21 crore—the highest recorded in recent years. This trend of budgetary allocations falling short of the Ministry's demands is a matter of serious concern. The Committee note that such discrepancies have created challenges for the Ministry in meeting its core diplomatic, development, and operational objectives, particularly in light of the evolving global challenges and India's aspirations for a more prominent role on the global stage. The Committee urge the Ministry of Finance to take a more forward-looking approach to

**budget allocation, factoring in not only the Ministry's ongoing commitments but also its future aspirations, and provide MEA with adequate and timely financial support to fulfill its expanding global responsibilities.**

***(Recommendation No.4)***

**1.31 In pursuance of the Committee's ongoing recommendations, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) has conducted an inter-Ministerial and cross-country comparison of budgetary allocations for foreign affairs. The findings of the report titled '*Analysis of Trends of MEA Budgetary Allocation*' are highly illuminating and further underscore the necessity for substantial budgetary support to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to effectively meet its expanding global responsibilities and advance India's aspirations on the world stage. The Committee note that, for the current fiscal year, the MEA has been allocated Rs. 20,516.61 crore, positioning 22<sup>nd</sup> amongst the ministries of the Government of India. This situation reinforces the Committee's long-standing concern that the MEA is significantly underfunded. The Committee, hence, strongly urge that the Ministry of External Affairs should urgently utilize the data and insights from the RIS Report, alongside inter-Ministerial comparisons, to present a compelling case to the Ministry of Finance for a substantial increase in the budgetary allocation to ensure that India's foreign policy can evolve in alignment with the country's expanding global stature. By presenting a data-driven argument, the MEA will be better positioned to advocate for the resources necessary to build a more robust diplomatic infrastructure and meet the increasingly complex and diverse demands of international relations and development cooperation.**

***(Recommendation No.5)***

**1.32 The Committee acknowledge the efforts made by the Ministry of External Affairs in establishing a Gender Budget Cell to assess and incorporate gender-related dimensions into the Ministry's budgetary processes. The initiative to evaluate the gender-related contributions of projects implemented by the Ministry is a commendable step towards aligning the Ministry's budgetary framework with India's broader commitment to gender equality and inclusive development. However, the Committee observe that while the**

Ministry has undertaken a data collection exercise to evaluate the gender-related aspects of its projects, the data is still under analysis, and further action is awaited. Given the growing global recognition of gender equality as a cornerstone of sustainable development, it is imperative that the gender dimension be integrated into the Ministry's projects and budgetary demands in a more structured and timely manner. The Ministry should accelerate the analysis of the gender-related data it has collected and develop a concrete action plan to ensure that gender budgeting is systematically incorporated into all relevant projects and schemes. Furthermore, the Committee urge the Ministry to expand the capacity of the Gender Budget Cell and ensure that it is adequately resourced to carry out this essential work effectively.

*(Recommendation No.6)*

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGET OF MEA

1.33 The budget classifications of the Ministry are in terms of Revenue and Capital heads and Scheme and Non-Scheme sections. The Scheme section comprises of Ministry's Central Sector Schemes, which are essentially the technical and economic cooperation (Grants and Loans) assistance programmes for other countries.

### a) Revenue and Capital

1.34 The allocations as per Revenue/Capital heads are as below:

*(Rs. in Crore)*

Section	BE 2023-24	RE 2023-24	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
Revenue	16529.79	27145.95	20479.49	23602.02	19519.73
Capital	1520.21	1975.93	1675.18	1675.18	996.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>18050.00</b>	<b>29121.88</b>	<b>22154.67</b>	<b>25277.20</b>	<b>20516.61</b>

1.35 The Ministry furnished detailed breakdown budgetary allocation in various heads in column format under both the Revenue and Capital sections separately for BE 24-25, RE 24-25 and BE 25-26 as under:

(in Rs cr)

Major Head		Minor Head	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Budget Estimate
			2024-25	2024-25	2025-26
Revenue Section					
2052	Secretariat - General Services	Secretariat	789.68	750.72	676.44
2061	External Affairs	Training	27.48	25.47	24.72
		Embassies and Missions	3867.64	3969.19	4206.22
		Special Diplomatic Expenditure	4659.01	4900.01	4900.00
		International Conference/ Meeting	1.00	1.00	1.00
		Passport and Emigration	970.66	1907.25	1913.48
		Entertainment Charges	63.74	61.24	65.74
		Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions	369.85	368.69	394.18
		International Co-operation	659.32	1013.22	953.08
		Other Expenditure	9.85	9.52	9.86
			Total	10628.55	12255.57
2075	Miscellaneous General Services	Loss by Exchange	0.01	0.01	0.01
		Transfer of Reserve Funds	4383.40	4383.40	0.01
		Total	4383.41	4383.41	0.02
3605	Technical and Economic Co-operation with Other Countries	Co-operation with other countries	4677.86	6212.31	6375.00
Capital Section					
4059	Capital Outlay on Public Works	Other Building - Construction	324.00	382.49	275.00



4070	Capital Outlay on Administrative Services	Direction and Administration	89.67	89.50	99.27
4075	Capital Outlay on Misc General Services	Direction and Administration	21.81	15.09	17.61
4216	Capital Outlay on Housing	Other Housing	250.00	318.40	230.00
7465	Loans for General Financial and Trading Institutes	General Financial Institutions	4383.40	4383.40	0.00
7605	Advances to Foreign Governments	Loans to Govt of Bhutan	989.70	869.70	375.00

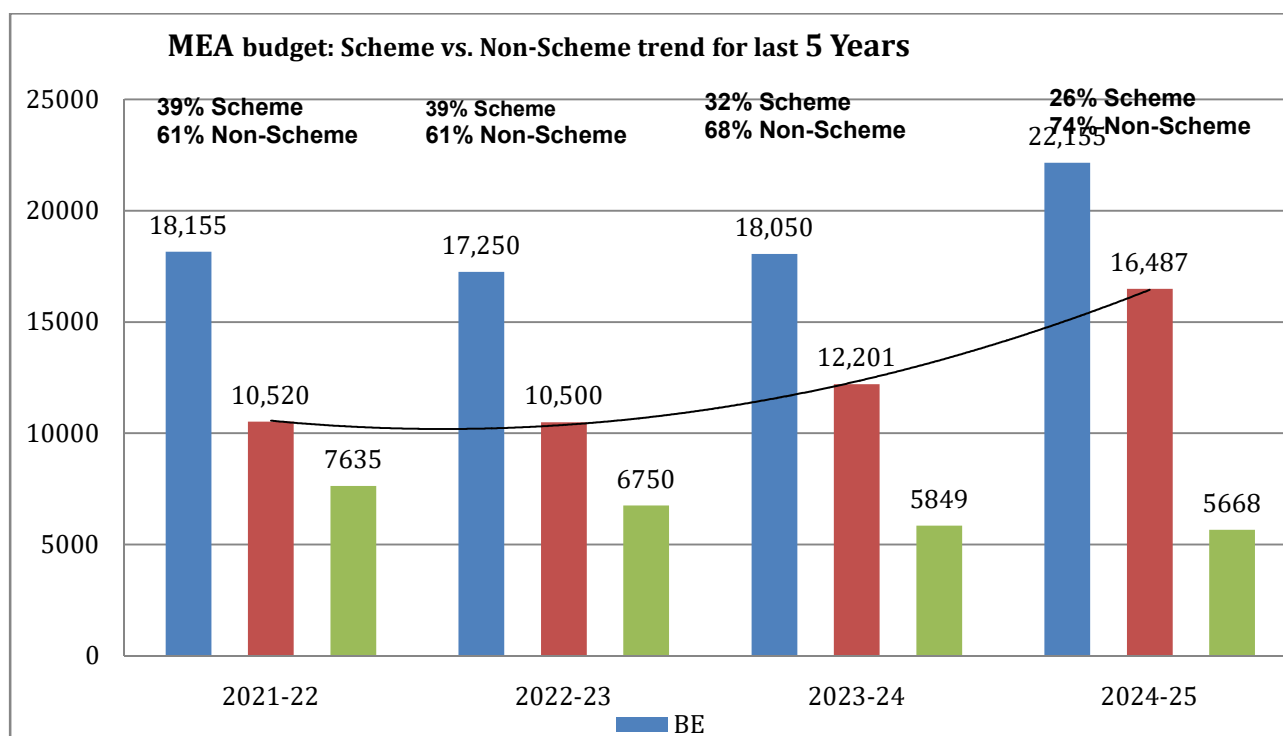
**b) Scheme and Non-Scheme**

1.36 The following table provides the allocations of the Ministry under Scheme/Non-Scheme sections:

*(In Rs. crore)*

	<b>BE 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2023-24</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>RE 2024-26</b>	<b>BE 2025-26</b>
Scheme	5848.58	6541.79	5667.56	7082.01	6750.00
Non-Scheme	12201.42	22580.09	16487.11	18195.19	13766.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>18050.00</b>	<b>29121.88</b>	<b>22154.67</b>	<b>25277.20</b>	<b>20516.61</b>

1.37 The following chart provides a succinct view of MEA's budget under Scheme and non-scheme section for past five years:



1.38 Explaining the basis for distinction between Scheme and Non Scheme section, the Ministry stated that the ‘Scheme’ and ‘Non-Scheme’ classification has been made by Ministry of Finance, and is not specific to MEA. Ministry of Finance’s Budget Circular for FY 2017-18 in its introductory chapter states the following with regard to doing away with the Plan/Non-Plan classification. A significant reform initiative in the budgeting process, announced by the Finance Minister in budget speech of 2016-17, is the merger of Plan and non-Plan distinction in expenditure budgeting. This has been implemented from the budget of 2017-18. The reform has been initiated in light of the policy decision to do away with the term ‘Plan’ while distinguishing expenditure on socio-economic welfare programmes and schemes in the light of abolition of Planning Commission. The reclassification of expenditure under Scheme and Non-Scheme accounting heads started from Budget 2017-18 and after the 12th Plan period (2012-17) came to an end. With the removal of the Plan and Non-Plan distinction the focus of budgeting and expenditure classification has shifted to Revenue and Capital, as has been envisaged in the Constitution of India. A clear distinction between capital and revenue expenditures is also essential for analytical purposes, transparency, and efficient policy decision-making.

1.39 The allocation under the Non-Scheme section for BE 2023-24 was Rs. 12,201.42 crores, which was significantly increased to Rs. 22,580.09 crores. However, it was reduced to Rs. 16,487.11 crores during BE 2024-25 and Rs. 13,766.61 crores during BE 2025-26. Elaborating on the reasons for this enhanced allocation during the RE stage and the subsequent reduction at BE 2024-25 and 2025-26, the Ministry stated that allocation of funds under each sub-head as part of the Government's overall budgetary management, budgetary demands are discussed in great detail with the Heads of Division in the quarterly Budget Management meetings, which are further discussed in a meeting presided by the Finance Secretary. The enhanced allocation in RE for FY 2023-24 was mainly due to allocation of Rs 9013.72 Cr, for expenditure charged to the Guarantee Redemption Fund upon invocation of the GoI Guarantee by Exim Bank to comply with RBI's norms. The subsequent reduction at BE 2024-25 is due to allocation of only Rs 4383.40 Cr *vis-a-vis* Rs 9013.72 Cr for LOC provisioning and subsequently Nil allocation under LOC provisioning for BE 2025-26.

1.40 With regard to the monitoring mechanism followed for keeping a check on expenditure under 'Scheme' and 'Non-Scheme' Heads, the Ministry responded that all expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with implementation progress of projects, programmes and schemes, including through quarterly expenditure review meetings. There has been more intensive monitoring and review of the technical aid and development assistance projects in the past year, including at the level of the External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary. These reviews have identified the way forward for many projects where progress was slow. Further, due to the regular review and monitoring of MEA's scheme section at high levels, several new initiatives and projects have been identified in consultation with the concerned beneficiary host governments, which would be getting finalized and operationalized in due course.

**1.41 The Committee note that the budget classifications for the Ministry of External Affairs are divided into Revenue and Capital heads, as well as Scheme and Non-Scheme sections. The Scheme section primarily supports MEA's Central Sector Schemes, which are critical for India's development partnerships and cooperation with other countries. On the other hand, the Non-Scheme section covers a range of essential functions, including establishment costs, assistance to autonomous institutions, passport and emigration**

services, welfare of the Diaspora, and international cooperation. For the fiscal year 2025-26, the total budgetary allocation to MEA includes Rs. 6,750 crore for the Scheme section and Rs. 13,766.61 crore for the Non-Scheme section. Both sections are vital for the Ministry's functioning and should see increased funding. The Committee have consistently underscored the importance of the Scheme section due to its direct impact on India's international development commitments and partnerships. The Committee strongly reiterate that the Scheme section should be appropriately funded, and under no circumstances should it be subjected to budgetary cuts, particularly during fiscal rationalization or resource allocation exercises.

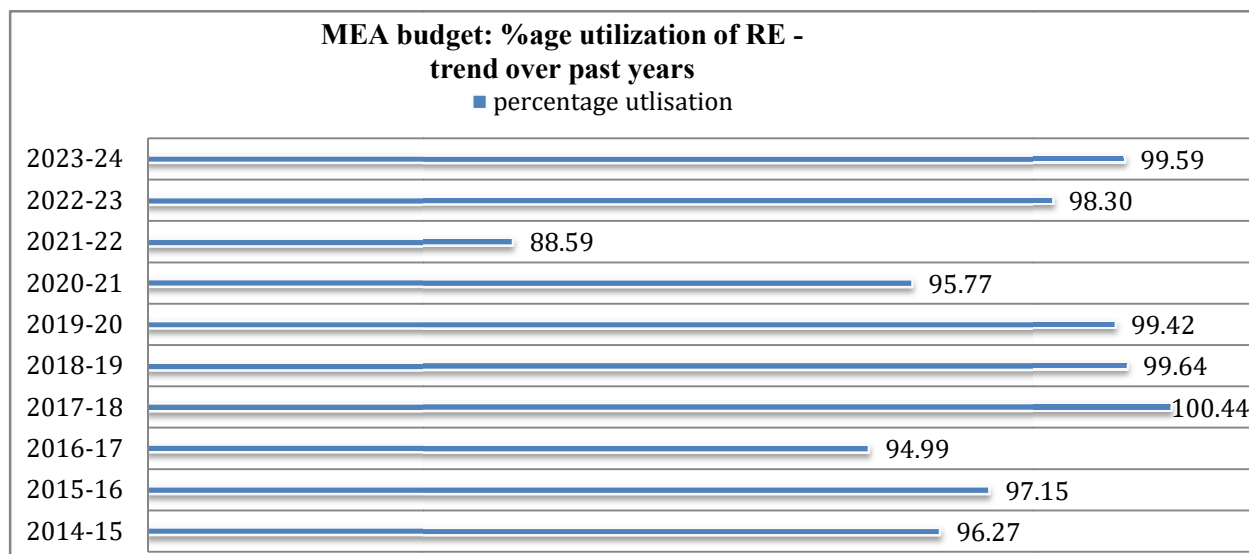
*(Recommendation No.7)*

### III. REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE

1.42 The details of the utilization of quarterly allocations of MEA during the last three years is as under:-

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>				
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Allocation	4054.54	4054.55	4054.55	5991.09
Utilisation	2654.70	4017.85	3375.88	4125.27
% Utilised	65.47%	99.09%	83.26%	68.86%
<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>				
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Allocation	3852.49	3852.50	3852.50	5692.51
Utilisation	2954.80	3864.38	3556.72	6308.88
% Utilised	76.70%	100.31%	92.32%	110.83%
<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>				
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Allocation	4031.16	4031.16	4031.16	5956.52
Utilisation	3976.83	3655.71	3653.69	17717.15
% Utilised	98.65%	90.69%	90.64%	297.44%
<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>				
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Allocation	5926.83	5926.83	5926.83	8757.56
Utilisation	4209.37	4123.93	10042.93	-
% Utilised	71.02%	69.58%	169.45%	-

1.43 The following chart provides an overview of the Ministry's budget utilization pattern for the past 10 years:



1.44 Highlighting the optimum utilization pattern of MEA, the Foreign Secretary during oral evidence stated as under:

“over the past decade, our Budget utilization except for the outlier Covid year of 2021-22, the Budget utilization has consistently crossed 95 per cent and for the most recent financial year 2023-24, our utilization was 99.6 per cent. For the current financial year 2024-25, as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, our utilization stands at 82.5 per cent which indicates that we are well on track to full utilization of the allocated Budget by the end of March, 2025.”

1.45 Regarding the existence of a mechanism for ensuring optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the year, the Ministry stated that in Financial Year 2024-25, Ministry has ensured smooth and balanced pace of expenditure during each quarter, to the extent possible. Cumulative expenditure in the first three quarters: First quarter - 19%, Second quarter - 38% and third quarter - 83% of BE 2024-25. The quarterly expenditure by the Ministry in FY 2024-25 was in consonance with Cash Management Guidelines of Ministry of Finance, last quarter ceiling of 33% and 15% in March 2024. For effective quarterly expenditure management, all expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies.

1.46 Further to ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by Ministry in consultation with spending units, including through quarterly budget management & expenditure review meetings. In these meetings the expenditure plans of the Ministry's various Divisions and Spending Units are discussed and the importance of ensuring balanced expenditure during each quarter of the financial year is emphasized & monitored. Divisions/Spending Units accordingly make all efforts to ensure evenly paced expenditure, within the constraints of majority of the Ministry's spending being in foreign countries, where diverse local conditions, inter-alia including geological, security, administrative, legal & economic ecosystems and varying project development and implementation schedules posing significant challenge for alignment of expenditure to our own budget cycle.

1.47 The Ministry has also furnished details of unspent funds surrendered by it during the last three years as below:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Years</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual (Percentage)</b>	<b>Unspent balance of RE</b>
2021-22	18154.73	16000.00	88.59%	3110.72
2022-23	17250.00	16972.79	98.30%	281.17
2023-24	18050.00	29121.88	99.59%	66.68

1.48 The Committee were keen to learn about the measures of economy initiated in budget utilization over the past few years. The Ministry stated that all instructions contained in various Circulars of Ministry of Finance towards economy measures, rationalization of expenditure, etc., are scrupulously followed by the Ministry. Ministry's efforts have been to keep establishment expenses in accordance with GOI's guidelines. All expenditure is closely monitored and fund releases are made in line with physical and financial progress of projects to ensure that there is no parking of funds with implementing agencies. To ensure optimal utilization of budgetary resources during each quarter of the financial year, expenditure is closely and regularly monitored by Ministry in consultation with spending units, including through quarterly budget management & expenditure review meetings.

**1.49 The Committee take note of MEA's consistent efforts over the years to optimize the utilization of its allocated budgetary resources. The data presented for the last three fiscal years clearly demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to efficient expenditure management. The Foreign Secretary's testimony further reinforces Ministry's record of achieving high levels of budget utilization, with an impressive 99.6% utilization for the financial year 2023-24 and 82.5% utilization as of January 2025 for the current fiscal year, 2024-25. The Committee appreciate the effective quarterly expenditure management and close monitoring of fund releases in alignment with physical and financial progress by MEA. However, the Committee also note the unspent balances of the Ministry in the past few years, which include Rs. 3,110.72 crore in 2021-22, Rs. 281.17 crore in 2022-23, and Rs. 66.68 crore in 2023-24. While the overall utilization rate has been high, the Committee desire that the Ministry further strengthen its efforts to minimize unspent balances by ensuring the timely and efficient execution of all projects and schemes, particularly in the last quarter of the financial year.**

***(Recommendation No.8)***

## CHAPTER 2

### SECTORAL ALLOCATION

This chapter contains an analysis of some of the key sectors relating to establishment, training, Missions/Post, passport, emigration, South Asian University and Nalanda University. Budgetary provisions for them are covered under two Major Heads - General Secretariat Services (Major Head 2052) and External Affairs (Major Head 2061). The Major Revenue Head 2052 on 'Secretariat-General Services' caters to the Ministry's expenses on secretariat/establishment, Public Diplomacy, Press and Media Relations, States Facilitation and Knowledge Support, Hostels and Residential Complexes, Trade & Investment Promotion and G 20 Presidency Summit. The Major Head 'External Affairs' caters to Foreign Service Institute, expenditure on India's diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad, Central Passport Organisation and Protector General of Emigrant, welfare of overseas Indians, hospitality to dignitaries, contributions to UNO and other international organisations, grants to autonomous bodies and institutions, etc.

2.2 The details of allocations to the Major Heads for the year 2025-26 are given below:

Major Head	Components	Allocation
2052 Secretariat General Services	Secretariat	616.44
2061 External Affairs	Training	24.72
	Embassies & Missions	4206.22
	Special Diplomatic Expenditure	4900.00
	International Conference/Meetings	1.00
	Passport & Emigration	1913.48
	Entertainment Charges	65.74
	Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions	394.18
	International Co-operation	953.08
	Other Expenditure	9.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12468.28</b>
3605	Technical & Economic Co-operation with Other Countries	6375.00
4059	Capital Outlay of Public Works	275.00
4070	Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services	99.27
4075	Capital Outlay on Misc. General	17.61



	Services	
4216	Capital Outlay on Housing	230.00
7465	Loans for General Financial and Trading Institutions	0.00
7605	Loans to Govt. of Bhutan	375.70

## I. ADMINISTRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

### (a) Organizational Strength

2.3 The Ministry of External Affairs is headed by the External Affairs Minister, who is currently aided by two Ministers of State for External Affairs. The Ministry has five Secretaries – Foreign Secretary, Secretary (East), Secretary (Economic Relations), Secretary (West) and Secretary (CPV & OIA). MEA also consists of the following Divisions/Section/Unit Cell -

1.	Americas (AMS) Division	30	Development Partnership Agreement-I (DPA-IV)
2.	Bangladesh & Myanmar (BM)	31	Economic Diplomacy (ED)
3.	Central & West Africa (C&WA)	32	Emigration Policy & Welfare (EP&W)
4.	Central Europe (CE)	33	External Publicity Division (XPD)
5.	East Asia (EA)	34	Indo Pacific (IP)
6.	East & Southern Africa (E&SA)	35	Legal & Treaties (L&T)
7.	Eurasia Division	36	Multilateral Economic Relations (MER)
8.	Europe West (EW)	37	New Emerging & Strategic Technologies (NEST)
9.	Gulf Division	38	Overseas Employment and Protectorate General Of Emigrants (OE & PGE)
10.	Indian Ocean Region (IOR)	39	Policy Planning & Research (PP & R) and Nalanda
11.	Latin America & Caribbean (LAC)	40	Passport Seva Programme (PSP)
12.	Northern Division	41	Protocol Division
13.	Oceania Division	42	Rajbhasha And Bhartiya Bhashayein & Interpretation and Translation (RBB & IT)
14.	Pakistan, Afghanistan & Iran (PAI)	43	Right to Information (RTI)
15.	Southern Division	44	Rapid Response Cell (RRC)

16.	West Asia & North Africa (WANA)	45	Shanghai Co-Operation Organization (SCO)
17.	Archives & Record Management (A&RM)	46	States Division
18.	BIMSTEC & SAARC	47	Principal Chief Controller of Accounts (PCCA)
19.	Coordination & Parliament	48	United Nations Economic & Social (UNES)
20.	Counter Terrorism (CT)	49	United Nations Political (UNP)
21.	Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV)	50	Welfare Division
22.	Conference & Summits Division	51	Administration Division
23.	Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS)	52	Bureau of Security (BOS)
24.	Cyber Diplomacy (CD)	53	Cypher, NGO & Vigilance & Inspection (CNV &I)
25.	Disarmament & International Security Affairs (D&ISA)	54	E-Governance & Information Technology (EG&IT)
26.	Diaspora Engagement (DE)	55	Establishment Division
27.	Development Partnership Agreement-I (DPA-I)	56	Integrated Finance Division
28.	Development Partnership Agreement-I (DPA-II)	57	Global Estate Management (GEM)
29.	Development Partnership Agreement-I (DPA-III)		

2.4 Other offices, which also fall under the purview of the MEA Organizational Structure, are Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

2.5 The Committee were keen to know about the current total staff strength of the MEA, including both diplomatic staff and non-diplomatic staff. The Ministry responded as under:

S.No.	Grade of post	Total Sanctioned strength	Total In-Position
1	Group A	1715	1482

2	Group B	2579	2179
3	Group C	1621	1460
4	Total India-based staff (1 + 2 + 3)	5915	5121
5	Local Cadre	3119	3119
6	Total (4 + 5) (India based + Local cadre)	9034	8240

These positions span various cadres within the Ministry, such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), General Cadre of IFS, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre. Missions/Posts abroad also consist of a local cadre strength of 3119.

2.6 Explaining the reason for gap in the sanctioned and actual strength, the Ministry stated that the actual strength in MEA is dependent on recruitment cycles, cadre management, and retirement in various cadres. Also, there is a time gap between creation of posts as part of opening of new Missions/Posts, Cadre Review, etc., and filling up of the newly created posts by indenting these new posts through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC). Vacancies in IFS are being filled by direct recruitment conducted by UPSC for recruitment of IFS officers and by promotion from feeder cadre. Vacancies in Group B and C are being filled by promotions and by direct recruitment to Group B and C posts by SSC. Indents are placed with UPSC and SSC on time to fill the vacancies in Group A, B and C posts in MEA.

2.7 On being asked about the current status of the Cadre Review, the Ministry stated that it received the approval of the Union Cabinet for the 5th Cadre Review of the Indian Foreign Service in October 2023 to be implemented between 2023-27. These were aimed at keeping the Ministry's personnel requirements in line with India's expanding diplomatic footprint, enabling the growth of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements, bolstering political outreach in multilateral fora and helping garner support for India's foreign policy objectives.

2.8 On the Committee's further query about the additional steps that can be taken to augment the cadre strength of MEA, the Ministry submitted that it accords highest priority to optimize the deployment of its human resources to help fulfill its growing responsibilities. The Ministry regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels and takes appropriate action,

including recruitment of additional Officers and Staff, through placement of requisite indents with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) respectively.

2.9 The Ministry received approval of the Union Cabinet for the 5<sup>th</sup> Cadre Review of the Indian Foreign Service in October 2023 to be implemented between 2023-27. These were aimed at keeping the Ministry's personnel requirements in line with India's expanding diplomatic footprint, enabling the growth of bilateral trade, investment, and economic engagements, bolstering political outreach in multilateral fora, and helping garner support for India's foreign policy objectives. Keeping in mind the requirements of Ministry, and to fill up the vacancies on a priority basis, Ministry has increased our indent with the UPSC and SSC. 374 officers have joined the Indian Foreign Service since 2014 by direct recruitment through the Civil Services Examination. For the year 2024 and 2025, a total of 110 vacancies has been intended to UPSC.

2.10 The details of women employees in-position in MEA is given below:

Sl. No.	Number of women employees in MEA	
1	Gazetted	506
2	Non-Gazetted	378

Currently, India has 15 Lady Officers posted as Heads of Missions

2.11 Regarding the current gender representation within the MEA, particularly in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), the Ministry stated that the recruitment of IFS officers is *via* a competitive examination conducted by UPSC. There is no gender-based reservation in direct recruitment to IFS or in induction and promotion to IFS from the feeder grade of Grade I of IFS B. However, the service provides equal opportunities to both men and women and maintains a steady gender balance, with increased number of women officers entering the Service in recent years. Gender equality is a norm rather than an exception as far as the IFS is concerned. In the past 10 years there has been a steady increase in number of women diplomats who are inducted into the Foreign Service. In 2024, 39.39 % of the batch strength consisted of women officers.

2.12 The Ministry also submitted that in the last 10 years, the trend of Women representation among the diplomats has increased from 36.67% in 2015 to 39.39% in 2024. The detailed batch-wise strength is given below:

S. No.	Batch	Total Strength	Strength of Women Officers	% of women
1	2015	30	11	36.67
2	2016	41	15	36.59
3	2017	38	12	31.58
4	2018	39	12	30.77
5	2019	31	12	38.71
6	2020	24	10	41.67
7	2021	35	15	42.86
8	2022	36	14	38.89
9	2023	36	14	38.89
10	2024	33	13	39.39

2.13 On being asked about the challenges regarding gender equality and representation within the MEA, the Ministry submitted that all officers in the Ministry are recruited through Civil Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission and therefore the Ministry has no suo moto powers to increase women representation in the Ministry. To address the issue of gender equality, the Ministry has constituted Gender Budget Cell in the Ministry, which convenes meetings on a regular interval and discusses various topics related to the welfare of women. The Ministry, at present, has operated 2 creche facilities in two of the residential complexes, the services of which are also availed by all officer/officials of the Ministry. The third creche facility is expected to be inaugurated within 2 months. The Ministry has mentorships for all newly recruited officers and officials of the Ministry, and apart from these, there are many informal arrangements for women officers.

2.14 Keeping in mind the requirements of Ministry, and to fill up the vacancies on a priority basis, Ministry has increased its indent with the UPSC and SSC. 374 officers have joined the Indian Foreign Service since 2014 by direct recruitment through the Civil Services Examination. For the year 2024 and 2025, a total of 110 vacancies have been indented to UPSC. Ministry had also placed an indent of 538 vacancies in 2023 and 2024 for direct recruitment of officials through SSC and the recruitment is expected to be completed in the coming months.

2.15 Regarding steps being taken to address the shortage of skilled diplomats in specialized areas like climate diplomacy, global health, cyber-security, new and emerging technologies, the Ministry stated that the need for optimal requirement of human resource keeps changing with

India's expanding and diversifying global role, and the Ministry of External Affairs regularly monitors such changes and adjusts its personnel strength for meeting these needs to the extent possible. The Ministry of External Affairs accords highest priority to optimize the deployment of its human resources to help fulfil its growing responsibilities. The Ministry regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels and takes appropriate action, including recruitment of additional Officers through placement of requisite indents with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and by cadre management of the Indian Foreign Service and other cadres of the Ministry. Further, given its multifarious functions, the Ministry of External Affairs has a long tradition of having officers with specific domain expertise from a wide range of line Ministries/Departments/Cadres/Services and other sources, working at various Missions/Posts abroad as also at the Headquarters.

2.16 The Committee also wanted to know whether in the opinion of the Ministry there is a possibility for lateral entry of skilled expertise in specialized skills such as climate change, health, cyber security, artificial intelligence, etc. The Ministry responded that to address the requirement of specialised skills, the Ministry has increased indent for recruiting IFS officers by direct recruitment through Civil Services Examination and 110 officers are expected to join after the Civil Services Examination of 2024 and 2025. Ministry of External Affairs also takes officers with specialised skills from other Departments/Ministries on deputation. The Ministry also engages consultants with relevant skillsets in key areas of functioning of the Ministry such as counter terrorism, project management, bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, international law, consular and disarmament related work. The Ministry has placed a request with DOPT for filling up one post at DS/Director level for a legal expert through lateral entry mode as per the lateral entry policy framed by DoPT.

**2.17 After reviewing the current staffing situation in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Committee are deeply concerned about the persistent gap between the sanctioned and actual cadre strength. As of February 2025, the Ministry's sanctioned and actual strength stands at 5915 and 5121, respectively (excluding the local cadre in Missions/Posts abroad). Over half of these positions are allocated to Missions and Posts abroad. Despite Ministry's significant efforts to address this gap through the 5<sup>th</sup> Cadre Review of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and increased indents with the Union Public**

Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the gap remains due to factors such as delays in the creation of new posts, prolonged recruitment cycles, and retirements. This gap continues to hinder the Ministry's ability to fulfill its growing diplomatic, administrative, and global responsibilities efficiently.

The Committee believe that more urgent action is needed to ensure that Ministry's staffing levels align with India's expanding diplomatic footprint and increasing global engagements. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should work in close coordination with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to streamline recruitment processes and minimize the time lag between the creation of posts and their eventual fulfillment. Priority should be given to filling critical vacancies in Group A, B, and C posts, both at Headquarters and in Missions abroad, especially in areas that directly impact India's foreign policy objectives. Additionally, the Committee urge the Ministry to explore measures for the induction of specialized expertise from other Ministries, academic institutions, think tanks, and the private sector. Such domain expertise in emerging fields such as climate change, cyber security, and artificial intelligence will be crucial for enhancing the Ministry's capabilities in managing contemporary global challenges.

*(Recommendation No.9)*

**2.18** The Committee commend the Ministry for increased representation of women in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), with women officers constituting 39.39% of the 2024 batch. The appointment of 15 lady officers as Heads of Missions is a notable step towards promoting gender equality at the senior-most levels of the Ministry. Additionally, the establishment of the Gender Budget Cell, the implementation of mentorship programmes and the provision of creche facilities for employees are positive initiatives that reflect the Ministry's commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for women. However, the Committee believe that further efforts are necessary to enhance gender equality, not only in terms of representation but also in terms of professional advancement, particularly in senior and decision-making roles.

While the increase in the number of women officers is commendable, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that women are not only well-represented in numbers but are also given the tools, resources, and opportunities needed to progress to leadership positions. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should take proactive steps to encourage the recruitment of more women into the IFS and other departments within the MEA. Although the UPSC examination process is gender-neutral, the Ministry should explore additional measures, such as targeted awareness programmes, mentorship schemes, and career development initiatives, to create a more supportive and encouraging environment for female candidates. These initiatives should be designed to specifically address the barriers, if any, that women face in entering and advancing in diplomacy. Furthermore, the Committee emphasize the importance of prioritizing women in diplomacy, as it can significantly enhance the nation's global standing.

*(Recommendation No.10)*

**(b) Training**

2.19 Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) conducts in-service training for Indian Foreign Service Officers and other MEA personnel, courses for foreign diplomats, and other professional training courses. The budgetary allocation under the sub-head for past four years is as under:

*(Rs in crores)*

	<b>BE 2022-23</b>	<b>RE 2022-23</b>	<b>BE 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2023-24</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>RE 2024-25</b>	<b>BE 2025-26</b>
Allocation	23.48	23.27	21.19	28.87	27.48	25.47	24.72

2.20 On being asked about the reasons for the reduction in the budgetary allocation for the Foreign Service Institute training sub-head in FY 2025-26, the Ministry replied that it may be noted that the reduction in budgetary allocation for the SSIFS for FY 2025-26 is primarily due to reduction in number of days in the training programme of foreign diplomats as per the discussions with the participating countries. The funds allocated for the FY 2025-26 are sufficient to conduct all training programmes, both mandatory and skill development



programmes for both Indian training vertical and foreign training vertical, as per the training calendar of SSIFS. No capacity building activities will be adversely impacted on account of reduction in the allocation.

2.21 Regarding the Committee's query about impact of the reduction in allocation for training under the FSI on the number of training programs, the Ministry stated that there would not be any decrease in the number of training programmes conducted by SSIFS. As explained above the decrease in allocation is attributable due to reduction in number of days in training programmes of the foreign diplomats as per the discussions with the participating countries. All demands on SSIFS are taken into consideration while making the calendar and seeking funds accordingly.

2.22 The actual expenditure on training by the SSIFS for the past three financial years and the current fiscal is as under:

2021-22	Rs. 10.39 cr. (Covid-19 period)
2022-23	Rs. 24.38 cr.
2023-24	Rs. 24.81 cr
2024-25	Rs. 14.62 cr. (upto 31.01.2025 Rs. 21.87 cr. (Total anticipated expenditure)

The decreased expenditure during FY 2021-22 is due to Covid pandemic related disruptions. The slight decrease in expenditure during the Current Financial Year compared to the previous two years is primarily due to reduction in number of days in the training programme of foreign diplomats as per the discussions with the participating countries.

2.23 The Ministry also provided details of training programmes conducted for Indian diplomats/officials and foreign diplomats/officials during the past three financial years, separately in **Annexure I and Annexure II**. Given the integrated nature of SSIFS facilities, personnel, resources, utilities, etc, it is not feasible to make an accurate division of expenditure on training of Indian diplomats/officials and foreign diplomats/officials.

2.24 When asked about the measures taken to incorporate feedback from trainees, the Ministry responded that Feedback for each course is gathered and analysed at two levels. During the course itself, participants give a written feedback on all sessions/speakers. At the end of each course, the participants give their overall written feedback and suggestions about various aspects

of the course. A feedback session (in-person or virtual) is also held for the participants at the end of the course which is chaired by the Dean with participation of Joint Secretary and Course Coordinators at the SSIFS where the participants share their feedback with them. Feedback from trainees is considered carefully and SSIFS endeavours to incorporate valuable suggestions from the trainees to the extent possible.

2.25 On the Committee query whether there have been instances of non-conducting of any regular training programme during the last three years, the Ministry specified that all regular training programmes were conducted during the past three financial years.

2.26 When asked about any proposal to introduce new training programmes or modify existing framework for training programmes during 2025-26, the Ministry stated that as per the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI) recommended by Capacity Building Commission (CBC), SSIFS has aligned all its activities in the framework of eight pillars. This specifically required a special effort in the pillar of digitalization and training delivery where SSIFS had for the first time launched a Learning Management Software (LMS) Platform through a protected part on its website which allows the training since January 2025 to become paperless, efficient, transparent, and therefore more effective. This learning platform allows online conduct of quizzes & exams, sharing of reference materials, and submission of assignments, all digitally. Assessment process has also become real time and trainees could now see their assessments on weekly basis, thereby giving them continuous information & motivation in the areas where efforts are needed to improve further. SSIFS plans to use this platform to introduce new pedagogical methods using technology to make learning processes more efficient and smarter, including using AI tools. The results of Officer Trainees learning curve in just two months of 2025 after launch of LMS have shown marked improvements in their use of digital tools to improving on time management and in presenting their thoughts and ideas in more captivating manner to the audience.

2.27 Regarding the steps being taken to professionalize FSI by inducting domain experts as well as faculty from foreign countries, the Ministry responded that Apart from the in-house faculty at SSIFS, which is currently at 10-12 members (including the deputed Foreign Service officers), the Institute draws its visiting faculty broadly from four different categories – (i) retired

and professionally active Indian Ambassadors; (ii) serving officials at MEA (including current Heads of Missions abroad virtually); (iii) reputed domain experts from think tanks, industry bodies and similar institutions in India; and (iv) serving officials in other Ministries having domain knowledge on subject related to development, culture, education, technology etc. When it fits well to the program, SSIFS also invites foreign experts, for example in the recently concluded 5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program, four international experts were invited apart from 20 others which were drawn from our own four categories as explained above.

2.28 Responding to queries of Committee Members regarding incorporation of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, cyber security I the training curriculum, the Foreign Secretary during evidence made the following submission:

“I think that a lot of emphasis was laid on whether trainee diplomats are being schooled in the needs of this generation which is digital diplomacy, technology, the capacity to apply and use tools such as artificial intelligence, etc. A lot of these are actually being built in and the Foreign Service Institute is trying to increase and is building in digital content in its curriculum. We have the Cyber Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs as well which works with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology which is the line Ministry responsible for technology and digital technology in the country. But we work very closely with them. For instance, for the recent Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris where the Prime Minister went, the MEA and the MeitY worked very closely together. So, we are also building up our own skills in these particular areas.”

2.29 The Committee were keen to know about partnerships or collaborations exist between India and international organizations/governments to share best practices in diplomatic training. The Ministry submitted that the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) has currently 101 MoUs with 98 countries and three plurilateral groupings (BIMSTEC, BRICS, IBSA). One of key areas under these MoUs is to exchange best practices through regular contact.

**2.30 The Committee note with concern the reduction in the budgetary allocation for the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) for the fiscal year 2025-26, despite its vital role in providing in-service training for Indian Foreign Service officers, MEA personnel, and foreign diplomats. The Ministry has clarified that this reduction is primarily due to a decrease in the number of training days for foreign diplomats as per**

indications from the participating countries. Further, it has also been assured that this reduction in the budget will not lead to a decrease in the number of training programmes conducted and that all mandatory and skill development training programmes will continue as scheduled. However, the Committee believe that any reduction in budgetary allocation, even if not immediately impactful, may limit the scope of future training initiatives and hinder the ability of SSIFS to adapt to new challenges in diplomatic training. Furthermore, the Committee appreciate the Ministry's initiative to incorporate feedback from trainees through written and virtual sessions, which is a valuable mechanism for improving training content and delivery.

In light of the growing demands of diplomacy and the constantly evolving international landscape, it is essential to ensure that the FSI remains adequately funded to meet the challenges of a modern diplomatic workforce. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of External Affairs consider revisiting the allocation of funds for training on a regular basis to ensure that it aligns with the evolving needs of Indian diplomats. Additionally, the Ministry should continue to monitor the effectiveness of training programmes by incorporating regular feedback from trainees and making necessary adjustments based on their suggestions.

*(Recommendation No.11)*

**2.31** The Committee appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs to professionalize the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) by inducting domain experts and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, including retired Indian Ambassadors, serving officials from the MEA and other Ministries, as well as domain experts from think tanks and industry bodies. This diverse approach in faculty selection contributes to a well-rounded and comprehensive training programme for Indian diplomats. Additionally, the inclusion of foreign experts, as seen in the recent 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme is a commendable initiative. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledge the Ministry's initiative to incorporate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, and digital diplomacy into the training curriculum. The inclusion of such cutting-edge topics is crucial in preparing diplomats to navigate the evolving digital landscape and address modern

challenges in diplomacy. The Ministry's collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), particularly in relation to events like the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris, highlights the commitment to equipping diplomats with the necessary technological skills.

However, the Committee believe that while the steps taken so far are commendable, more should be done to ensure that the curriculum is continuously updated to reflect the rapidly changing global landscape, particularly in areas like digital diplomacy, cyber security, and artificial intelligence. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of External Affairs should further strengthen its collaboration with international organizations and governments to share best practices in diplomatic training. The 101 MoUs signed by SSIFS with 98 countries and three plurilateral groupings are a significant step in this direction. The Committee encourage the Ministry to continue expanding these partnerships to include more countries and international organizations that are at the forefront of diplomatic training, particularly those with expertise in emerging technologies and global challenges.

*(Recommendation No.12)*

## **II. EMBASSIES AND MISSIONS**

2.32 The budget sub head 'Embassies and Missions' provides for expenditure on India's representation abroad and functioning of Missions/Posts abroad. An outlay of Rs. 3867.64 crore was allocated during BE 2024-25 and it was increased to Rs. 3969.19 crore at the RE stage. The allocation has been further increased to Rs. 4206.22 crore in BE 2025-26. The Ministry has stated that enhanced allocation in the budget of India's diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad is due to opening of 10 new Mission/Post in current financial year. In 2024, new Missions have been opened in Riga (Latvia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Tirana (Albania), Libreville (Gabon), Dili (Timor Leste) and La Paz (Bolivia). New Consulates have been opened in Brisbane (Australia), Marseille (France), Barcelona (Spain) and Auckland (New Zealand). Future plans include opening of 5 new Missions in Europe and Latin America and Carribean regions.

2.33 The budgetary allocation under the sub-head for the past four years is as under:

	<b>BE 2022-23</b>	<b>RE 2022-23</b>	<b>BE 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2023-24</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>RE 2024-25</b>	<b>BE 2025-26</b>
Allocation	3769.06	3512.16	3528.85	3773.32	3867.64	3969.19	4206.22

2.34 The details of the projections made by the Ministry, the allocations provided, and the actual expenditures incurred under the ‘Embassies and Missions’ head during the past three years is provided below:

*(Rs. In Crores)*

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Projection BE</b>	<b>Allocation BE</b>	<b>Projection RE</b>	<b>Allocation RE</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
1	2021-22	3539.68	3240.07	3285.64	3397.99	3033.71
2	2022-23	3674.19	3769.06	3500.06	3512.15	3494.42
3	2023-24	3674.18	3528.85	4125.68	3773.32	3759.99
4	2024-25	4561.06	3867.64	4492.67	3969.19	3562.22*

\*- Expenditure upto Jan 2025

2.35 Region wise list of Mission/Posts in various parts of the world is attached in **Annexure III**.

2.36 In view of the expanding ties between India and other countries and diplomatic visits abroad, the Ministry also elaborated on the plans of expansion in terms of establishing new Missions/Posts/Consulates/Indian Cultural Centres abroad. The Ministry of External Affairs from time to time formulates proposals for opening of resident Missions in countries where there are no Indian Missions. The objective of our foreign policy is to build a conducive environment for India's growth and development through partnerships with friendly countries. Our Missions and Posts across the world serve as conduits of our relations with partner countries. The decision to open new Indian Missions is to expand our footprint in various regions and broaden international support for our interests. Expansion of global and diplomatic outreach is an important element in our objective of becoming a US\$ 5 trillion economy and in boosting growth and development of the economy in line with ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’. Enhancement of India's diplomatic presence will, inter alia, also provide market access for Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services. 11 new Missions were approved during the 5th Cadre Review in October 2023, and the timeline for implementation for the same is 2023-2027. At

present, ICCR is in process of establishing Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centres (TVCC) at Singapore. The operationalization of new Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Paris is in the final stage.

2.37 Enumerating the criteria which determine the decision for establishment of Embassies/Missions abroad, the Ministry stated that In recent years, there has been a visible enhancement in India's standing as a global power with advances in economic, scientific and technological arenas. There is a growing interest from across the world in engaging with India. This has resulted in expansion of India's diplomatic outreach manifesting in India taking the lead in regional groupings, increase in the number of high-level exchanges, bilateral agreements and MOUs signed, growth in economic and developmental cooperation, and initiatives led by India on the international stage such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) etc. The broad foreign policy vision of the Government is to maximize India's presence abroad in the most optimal manner. The objective of our foreign policy is also to build a conducive environment for India's growth and development through partnerships with friendly countries. Countries are identified for opening of resident Indian Missions on the basis of potential for deepening strategic cooperation; strong potential for bilateral trade and investment; strong Diaspora presence; to bolster political outreach in multilateral fora; and for signaling India's commitment to stepping up of diplomatic engagement with important countries/regions etc.

2.38 The Ministry informed that India does not have resident Missions in 41 countries. The scope and depth of the bilateral relations with the countries where GoI does not have a resident Indian Mission or Post are regularly reviewed and Missions are opened in these countries according to need. Opening of a resident Indian Mission or Post is a time-taking exercise requiring internal planning and approvals for logistics, deployments, infrastructure as well as coordination and liaising with the host Government. India has diplomatic engagements with those countries (wherein resident Missions are not currently functional) through concurrent accreditation arrangements.

2.39 On being asked, the Ministry has also furnished updated status of revamping of the Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) portal for Missions abroad.

1. The current status of the PEMS (Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System) portal:

Due to the time-consuming process of on-site inspections and limited capacity, the Ministry had put in place a web-based portal - Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) for the very first time in 2016 to identify M/Ps for physical inspection. In July 2021, the inspection process was turned into an annual exercise. Since then, PEMS 3.0 for FY 2021-22 and PEMS 4.0 for FY 2022-23, two exercises have been completed.

A new version; PEMS 5.0 was introduced in May 2024 to evaluate the functioning of M/Ps for FY 2023-24. This exercise has three stages i.e. provisional, final & re-evaluation, in which third stage is optional for M/Ps. Total 206 M/Ps have been on boarded on the portal. Out of which, 14 M/Ps have been exempted due to being closed/newly opened during observation period. Evaluation for the rest 192 M/Ps is in the process. Out of which, Final evaluation of 75 M/Ps has been completed and of 103 M/Ps is going on. Responses of 14 M/Ps for Final evaluation are awaited. Regular follow up is being done to get their responses at the earliest.

2. Effectiveness of the portal in assessing the performance of Missions/Posts abroad and improving their operations:

The introduction of PEMS portal has been instrumental in analyzing the performance of Missions/Posts, as it provides a clear and structured way to assess the functioning of Missions/Posts in various areas of work. The PEMS portal has also expanded the scope of inspection as the physical inspection of only 15-20 Missions/Posts could be conducted in a year before the introduction of PEMS. Since 2021, the PEMS evaluation has become an annual exercise where the Missions/Posts are provided scores based on the actions taken by them in various areas of work and their compliance with the instructions of the Ministry. The scores generated after each evaluation gives Missions/Posts an indication of their performance in that financial year and encourages them to work harder and complete all the actions recommended by Ministry in a timely manner to achieve higher scores.

A physical inspection is recommended/conducted for the Missions/Posts with least score or showing sharp decline based on their PEMS evaluation. It is worth noting that the



scores of Missions/ Posts for which physical inspection has been conducted have shown a notable improvement in their performance. For instance, the physical inspection for HCI Brunei, CGI Zahidan, HCI Freetown and HCI Port Moresby was conducted in 2023 (on the basis of PEMS 3.0). After the inspection, these Missions/Posts showed significant improvement in the following PEMS 4.0 evaluation by more than 15% over their scores in PEMS 3.0. Also, while analyzing the performance of all Missions/Posts for past two assessment years, it was found that the number of Missions/Posts which achieved a score of more than 80% in the evaluation has increased from 165 in FY 2021-22 to 173 in FY 2022-23. The improvement in the performance of Missions/Posts clearly highlights the effectiveness of PEMS portal.

3. Concerns raised by Missions/Posts in their feedback and remedial actions taken based on these evaluations:

The M/Ps raise their concerns during the PEMS evaluation which are taken up with the concerned divisions for their clarifications. Since PEMS is an annual exercise, the concerns raised and the clarifications provided by divisions are taken into consideration while preparing the questionnaire for subsequent PEMS version.

For instance, in PEMS 3.0 many Posts were not able to frame the panel of packers as they were using services of the packers of their Missions and many M/Ps faced difficulties in posting the trade/tender queries on the India trade portal (M/Ps were confused whether the queries to be posted on the portal are from India or from the host country). These concerns were taken up with the concerned divisions to issue clarifications to M/Ps, as a result no such concerns were raised in the subsequent PEMS 4.0 evaluation.

Likewise, in PEMS 4.0 the concerns raised mainly included the applicability of questions for a particular M/P, for example the question related to compliance of recommendations of the Security Audit is not applicable to all the M/Ps as the Ministry conducts Security Audit on need basis. Also, many M/Ps were not granted budget under the Publicity Budget Head and the PEMS question sought certificate for utilization of this budget. Such questions that were found not applicable to majority of M/Ps were removed from the PEMS 5.0 questionnaire. Additionally, around 30% M/Ps cited their difficulties in

updating their webpage on MEA website using integrated webpage portal, M/Ps also pointed towards difficulties faced in getting their social media accounts verified. To address these concerns, clarification was taken from concerned divisions and measures to be adopted by M/Ps were suggested in subsequent PEMS 5.0 questionnaire. Another major concern in PEMS 4.0 was regarding pending approvals for the Crises Management Plan (CMP) prepared by M/Ps, to address this concern BOS division was requested to expedite the process of approval. As a result, it is seen that no such concerns have been raised during PEMS 5.0 evaluation so far.

2.40 Regarding the main concerns regarding manpower at India's Missions/Posts abroad, in terms of the availability of personnel relative to the sanctioned and required strength, the Ministry stated that it accords highest priority to optimize the deployment of its human resources to help fulfill its growing responsibilities. The Indian Embassies and Consulates are staffed in accordance with their respective sanctioned strengths. Vacancies in Indian Missions/Posts abroad are regularly reviewed and officers posted against these vacancies. The Ministry regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels in Embassies and Consulates abroad and takes appropriate action, including recruitment of additional Officers and Staff, through placement of requisite indents with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) respectively.

2.41 Current status of manpower availability with regard to sanctioned/required strength - As of 01 February 2025, the current sanctioned strength of the Ministry stands at 5915. Out of this, 53.38 percent are located in Missions and Posts abroad. These positions spanned various cadres within the Ministry, such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre, Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre. Missions/Posts abroad also consist of Local cadre strength of 3119.

2.42 Providing details of strength of each Mission/Posts abroad, the Ministry stated that the Indian Missions and Posts worldwide have a sanctioned strength of 6277 which includes 3158 India-based posts and 3119 local posts as on 1 February 2025. These positions span various cadres within the Ministry, such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre, Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre.

2.43 In light of recent developments, the Committee were keen to know about the steps that are being taken to ensure the safety and security of our Missions/Posts abroad. The Ministry stated that the security situation varies from country to country and the threat scenario are also dynamic in nature. While the general safety and security is primarily the responsibility of the host government as per Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations, Ministry also takes steps to ensure safety and security of Missions/Posts and its diplomats. The Ministry places complement of resources – both human and physical assets to ensure security. The measures put in place at any particular Mission or Post cannot be made public as the same would result in adversaries adapting to security measures resulting in weakening of security of the Mission/Post and Indian Diplomats. The budget is placed with the Missions and Posts, which take follow-up action based on approvals from the Ministry.

2.44 Over the issue of training and resources are provided to the embassy officials to handle consular challenges such as illegal migration, trafficking, and other related issues, the Ministry elaborated that the Government has established various mechanisms to enable Indian workers abroad to reach out in case they need any assistance. The workers can contact the Missions/Posts through various channels like walk-in, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGRAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh & Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide assistance, guidance and counselling to Indian workers in distress.

2.45 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have also established 24X7 Helplines including Toll Free Helplines, WhatsApp numbers and have launched Mobile Apps to enable Indian nationals contact respective Indian Missions/Posts when in distress or in emergency situation. Mission/Posts take these matters very seriously and work for safe repatriation of the victim to India. The Officers and staff members deployed in Consular Section of the Mission/Post are aware of the challenges in the field are adequately prepared to handle the same. As soon as such matters come to the notice of Mission/Post, they contact the Foreign Government agencies to ensure the safety of the Indian national. The victims are provided counseling/ consular access (in case they are detained), boarding and lodging if required and emergency travel documents, are provided to

them. Air ticket is also provided from Indian Community Welfare Fund(ICWF) on a means tested basis.

2.46 Further. Missions/Posts in Gulf Countries also have dedicated labour wings which ensure redressal of labour grievances. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have been set up in countries having sizeable presence of Indians such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE. These shelter homes provide free boarding and lodging to Indian nationals in distress pending their repatriation back to India. On receiving complaint from migrant workers against the Foreign Employers (FE), the concerned Indian Mission/Post takes up the matter with the employer/local authorities. On finding any FE at fault, they are placed under Prior Approval Category (PAC) in the eMigrate portal and further employment of Indian workers through that particular FE is allowed only after due consultation with the concerned Indian Mission/Post. Issues relating to FEs are also raised in the periodic meetings of the Joint Working Group held under the aegis of Memorandum of Understandings signed with various countries.

2.47 Indian Missions/Posts also regularly organize Open House and Consular camps in remote areas to interact and get feedback from the Indian workers abroad and address their grievances. HOMs/HOPs are taking active interest in sensitization of the Mission officials towards migrant workers' issue.

2.48 The Ministry also enumerated some of the recent technological innovations and initiatives that Indian Missions have adopted to streamline operations, improve diplomatic efficiency, and enhance service delivery. The Ministry of External Affairs gives utmost importance to Economic Diplomacy and the promotion of 3Ts – Trade, Technology and Tourism. Indian Missions abroad play an important role in identification of opportunities for Indian business and export, existing in their countries, and making India a preferred destination, a reliable destination for investment. Further, in order to focus on promotion of 3Ts, the dashboard has been set up for 3 parameters. Dashboard enables Missions to provide the data and progress related to trade, technology and tourism as well as the activities undertaken by Mission in pursuance to these objectives.

2.49 Missions/Posts abroad actively monitor Ministry's online platform named MADAD portal ([www.madad.gov.in](http://www.madad.gov.in)), which provides comprehensive consular assistance including, inter

alia, repatriation of Indian citizens stranded abroad and transportation of mortal remains. In addition to this, MADAD mobile application is available on various mobile operating systems.

eMigrate, is an initiative by the Overseas Employment Division of MEA to automate emigration processes. It uses e-governance to simplify the emigration process. The eMigrate system integrates the offices of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGoE), optimizing their operations. Additionally, it electronically links all essential stakeholders, including Indian Missions, PGoE, PoE, Employers, Project Exporters, Recruiting Agents, Emigrants, and Insurance Agencies, on a unified platform for enhanced collaboration and efficiency.

The Directorate General of Inspections (DGI) was set-up in 2014 to streamline the system of inspection of functioning of Indian Missions/Posts abroad. In 2016, the Ministry put in place a web-based portal - Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) to identify Missions/Posts for physical inspection. The PEMS evaluation is an annual exercise where Missions/Posts are provided scores based on the actions taken by them in various areas of work and their compliance with the instructions of the Ministry. The scores generated after each evaluation gives Missions/Posts an indication of their performance and encourages them to work harder and complete all the actions recommended by Ministry in a timely manner to achieve higher scores.

The Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) Version 2.0 is an independent centrally deployed web-based platform integrated accounting software which covers all the accounting needs of the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. With the help of this application, MEA HQs has access to the current data pertaining to accounting from the Centralised server for further analysis, processing, and generation of reports instantly. The Ministry has also developed an online platform 'MEADOWS' through which officials/officers for effective human resource management including applying for posting, filing of Immovable Property returns, submitting Annual Performance Appraisal Reports, Applying for leave, Applying for office stationery and IT equipment etc.

2.50 On being asked about the collaboration with the Indian Diaspora to create positive awareness and strengthen India's image globally, the Ministry informed that Indian Missions play a pivotal role in engaging with the large Indian Diaspora living abroad to strengthen India's soft

power. Besides providing essential consular services to ensure the welfare of Indian diaspora abroad, Missions also engage in Community Outreach activities to address their problems and to disseminate information about the various programmes and schemes run by the Ministry for the Indian community living abroad.

- Programmes such as Know India Programme (KIP), Bharat ko Janiye (BKJ) Quiz and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) allows Indian diaspora members to update their knowledge about India and to encourage them to be cultural ambassadors of India across the world. These programmes also help to build strong networks and platforms for dialogue and collaboration among the Indian diaspora spread across the world and to attract investments to India to contribute to India's development
- Missions work closely with diaspora organizations and prominent members of Indian community abroad to nurture them as cultural ambassadors of India and to engage them in political advocacy to promote India's interests. Missions help in identifying diaspora members who are doing remarkable work in promoting India's image internationally to recognize their contributions through honours such as Padmashri and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.
- Missions regularly host business forums and trade fairs to connect Indian businesses with diaspora entrepreneurs and investors, which helps in promoting trade and investment between India and other countries.
- Missions organize cultural events, festivals, and exhibitions, using Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) scheme, International Yoga Day (IDY) and ICCR funds, to showcase India's rich cultural heritage. Missions also help ICCR to set up ICCR Chairs in foreign Universities to promote Indian studies and classes of Indian languages, classical dance and yoga through ICCR Teachers of Indian Culture. These initiatives help in promoting a positive image of India at the global stage and also create a sense of community among the diaspora.

Programmes like VAJRA Faculty Scheme, PRABHASS and VAIBHAV amplify India's scientific and technical capabilities and attract talent from the diaspora communities to do research and academic work in India. These programmes facilitate exchange of academicians and collaboration between academic and research institutions.

**2.51** The Committee note the upward trend in the budgetary allocation under the sub-head 'Embassies and Missions', from Rs. 3867.64 crore (BE 2024-25) to Rs. 3969.19 crore (RE 2024-25), and further to Rs. 4206.22 crore (BE 2025-26), driven by the opening of new Missions and future plans for expansion. While the increased allocation reflects a proactive approach to India's growing diplomatic engagement, the Committee observe a gap between budget projections and actual expenditures in previous years, particularly in 2021-22 and 2024-25.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry of External Affairs prioritize the expansion of India's diplomatic footprint abroad, which is crucial for strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing India's global standing. Additionally, the Committee urge the Ministry to improve its budget forecasting process to ensure better alignment between projected and actual expenditures, especially given the increasing number of new Missions and Consulates abroad.

*(Recommendation No.13)*

**2.52** It is observed that there are currently 216 Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Committee also take note of the criteria for establishing new Missions, focusing on economic partnerships, strategic cooperation, diaspora engagement and multilateral diplomacy. The Committee recognizes the establishment of new Missions in Riga (Latvia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Tirana (Albania), Libreville (Gabon), Dili (Timor Leste), and La Paz (Bolivia), as well as new Consulates in Brisbane (Australia), Marseille (France), Barcelona (Spain), and Auckland (New Zealand). The Committee have also been informed about the future plans to open 5 new Missions in Europe, Latin America and Caribbean regions. However, the Committee observe that India currently lacks a resident Mission or Post in 41 countries, limiting opportunities for engagement with potential partners and the strengthening of diplomatic, economic, and strategic ties. The Committee emphasize that Missions should be prioritized in countries where there is significant potential for trade and investment, a strong Indian diaspora, or an opportunity for India to bolster its political outreach in multilateral forums. The Committee urge the Ministry of External Affairs to expedite the establishment of Missions and Posts in these countries and to seek additional funds, if necessary, during the Revised Estimate stage to ensure timely operationalization

of Missions, especially, the proposed Missions in Europe, Latin America and Caribbean regions.

*(Recommendation No.14)*

**2.53** Recognizing the importance of an effective monitoring mechanism for ensuring the optimal performance of Indian Missions and Posts abroad, the Committee note the establishment of the Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS) by the Ministry. The Ministry's efforts to expand the scope of inspections, conduct annual evaluations, and provide performance scores to Missions/Posts are commendable. However, the Committee observe that certain concerns raised by Missions/Posts, such as the applicability of specific questions and technical difficulties in updating webpages or verifying social media accounts, need to be addressed more systematically. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should continue to refine the PEMS portal by regularly updating the evaluation criteria to ensure their relevance, providing enhanced training and technical support to Missions/Posts, streamlining approval processes for critical activities such as the Crises Management Plan (CMP), and establishing a robust follow-up mechanism to address concerns promptly. These actions will further strengthen the monitoring system, ensuring that it remains efficient and responsive to the evolving needs of Missions/Posts abroad.

*(Recommendation No.15)*

**2.54** The Committee note that India's Missions and Posts abroad currently operate with a strength of 6277, comprising 3158 India-based posts and 3119 local posts as of 1 February 2025. These positions span various cadres, including the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), General Cadre of IFS Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, and Legal and Treaties Cadre. The Committee also acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry in optimizing human resource deployment at Indian Missions and Posts. However, given the growing diplomatic, economic, and consular challenges, the Committee emphasizes the need for a more proactive approach to addressing evolving manpower requirements. The Committee desire that the Ministry should undertake a periodic and comprehensive assessment of staffing needs in each Mission and Post, considering region-specific political, economic, and



consular dynamics. The Committee further suggest that that the Ministry should expedite recruitment processes to ensure timely filling of vacancies, while also expanding the pool of specialized personnel for evolving diplomatic roles. In addition, the Committee urge the Ministry to implement a robust, continuous training programme that enhances practical skills for handling complex diplomatic and consular tasks, with a particular focus on crisis management, intercultural communication, and familiarity with international regulations.

*(Recommendation No.16)*

### **III. PASSPORT**

2.55 Indian Passports (together with other travel documents such as Certificate of Identity to Stateless persons, Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates, Surrender Certificates, Line of Control Travel Permits in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry through the PSP Division, the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its all-India network of 37 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 444 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) (in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of these 37 Passport Offices.

#### **a) Budgetary Allocation**

2.56 The Minor Head 'Passport and Emigration' sub-head caters to expenditure on Central Passport Organisation, printing of travel documents including e-passports, payments to State Governments and Union Territories for Administration of Central Acts and Regulations, Protector General of Emigrants, Welfare of Overseas Indians which includes expenses of pre-departure orientation and skill upgradation of emigrant workers, evacuation of Indians due to war/civil disturbances, repatriation of Indian Destitutes, Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI marriages, Legal counseling/assistance to workers in the Gulf and Scheme for Welfare of Indian Women Abroad through setting up of One Stop Centres. The total budgetary allocations under the sub-head for past four years are as under:

	<b>BE 2022-23</b>	<b>RE 2022-23</b>	<b>BE 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2023-24</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>RE 2024-25</b>	<b>BE 2025-26</b>
Allocation	1001.67	1156.01	1002.78	1792.14	970.66	1907.25	1913.48

2.57 The Ministry attributed the sharp increase in budgetary allocation under this sub head for RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 to the following factors: -

- (a) Outstanding payment to be paid to ISP Nashik for production of passport/travel documents.
- (b) Switching over from non-ePassport to ePassport will lead to increase in production cost.
- (c) Increase in charges towards personalization (printing) of data on passports/travel documents.
- (d) Outstanding payment and subsequent increase in charges to be paid to service providers such as TCS, Department of Posts.
- (e) Payments to States/Union Territories (Police Authorities) for Administration of Central Acts and Regulations.

2.58 On being asked, the Ministry also furnished break up of allocations under all the subhead 'Passport and Emigration' for BE 24-25, RE 24-25 and BE 25-26:

*(in Rs cr)*

<b>Sub Head</b>	<b>Passport and Emigration</b>	<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>RE 2024-25</b>	<b>BE 2025-26</b>
01	Central Passport Organisation	874.13	1755.07	1782.90
02	Payments to States/Union Territories for Administration of Central Acts and Regulations	50.00	100.00	100.00
04	Protector General of Emigrants	31.31	43.12	15.36
05	Welfare of Overseas Indians	15.21	9.05	15.21
06	Scheme for Welfare of Indian Women Abroad	0.01	0.01	0.01
	<b>Total</b>	<b>970.66</b>	<b>1907.25</b>	<b>1913.48</b>

2.59 The details of revenue earnings collected through Passport/Visa services *vis-a-vis* allocation made in BE and RE during the last three years and in the current fiscal is as under:

Head	ACCOUNTS FIGURES				ESTIMATES		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (up to Sep,24)	BE 2024- 25	RE 2024- 25	BE2025- 26
<b>‘0070-Other Administrative Services’</b>							
Passport Fee	2332.50	3360.03	3543.66	1811.57	4000.00	3800.00	4200.00
Visa Fee	316.95	1440.10	1396.91	583.25	1200.00	1150.00	1100.00
Receipt under Overseas Indian Citizenship Act	679.40	719.21	661.46	344.61	700.00	700.00	700.00
Emigration Fee	5.74	9.26	9.50	4.86	10.00	10.00	10.00
Receipt from Govt. Hostel	0.21	0.19	0.18	0.09	0.40	0.40	0.40
Other Receipt*	188.82	209.21	210.43	108.14	200.00	200.00	200.00
RTI	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3523.63</b>	<b>5738.02</b>	<b>5822.16</b>	<b>2852.53</b>	<b>6110.43</b>	<b>5860.43</b>	<b>6210.43</b>
*Other Receipts under Minor Head 007060800 includes the following sub-heads :-							
1. Attestation fees							
2. Apostile fees							
3. Issuing of Birth, Marriage and other certificates							
4. Sale of condemned items							

## **b) Passport Seva Project (PSP)**

2.60 The Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Division provides passport related services in India and abroad. The issuance of Passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen centric services rendered by the Ministry.

2.61 Regarding measures taken to make quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country during 2024-25, the Ministry stated that several quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country have been made to ensure that passports are delivered to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained and motivated workforce. The Ministry has worked extensively to bring passport services closer to the people and has opened 93 Passport Kendras and 444 Post Office

Passport Kendras across the countries which are working as extended arms of 37 Regional Passport Offices. In the year 2024-25, the Ministry has added 10 more PSOPSKs as part of taking services closer to the citizens. The Ministry is continuously making efforts to make end-to-end passport issuance process digital and paperless.

The next version of Passport Seva Program, PSP V2.0 has been enabled with facial and fingerprint (biometric) matching solution for identity verification and lesser documentation process and thereby expeditious processing of passport applications. For reissue cases, data is auto populated for the applicants during form filling and applicants need not require to fill the data available in the PSP system. AI enabled BOT has been enabled in the portal to guide applicants during form filling. The applicant will be able to chat with AI enabled BOT through the PSP portal with respect to queries related to appointment, application process, documentation requirements, tracking status of their already submitted application etc.

The Ministry of External Affairs has started the process of integration of PSP system with Aadhaar, PAN, Voter ID etc. to validate the authenticity of these documents submitted by the applicants. Verification at the source database of these documents would not only help in expeditious processing of passport applications but would also help verifying the authenticity. In order to provide enhanced level of citizen experience in a paperless mode, the Ministry has successfully integrated with DigiLocker platform of Government of India. This would enable citizens to submit various documents required for Passport Services through DigiLocker in a paperless mode. They are not required to carry the original documents.

2.62 Apprising the Committee about the Passport services in India, the Foreign Secretary during the course of oral evidence submitted as under:

“..we now have 93 Passport Seva Kendras and 444 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras operational under 37 RPOs in the country, covering 505 Lok Sabha constituencies, leaving a balance of 38 Lok Sabha constituencies where PSK, POPSKs are yet to be opened. We plan to establish new PSK, POPSKs in at least six more unserved Lok Sabha constituencies during 2025. We are working closely with the Department of Posts to establish more POPSK centres for which the DoP, of course, needs to provide suitable space to us in the existing post offices.

As regards version 2.0 of the Passport Seva project, the pilot was launched in April 2024 under two RPOs, RPO Bhubaneswar and RPO Nagpur, and the PSKs and POPSKs under them. Thereafter, six more RPOs in Goa, Jammu, Shimla, Raipur,

Amritsar, and Jaipur have been added to the pilot, and we plan to add nine more RPOs to the pilot project. The pan-India rollout is expected to start from April 2025, after the requisite certification is done. Similarly, under the e-Passport flagship programme, which I recall mentioning last time, is essentially a passport where critical information is printed on the data page of the passport, but also stored in the RFID chip that is embedded in the passport, thereby making it harder to forge these passports. This is expected to increase the level of confidence in our passports. The pilot for this programme has already been launched, along with PSP-2, in select RPOs. As of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, we have issued approximately 1.45 lakh e-passports, and following the successful pilot test and requisite certification, we will roll out this programme as well in a phased manner.”

2.63 On being asked about the progress made in the work relating to establishment of PSKs/POPSKs and the amount allocated for each project during 2025-26, the Ministry submitted that as per RFP PSP V2.0, responsibility for establishment of PSKs has been given to the Service Provider (SP) and there is no financial liability upon the Government related to establishment of PSK. However, an amount of Rs 5 Lakh is being paid to DoP for establishment of each POPSK. A provision of an amount of Rs. 205 lakhs has been made in the Budget ending 2025 – 2026 for the purpose of establishing POPSKs.

2.64 The average passport issuance time (excluding PV time) during the year 2024-25 is as follows:

- i. Normal Passports: 7-10 working days
- ii. Tatkaal Passports: 1-3 working days

2.65 The Ministry also furnished the list of Passport Seva Kendra (PSKs), Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (PoPSKs) and LSCs where PSKs/POPSKs yet to be opened. The same is attached as **Annexure IV**. At present, there are 38 Lok Sabha Constituencies where a PSK/POPSK is yet to be opened. It is expected to establish a PSK/POPSK in at least 8 Lok Sabha Constituencies in the year 2025 out of which 2 have already been operationalized. More POPSKs may be established subject to provision of suitable space for a POPSK by the Department of Posts.

2.66 When enquired about the outreach of passport services to far-flung areas of North East and other hilly terrains, the Ministry replied that all the far-flung areas of the North East and other hilly terrain have been covered with PSKs/POPSKs as there is one PSK/POPSK in each LSCs of the North East and other hilly terrain. There are 7 PSKs and 19 POPSKs covering all the LSCs in the North Eastern part of India. LSCs in other hilly terrains of India also have a PSK or

a POPSK. Thus, there is no requirement of establishing a PSK/POPSK in the North East or other hilly terrain.

2.67 The percentage share of applications handled by the POPSKs in the country (State-wise) is attached as **Annexure V**.

2.68 The Ministry enumerated some of the constraints faced in the implementation of passport Seva Program are as under –

- Integration with other Government systems - lack of real time integration with databases like Crime Control Tracking Network System (CCTNS), Birth Certificates, Residential Proof and Educational documents (required for ECNR passports) leads to issues related to fraudulent documents that requires verification of authenticity at the source database.
- Expanding of PSOPKs - The Ministry is dependent on Department of Posts as regards providing suitable space for opening of new POPSK.
- Longer Police Verification Time for North East and J&K States - Due non-readiness of Police IT infrastructure, online integration with respective police districts/thanas at these States/UTs could not be taken up resulting delay in submission of Police Verification Report (PVR).
- The mPassport Police App is yet to be integrated with 12 State/UT. This would expedite the police verification process.

The Ministry is working with the concerned Ministries/Departments to resolve the above pending issues at the earliest.

2.69 When questioned about the lessons learnt from implementing the Passport Seva Programme, the Ministry stated that the implementation of the Passport Seva Program (PSP) in India has provided several key lessons in e-Governance, service delivery, and public administration. Here are the major takeaways:

- a. Digital Transformation is essential but requires Robust Infrastructure: A well-designed IT infrastructure is crucial for efficiency, but it must be scalable and resilient to handle large volumes of applications.

- b. **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Enhances Efficiency:** Collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) had streamlined operations, showing that private expertise can improve public services.
- c. **Police Verification is a Major Bottleneck:** Manual police verification delayed passport issuance, highlighting the need for digitized and AI-driven verification. The introduction of mPassport Police App helped accelerate verification.
- d. **Decentralization Improves Accessibility:** Establishing Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) made passport services more accessible to rural populations. Instead of traveling to distant Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), applicants could visit local post offices, reducing application backlogs.
- e. **User Experience Matters in E-Governance:** Early website crashes, payment failures, and complex forms showed that digital services need to be user-friendly. Simplified forms, SMS alerts, and multilingual support improved accessibility.
- f. **Cyber security & Data Protection Must Be Prioritized:** A centralized digital system is vulnerable to cyber threats, requiring multi-layered security. Encryption, secure payment gateways, and advance fraud detection and mitigation were introduced.
- g. **Public Awareness & Digital Literacy are Crucial:** Many citizens, especially in rural areas, were unaware of online services, leading to dependence on agents. Awareness campaigns via social media, TV, and local outreach helped educate applicants.
- h. **Seamless Integration with Other Government Databases is Needed:** Lack of integration with Aadhaar, birth certificates, and police records led to verification delays. Gradual real-time database linking improved document authentication and reduced fraud.
- i. **Grievance redressal is Key to Citizen Satisfaction:** An efficient complaint resolution mechanism is essential to address user concerns. The Passport Seva Call Center was introduced for 24/7 support.
- j. **Continuous Policy & Process Improvement is Necessary:** Regular updates and policy refinements are needed to keep up with changing needs. Tatkaal and passport reissue processes were simplified for faster service.

The Passport Seva Program is a benchmark in India's e-governance success, demonstrating the power of digital transformation, PPP collaboration, and process innovation. The key lesson is that technology must be combined with strong governance, security, and user-centric design for sustained success.

2.70 On being asked about rolling out of Passport Seva Project 2.0, the Ministry stated the Pilot launch of PSP V2.0 started in April 2024 under two Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) i.e. RPO Bhubaneswar and RPO Nagpur and PSKs/POPSKs under them. Thereafter, five more RPOs (Goa, Jammu, Shimla, Raipur and Amritsar) were added to the Pilot sites for larger coverage and complete flow including load and performance evaluation of PSP V2.0. We propose to add few bigger RPOs to the pilot project before we go for pan India roll-out covering all 37 RPOs and PSKs/POPSKs under them. The PAN India roll-out is expected to start from April 2025 onwards after Pilot certification of STQC, MeitY.

**c) e-Passport Project**

2.71 Articulating the details and status of issuing E passports to Indian citizens, the Ministry responded that e-Passport, which is the Ministry's flagship programme, is a combined paper and electronic passport with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Chip and an antenna embedded as an inlay. The passport's critical information will be printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip. The characteristics of the document and the chip are as per the specifications of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as mentioned in its Document 9303. The main benefit of the e-Passport is its enhanced ability to maintain the integrity of its data. As the data is printed on the passport as well as stored in a digital form on the chip of the passport, it makes it harder to forge. It is, therefore, expected to increase the level of confidence in the Indian Passport.

**Stages of the ePassport Project.**

- (a) The ePassport Project involves setting up of complex technical ecosystem, including ePersonalization, Public Key Infrastructure, Key Management System, Inter-operability test bed, Project Management Unit, as also creation of ePassport verification set-up at Immigration Check Points by Bureau of Immigration. The Project has two major components e-Personalisation and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) with each setup having one Data Centre and Data Recovery centre working in active-active mode with high availability.
- (b) PKI setup for issuance of ePassport and verification of Indian and Foreign ePassports by BoI. to be executed by NICS through its vendor (n)Code, GNFC backed by its OEM partner Entrust. The Public Key Directory (PKD) for ePassports issued globally is maintained by ICAO. In other words, ICAO maintains and updates the repository of digital certificates issued by ePassport issuing authorities globally. The member countries



can also create their own repositories by syncing with ICAO repository and use the same for verification purposes at immigration counters.

### Challenges being Faced

- Integration of e-Passport module with PSP V1.0 application was successfully carried out in the Data Centres test environment [(User Acceptance Test (UAT) Environment] and also sample e-Passport booklets were successfully printed/personalized as proof of concept under PSP in the live-environment at Goa and at Patiala House on 19 Dec 2023.
- Owing to the launch of new technology with complex technical infrastructure and participation of multiple stakeholders; The e-Passport Project involves several challenges, given the limitations of PSP Version 1.0's technical ability to take on the additional load was the first challenge. Thereafter, replicating the data to PSP Version 2.0, is another challenge. With the combined efforts of all our partners these challenges were effectively handled and integration of e-Passport module was successfully carried out with PSP V2.0.

### Current Status

- In view of the above mentioned challenges it was decided, that a combined roll-out of ePassport with PSP V2.0 having enhanced features and technological edge be planned in a phased manner and in first stage the Pilot launch of e-Passport with PSP V2.0 were planned at two RPOs(along with the PSKs and POPSKs attached to them), at RPO Nagpur connected to the Data Centre (DC) in North India, and RPO Bhubaneswar connected to the Data Recovery Centre (DR) in South India.
- The Pilot Launch of PSP V2.0 along with e-Passports. Pilot Launch of PSP V2.0 has been carried out on 01 Apr 2024 in Bhubaneshwar and Nagpur RPOs (with their attached PSKs & POPSKs) and later RPO of Jammu, Shimla, Goa and Raipur were added to the PSP V2.0 pilot in Jan / Feb 2025 for the issuance of e-Passport. Currently, RPO Nagpur, Bhubaneshwar, Jammu, Shimla, Goa and Raipur are issuing e-Passport to applicants and as on 31 Jan 2025, approx 1.45 lakhs e-Passports were issued to Indian citizens. Post successful pilot test and requisite certification, Ministry will roll out e-Passport in phased manner at all RPOs and subsequently at Missions/Posts abroad.
- Bureau of Immigration has successfully commenced the validation of foreigners e-Passport and Indian e-Passport at two immigration counters at IGI Delhi Airport since August 2024. BOI will gradually expand e-passport validation system to other counters in Delhi and outside Delhi in sync with e-Passport roll out plan.

2.72 The Committee were keen to know about the targets and timelines set for e-passport project and the funds to be spent for this purpose. The Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:

On 25 August 2022, a Tripartite Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MEA, NIC and NICS I for the e-passport project. The e-passport project was to be operationalized within T plus 24 Weeks where T is the date of receipt of rolling advance by NICS I. MEA transferred Rs. 52.23 Crores (incl. of GST and NICS I charges) i.e. 40% rolling advance for the first year's project cost i.e. Rs. 130.58 Crores to NICS I on 02 Dec 2022. Ministry is also required to pay 5% administrative charges to NICS I and 18% GST on the above gross amount. The total expenditure of Rs. 268.67 crores will be incurred over a period of 7 years (to be counted from the date of successful launch of the project at all RPOs) for setting up of information and technology infrastructure. This includes both recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

Currently e-Passport pilot launch is underway, Post successful pilot launch and requisite certification, e-passport along with PSP V2.0 to be rolled out at other RPOs in phased manner by mid-2025.

e-Passport, being a complex programme involving critical requirements including adherence to the global standards defined by ICAO, needs to be executed on priority.

2.73 As regards the integration of Indian Missions/Posts into Passport Seva Programme, the Ministry informed that all Indian Missions/Posts (195) where Passport related services are rendered as on date have been integrated with Global PSP system. The integration of Indian Missions/Posts has enabled a standardized and robust service delivery platform to Indian Diasporas seeking passport related services.

2.74 'PRIDE' is the repository of all data related to Passports issued to Indian citizens. When asked about integration of the database with system of MHA, the Ministry responded that it has integrated Passport Seva Programme with BOI and NATGRID. However, integration with CCTNS database of MHA is still in progress.

2.75 With regard to steps have been taken for data security and privacy, the Ministry stated that the Passport data being collected is protected against unintentional, unlawful, or unauthorized access, disclosure, or theft as part of Data Confidentiality. The Passport Seva system has been designed and architected in such a way that the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of Passport related data being collected from the citizens is maintained throughout its lifecycle. The Passport Seva Project has well defined Information Security Management System (ISMS) Policy document, which illustrates the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information assets by providing policies, procedures and operating procedure

documents (OPDs) designed to mitigate or eliminate all acknowledged risks. Layered security approach along with considerations of key security architectural principals, not only strengthen Passport Seva Security framework but has also enabled eGovernance enterprise security system to generate capabilities in dealing with growing security challenges, emanating from internal operating environment and fast changing exploit scenarios from Cyberspace. The zero trust security framework has been deployed in PSP ecosystem.

2.76 About the Grievance Redressal Mechanism related to passport services, the Ministry submitted that it has made every effort to systematize grievance redressal mechanism through various ways in the organization i.e. feedback, letters, registered communications, emails, or even in person etc. The grievances are received through CPGRAM Portal designed by DARPG. In addition to this below mentioned facilities are made available to the public: -

(a) Public Inquiry Officer: A dedicated Public Grievance Cell is established in PSP Division to handle and monitor the redressal of public grievances received in the individual Passport Offices. Apart from this every Passport Office has individual Public Inquiry Officer to deal with the grievances. Applicant can meet in-person to the Public Inquiry Officer in the Passport Offices for redressal of his/her grievances.

(b) Telephonic Inquiry: There are four (4) dedicated telephone lines in the Passport Seva Project (PSP) Division on which applicants directly call for information. Apart from this every Passport Office also has separate telephone lines to reply the queries of the public. The details in this regard are available in website at [www.passportindia.gov.in](http://www.passportindia.gov.in).

(c) Toll Free Number (1800-258-1800): Apart from this, round the clock Toll Free Number (1800-258-1800) (multilingual national Call Center) is also available for providing any information on Passport services including basic information about documentations and how to apply for the passport.

(d) Social media platform i.e. Twitter. Public grievances are also handled through Twitter handle of MEA as well as of the individual Passport Offices portal.

(e) Grievance/Feedback on website: In the website [www.passportindia.gov.in](http://www.passportindia.gov.in) under Grievance/Feedback column, applicants can also write their grievances directly to the concerned Passport Offices.

2.77 During the year 2024-2025 (April, 2024 to Jan, 2025) Passport Seva Division received 3,186 passport related grievances out of which 3,071 grievances were disposed with disposal rate

of 96%. Majority of grievances are resolved satisfactorily within 20 days less those which have legal implications.

**d) ‘mPassport Police’ App**

2.78 On 22nd January 2016, the Ministry launched mPassport Police App for Android/iOS mobile phones for use by State/UT police personnel tasked with conducting police verification, enabling them for an expeditious submission of PVR digitally directly from the Police Station itself. On being asked about the impact of mPassport Police App in expediting Police Verification Reports, the Ministry stated that with the introduction of this App, the need to download and print the physical ‘Personal Particular Forms’ and ‘Questionnaire’ are not required, resulting in paperless end-to-end digital flow of the PV process, enabling further reduction in the time required for completion of PVR. The State/ UTs where the App has been launched has been benefiting for end-to-end digital verification & tracking of PVR and are using the App extensively.

2.79 When asked about the details of State/UT wherein launch of mPassport Police App is pending and the time by which mPassport Police App is likely to be launched in these States/ UTs, the Ministry stated that it is worthwhile to note that 25 States/UTs covering more than 9425 Police Stations across the country have already launched mPassport Police App. The Ministry and the concerned RPOs are coordinating with the States/UTs where mPassport Police App has not yet launched. The list of 12 States/UTs where mPassport Police App is yet to launched is placed below:

S.No.	State Name
1	Andaman and Nicobar
2	Arunachal Pradesh
3	Goa
4	Himachal Pradesh
5	Jammu &Kashmir
6	Ladakh
7	Lakshadweep
8	Manipur

9	Meghalaya
10	Mizoram
11	Nagaland
12	Telangana

The roll out of mPassport Police App at State/UT depends on the readiness of IT infrastructure at the concerned State/UT.

2.80 The Ministry also submitted that District Police authorities are now processing Police Verification digitally (paperless) right from Police Station level. With these measures initiated by the Ministry and with the participation of State/UT Police, Police Verification process has become faster and Passport Offices in India and Indian Missions/Posts abroad are now receiving Police Verification Reports within 2 - 12 days.

2.81 On the Committee's query about the impact of mPassport Police App in expediting Police Verification Reports in the 24 State/ UTs where it has been launched, the Ministry stated that the mPassport Police App enables the Police authorities to receive and submit the PV data directly through the mobile phones or tablets of the concerned police personnel, who capture the PV report in the system digitally while conducting the verification process of applicant's credentials. With the introduction of this App, the need to download and print the physical 'Personal Particular Forms' and 'Questionnaire' are not required, resulting in paperless end-to-end digital flow of the PV process, enabling further reduction in the time required for completion of PVR. The State/ UTs where the App has been launched has been benefiting for end-to-end digital verification & tracking of PVR and are using the App extensively.

2.82 The Committee were keen to know about the technical constraints faced by the Passport offices in capturing the Police Verification Report (PVR) digitally. The Ministry responded that at present no such technical constraints are being faced.

2.83 The Following steps have been taken by the Ministry to reduce the Police Verification and Issuance of Normal Passports –

- i. Digital Integration of PSP with all Police Districts
- ii. Launch of mPassport Seva Police App
- iii. Paperless Police Verification Process

- iv. Training to Police Authorities
- v. Expansion of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and addition of new Post Office passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)
- vi. Online Application Filing, Payment of Fee and Appointment Booking
- vii. Introduction of AI enabled BOT for citizens
- viii. End-to-End Digital Workflow for application processing
- ix. Introduction of ePassports

**e) Central Passport Organization (CPO)**

2.84 The Central Passport Organization (CPO) was created in 1959 as a subordinate office of the Ministry of External Affairs. The passport services are provided through the CPO and its network of Passport Offices; Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs); and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs). Consular, Visa and Passport services to overseas Indians/ Foreign nationals are provided through the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

2.85 On being asked about the actual sanctioned strength and actual working strength of the Central Passport Organization (CPO), the Ministry stated as under:

Sanctioned Strength - 2737

Working Strength - 1737 (including 06 incumbents to the post of Driver which has now been abolished)

2.86 The Ministry informed that the passport Services offered at PSK, POPSK and RPO are not exactly similar in nature. At the PSK the end-to-end service (starting from submission of applications) is provided by the staff of the Service Provider. Verification of documents and granting of passport is done by the staff of the CPO cadre (Government officials). In POPSKs, processing of application form is done by the staff of Department of Posts and wherever feasible the concerned RPO provides a verification officer. Granting of these applications is done at the Back Office (RPO) by the staff of concerned RPO (Government Officials). Service regarding submission of passport applications is not provided at the RPO. Cases which pertain to policy matters or in which staff at the PSK require guidance of the senior officials are referred to RPO. However, printing of all passports is done at the concerned RPO.

2.87 The details of vacant Gazetted/ Non-Gazetted posts in CPO (as on 01.02.2025) are tabulated below:

<b>Name of Post</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
RPO/ PO	02
DPO	01
APO	23
Total: (A) (Group 'A' posts)	26
Senior Superintendent	43
Superintendent	191
Total: (B) (Group 'B' Gazetted Posts)	234
Total GOs (A)+(B)	260
AS	291
SPA	39
JPA	327
Total VOs	657
<b>Total (I): GO + VO</b>	<b>917</b>
Assistant Director	03
Senior Translation Officer (STO)	00
Junior Translation Officer (JTO)	16
Stenographer (Grade- I)	02
Stenographer (Grade- II)	06
Office Assistant	62
<b>Total (II)</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Grand Total (I + II)</b>	<b>1006</b>

2.88 PSP Division has indented vacancies for various Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts to the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) viz. 301 for the post of Junior Passport Assistant, 63 vacancies for the post of Assistant Superintendent, 7 for Stenographer Grade D, 15 for Junior Translation Officer (JTO), 61 for Office Assistant/ MTS for the year 2024. PSP Division has issued promotion orders of 96 officers/ officials in various grades A & B in the Central Passport

Organization as on 01.02.2025. Further, a contract has been awarded to an outsourced agency M/s Sharma Enterprises for the deployment of 475 DEOs and 57 MTS for various RPOs and PSP Division against the existing vacancy of Verifying Officers (VOs) and MTSs in RPOs. In addition to this, a proposal for deployment of officers from other services on deputation /attachment basis is under consideration of the Ministry.

**2.89 The Committee observe a significant increase in the budgetary allocation under the minor head ‘Passport and Emigration’, with the BE 2025-26 allocation rising to Rs. 1913.48 crores from Rs 970.66 crores during BE 2024-25. This increase is primarily attributed to factors such as outstanding payments for passport production, the transition to e-passports, higher personalization and printing costs, and payments to service providers such as TCS and the Department of Posts. The Committee acknowledge Ministry of External Affairs' efforts in expanding and improving passport services, including the enhancement of the Passport Seva Programme, which now includes 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 444 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) and 37 Regional Passport Offices across the country. These initiatives have significantly expanded coverage across 505 Lok Sabha constituencies, improving accessibility to passport services. The Committee also note a steady increase in revenue earnings, particularly from passport fees, which have risen significantly from Rs. 2332.50 crores in FY 2021-22 to an estimated Rs. 4000 crores in BE 2024-25. The Committee observe that since the payment of printing is carried forward to the next year, a significant portion of the budget in the coming year is likely to be consumed by outstanding payments for passport printing and related services. The Committee however note with concern, reports from Indians abroad about inordinate delays in issuance of passports.**

**Keeping in view the rising demand for passport services, expansion of the Passport Seva Programme and the higher anticipated expenditure on travel document printing, freight charges, and service charges for the Passport Seva Project, the Committee are satisfied to observe the upward revision in allocation under this sub head. While emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the enhanced budget is utilized efficiently and effectively, the Committee desire that the Ministry should prioritize the timely implementation of the ePassport project, addressing any technical and operational**



challenges involved in the transition. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that payments for passport production, service provider charges, and other related costs are processed promptly to avoid disruptions in service delivery.

*(Recommendation No.17)*

**2.90** The Committee acknowledge that the issuance of passports is one of the most visible and citizen-centric statutory services provided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The Committee commend the ongoing efforts of the Ministry to modernize the Passport Seva Programme (PSP), particularly through the implementation of PSP V2.0, which incorporates advanced biometric matching, AI-driven assistance, and streamlined processes. The expansion of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) across 505 Lok Sabha constituencies is a commendable step in enhancing the accessibility of passport services.

Welcoming the proposal to establish additional PSKs and POPSKs in underserved constituencies in 2025, the Committee encourage the Ministry to expedite the establishment of PSKs and POPSKs in the remaining 38 constituencies. The Committee also welcome the successful pilot launch of the e-passport initiative, which enhances security through the embedding of an RFID chip and look forward to its phased rollout across the country by April 2025. To further improve service delivery, the Committee suggest accelerating integration with government databases like Aadhaar and PAN, expanding e-passport issuance, strengthening technological infrastructure, conducting extensive public awareness campaigns, and prioritizing user experience.

*(Recommendation No.18)*

**2.91** The Committee note that database on passport has been integrated with the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) and NATGRID and the integration with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) database of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is ongoing. With the introduction of e-passports, which involve the storage of critical information on an embedded RFID chip, the Committee is of the considered opinion that it is imperative that the Ministry continue to prioritize data protection. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry expedite the full integration of the Passport Seva

Programme with MHA's CCTNS database to further enhance security and improve the verification process for passport applications. The Committee also suggest that the Ministry conduct public awareness campaigns highlighting the robust data security measures in place, reassuring citizens of the safety and privacy of their information during the e-passport rollout.

*(Recommendation No.19)*

2.92 The Committee recognize the progress made by the Ministry in improving the Police Verification Report (PVR) process through the introduction of the mPassport Police App. The Ministry has informed that the App has been successfully rolled out in 25 States/UTs, covering over 9,400 Police Stations. The digitalization of the process has significantly reduced the average time for Police Verification Reports (PVRs). The Committee recommends that the Ministry should prioritize the deployment of the mPassport Police App in the remaining 12 States/UTs where it is yet to be launched. The Ministry should continue to collaborate with the concerned State/UT authorities to address any infrastructure challenges and work towards the timely rollout in these areas. The Ministry should also ensure that training and support is provided to police personnel to enhance the optimal use of the App.

*(Recommendation No.20)*

2.93 The Committee note that the Central Passport Organization (CPO) is operating with a working strength of 1,737 out of a sanctioned strength of 2,737, leaving a significant number of vacancies, particularly in crucial positions such as Assistant Passport Officers (APOs) and Verifying Officers (VOs). While the Committee acknowledge Ministry's efforts to address this staffing gap, they express concern that the current vacancies could affect the efficiency and timeliness of passport services. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should prioritize expediting the recruitment process to fill these vacancies, particularly for positions advertised through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) for Junior Passport Assistants, Assistant Superintendents, and other essential roles. Additionally, the

Committee suggest exploring further measures to streamline recruitment procedures, ensuring that manpower resources meet the growing demand for passport services.

*(Recommendation No.21)*

#### IV. SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY AND NALANDA UNIVERSITY

2.94 The budgetary allocation to South Asian University and Nalanda University is provided from the budget Minor- Head ‘International Cooperation’. In addition, allocations are made under this Minor-Head for obligatory contributions to UNO, Commonwealth, SAARC Secretariat, Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific, BIMSTEC Secretariat, other international organizations of which India is a member, Engagement with Indian Diaspora and for Special programmes.

2.95 The budgetary allocation and utilization of funds for South Asian University and Nalanda University is given below:

Item	FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2024-25			FY 2025-26
	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actuals*	BE
South Asian University	128	116	110.32	129	93	123	100	120	100	170
Nalanda International	200	300	290	250	300	300	200	200	80	200

\* - Expenditure till Jan 2025

2.96 On being asked about the way in which Government plans to strengthen SAU and Nalanda University as tools of India’s educational diplomacy, the Ministry in a written reply submitted:

##### South Asian University

Since SAU is a SAARC entity and as host to the University, India provides 100% of the capital cost towards establishment of the University. India also provides scholarships (SAARC Silver Jubilee Scholarships) to eligible students at the University. India works with the member states during SAU Governing Board meetings to strengthen SAU in terms of academic programs and other measures needed.

## Nalanda University

The government's plan to strengthen **Nalanda University** as a tool of India's educational diplomacy revolves around its strategic role in fostering international academic collaboration and regional integration. Nalanda University serves as a key platform for strengthening India's diplomatic ties, particularly within the Southeast Asian region, and extends its influence globally.

As the nodal institution of the ASEAN-India University Network (AINU), Nalanda University facilitates structured academic exchanges and faculty programs with institutions from countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Laos. These collaborations help in promoting sustained academic engagement within the region, furthering India's educational outreach. Additionally, the university has entered into bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with institutions in various countries, including Spain, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Bangladesh, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, and the United States. These MOUs support joint research initiatives, academic exchanges, and collaborations that align with India's goal to expand its educational footprint internationally.

Nalanda University is also strengthening its regional influence through the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies, which focuses on research related to transnational issues and cooperation in the Bay of Bengal area. This initiative serves as a hub for dialogue on regional challenges and promotes deeper collaboration between India and its neighboring countries.

In addition, Nalanda University is set to host the Higher Education Summit of Heads of Institutions of East Asia Summit countries in October 2025, creating a forum for educational policy discussions and academic collaborations. This event will enhance India's role in shaping educational diplomacy and fostering deeper ties with East Asia.

Through these strategic initiatives, the government plans to position Nalanda University as a center of academic excellence, reinforcing India's commitment to regional cooperation, educational diplomacy, and global influence.

### **a) South Asian University (SAU)**

2.97 South Asian University (SAU) is an international University established by eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. An allocation of Rs. 170 crore has been provisioned for South Asian University during BE 2025-26.

2.98 Explaining the reasons for enhanced allocation for SAU, the Ministry stated that the budget head "South Asian University" has been allocated Rs. 170 crore for BE 2025-26, of which, Rs. 100 crore is for creation of capital assets and Rs. 70 crore is for the operational budget of the University. In RE 2024-25, SAU was allocated Rs. 120 crore, of which, Rs. 50

crore was for creation of capital assets and Rs. 70 crore for the operational budget of SAU. The enhanced allocation for BE 2025-26 is towards creation of capital assets of the University. The construction work of the University campus is going on and SAU anticipates enhanced expenditure during 2025-26. The allocation also includes expenditure for additional furniture and equipment to accommodate increased number of students in the University.

2.99 The capital budget of SAU is sourced only from India and is spent on creating necessary infrastructure (as capital assets). SAU's operational budget is as per its academic year *i.e.* July-June. It is contributed by all the member states and India's contribution is 57.5%. The operational budget for academic year 2025-26 is around USD 21.4 million (approx. Rs. 186 crore) and the various elements of the budget are as below:

**(US\$ Million)**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Budget Estimates from July 2025 to June 2026</b>
Salaries (Faculty & Non-Faculty)	11.1
Maintenance and Utilities (Recurring & Non-Recurring)	6.0
Research	2.5
Scholarship	1.2
Administrative Expenses	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.4</b>

2.100 On the question of contributions of other countries in SAU, the Ministry stated that India contributes 100% towards capital budget of SAU. The operational budget of SAU for academic year 2024-25 is USD 14.66 million. India contributes 57.49% towards the operational budget of SAU and the rest is contributed by other member states. However, in the recent past, the member states other than India have not been paying their assessed contribution. The pending dues from the member states other than India till June 2024 are as below:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Contribution Sharing (%)</b>	<b>Dues till June 2024 (in US\$ millions)</b>
1.	Afghanistan	3.83	1.5
2.	Bangladesh	8.2	3.1
3.	Bhutan	3.83	0.6
4.	Maldives	3.83	1.25
5.	Nepal	4.92	0 (paid recently only )

6.	Pakistan	12.98	6.6
7.	Sri Lanka	4.92	1.9

2.101 When asked about the reasons behind the minimal contributions from other member countries towards the operational costs of South Asian University, the Ministry submitted that regular follow-up efforts are being made through the University for payment by the member states of their pending dues. The matter is also being taken up by the Ministry with the Governments of the member states during the SAU Governing Board meetings (held most recently in December 2023 and January 2025) and SAARC Programming Committee meetings (held most recently in March 2024).

2.102 The Ministry also submitted that the member states have not stated any specific reason for non-payment of their dues. The member states whenever approached have agreed to pay the dues. However, these dues have not been paid till date. The Ministry has discussed the issue of non-payment of dues with the member states in the SAARC Programming Committee meeting in March 2024 in detail to ascertain the reasons. However, no specific reason was mentioned. Nepal has only recently (February 2025) cleared their dues.

2.103 On the Committee's query, the Ministry also furnished a detailed note on progress made as well as challenges faced in construction of SAU. The Union Cabinet in July 2009 approved India's contribution of USD 198 million (excluding land cost of 100 acres) towards capital expenditure of South Asian University (SAU). The actual construction at the campus project site began late in second half of 2015 due to the time taken to resolve the issues of Gram Sabha land, forest land and geo-morphological status of the allotted land. The construction project was initially planned for the entire campus in the master plan, however, due to land encumbrances, the construction work had to be split in packages. COVID-19 and frequent NGT bans on construction also delayed the project.

2.104 The project was planned to be completed in two phases. Phase I was further divided into 4 Packages. Package I (boundary wall) & Package II (5 buildings- faculties, guest house and staff housing) are completed; Package III (7 buildings- faculties, administration, South Asian Studies Centre, Convention Centre, Library and Utility buildings) is 98% complete. However,

Package IV of Phase I (hostels, sports complex, etc) and Phase II (Engineering and Medicine faculties) are yet to be constructed. Out of the Cabinet approved amount of USD 198 million as capital expenditure, as on date, an amount of USD 166.09 million has been disbursed to SAU.

2.105 As the remaining balance is not sufficient to completely execute the construction project, SAU is working on revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) with the escalated cost wherein the total cost of the project is revised to Rs. 2896 crores (approx. USD 342 million).

2.106 Updating the Committee about the progress of South Asian University since its establishment along with important milestones, the Ministry stated that since its establishment, the SAU has expanded its academic programs, student intake, and infrastructure. Some major achievements are as below:

- (i) SAU started in 2010 with 7 masters programs (with an intake of 30 students in each programme) and has now expanded to offer 5 Bachelor's, 12 Master's and 9 PhD programs across disciplines, along with online degree courses and short-term certificate programs. The list of courses offered are as below:

Bachelors/Under-Graduate (UG)	1.B Tech (Computer Science and Engineering) 2.Dual Degree B Tech – M Tech (Computer Science and Engineering) 3.B Tech (Mathematics and Computing) 4.BS (Interdisciplinary Sciences) 5.Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
Masters/Post-Graduate (PG)	1.MSc Applied Mathematics 2.MSc Mathematics 3.MSc Biotechnology 4.MSc Computer Science 5.MTech (Computer Science) 6.Integrated MSc + MTech (Computer Science) 7.MA Economics (with specialization in Economic Development) 8.MA International Relations 9.MA Sociology 10.LLM (Master of Laws) 11.Master of Business Administration (MBA) 12.Master of Computer Applications (MCA)
PhD	1.Biotechnology 2.Computer Science

	3.Economics 4.International Relations 5.Legal Studies 6.Mathematics 7.Sociology 8.Media, Arts and Design 9.Physics	
Degree Programs	Bachelors/Under-Graduate (UG) 1.BS Data Science and AI 2.BCA 3.BBA	Masters/Post-Graduate (PG) 1.MS – Data Science and AI 2.MCA 3.MBA
Short-Term Certificate Courses	1.Communication Design and Graphics 2.Vocal Music and Art of Singing 3.Fashion Design, Modelling and Styling 4.Theatrical Arts and Acting Techniques	

- (ii) Over the years, student intake has increased significantly. The introduction of new programs, including online courses, has attracted a diverse group of applicants. The student intake since establishment of SAU is as below:

Year	Student Intake
2010-11	50
2011-12	155
2012-13	170
2013-14	230
2014-15	243
2015-16	243
2016-17	247
2017-18	196
2018-19	227
2019-20	238
2020-21	237
2021-22	237
2022-23	222
2023-24	298
2024-25	599

- (iii) SAU has moved to its permanent campus, improving facilities for students, faculty and staff. In terms of infrastructure, SAU has separate buildings for its faculties



namely- Faculty of Life Science and Earth Science, Faculty of Law & Humanity, Faculty of Physics Chemistry & IT, Faculty of Art & Design and Institute of South Asian studies.

2.107 The Committee also enquired about the current student enrollment at SAU, and the challenges in attracting students from member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Ministry informed that SAU currently has 967 students enrolled across various programs as per below:

<b>Department/ Programme</b>	<b>BTech</b>	<b>Master's 2023 Batch</b>	<b>Master's 2024 Batch</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mathematics	-	33	53	26	<b>112</b>
Biotechnology	-	31	56	37	<b>124</b>
Computer Science	111	6	29 (9 MTech)	37	<b>183</b>
Economics	-	19	67	40	<b>126</b>
Legal Studies	-	45	74	29	<b>148</b>
International Relations	-	33	60	45	<b>138</b>
Sociology	-	27	67	42	<b>136</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>967</b>

The University plans to increase the capacity to 4000 students by 2029-30 in a phased manner by increasing the intake of the students every year. The only challenge the SAU has is the pending dues by member states other than India. That affects the day-to-day funding of the institution and creates hurdles in attracting students by showcasing it as a well-managed educational institution.

2.108 As regards the question of how SAU fit into India's broader foreign policy strategy, the Ministry stated that India being a founding member of SAARC makes significant contributions to SAARC institutions through various initiatives in diverse areas and shoulders asymmetrical responsibilities to support the development and progress of all countries in the region. South Asian University (SAU) is one such initiative with an aim of creating a jointly managed centre of academic excellence and a symbol to provide high quality education to the youth of South Asia.

2.109 On the Committee's specific query about Ministry plan to position SAU as leading educational institution in South Asia, and taking more prominent role in funding and managing, the Ministry responded that South Asian University (SAU) is a SAARC entity and not a GoI entity. It is governed by the Governing Board having representatives from all SAARC member states. Any change in funding and management structure of SAU needs to be approved by its Governing Board *i.e.*, by all member states.

**b) Nalanda University**

2.110 Since its establishment through an Act of Parliament in 2010, following support from the East Asia Summit in 2007, Nalanda University has emerged as a prestigious international institution of academic excellence, cultural heritage, and sustainable development. Academic activities began in 2014 with two initial schools: the School of Historical Studies and the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies. Over time, the university has expanded its academic offerings to include Master's programs across six schools, Global Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Fellowship programs, and specialized certificate and diploma courses in various areas like Sanskrit, Pali, Korean, Yoga, etc., along with capsule courses for professionals.

2.111 The budgetary allocation for Nalanda is for two components - Capital and Recurring expenditure and is as per Cabinet Approval. The fund allocated under for Nalanda University has been kept constant at Rs. 200 crores for the past two fiscals. Breakdown of the allocation of budget across various sectors of Nalanda University is as follows:-

<b><u>Provisional/ Proposed Expenditure for the 2024-25 &amp; 2025-26</u></b>			
	Expenditure Heads	Financial Year & Amount (in Rs.)	
		2024-25 (BE/RE)	2025-26 (BE)
Capital Expenditure			
1	Tangible Assets	10,15,19,756.00	41,00,00,000.00
2	Capital Work-in-Progress	151,97,69,229.00	98,53,16,152.00
3	Intangible Assets	-	80,00,000.00

	<b>Total</b>	<b>162,12,88,985.00</b>	<b>140,33,16,152.00*</b>
<b>Recurring Expenditure</b>			
1	Establishment Expenses (including Gratuity & EL encashment)	17,16,50,676.00	27,46,41,081.00
2	Academic Expenses (including scholarship/fellowship & Research)	3,26,88,362.00	7,79,22,000.00
3	Administrative & General Expenses (including Security Hiring Expenses, House Keeping Expenses etc.)	17,43,71,977.00	24,41,20,767.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,87,11,015.00</b>	<b>59,66,83,848.00</b>
	<b>Total Capital &amp; Recurring Expenditure</b>	<b>200,00,00,000.00 (200Cr)</b>	<b>200,00,00,000.00 (200Cr)</b>

\* CCEA/EFC Approved 2727.10 Cr. (Rs. 1749.65 Crore non-recurring and Rs. 977.45 Cr. Recurring). The total Capital Expenditure as on 11.02.2025 is Rs. 1662.85 Cr.

2.112 The details of the contributions made by various countries and endowments made by private individuals are as follows:-

#### Contributions from Foreign Governments

- (i) Government of China: Contributed USD 1 million in December 2011.
- (ii) Government of Thailand: Contributed a total of USD 1,32,600 by March 2016.
- (iii) Government of Indonesia: Contributed USD 30,000 in December 2013.
- (iv) Government of Lao PDR: Contributed USD 50,000 in March 2013.
- (v) Government of Australia: Contributed AUD 1 million (approximately USD 737,000) in June 2016.
- (vi) Shri Krishna N. Pimple, Honorary Consulate of the United Republic of Tanzania: Contributed INR 6,75,000 (approximately USD 8,000) till June 2023 under the *Prof. Sunaina Singh Merit Scholarship*.

#### External Private Endowments

- (i) Rajendra & Ursula Joshi Foundation, Switzerland: Contributed USD 1 million in August 2015.
- (ii) Prof. Pyong Rae Lee, Korea: Contributed USD 11,535 in March 2017.
- (iii) Mr. Hung Jia Nan, Taiwan: Contributed approximately USD 10,000 in January 2021.
- (iv) Mr. Lee Wan Lik, Ex-Chairman of Azeus Group: Contributed USD 10,667 in June 2023.

2.113 Section 9(2) of the Nalanda University Act, 2010, outlines the objectives of the University as *"The University shall be a non-profit public-private partnership, which shall seek support from each of the Member States and from other sources but shall be autonomous and accountable to the Governing Board."* Furthermore, under the framework of the East Asia Summit (EAS), participating countries were encouraged to support the funding of Nalanda University on a voluntary basis through contributions from governments and other sources, including public-private partnerships. There is no discernible reluctance from participating countries that have MoUs with the Nalanda University to contribute financially. The contributions from member countries and others have always been voluntary since the inception of the Nalanda University and there was no mandatory contribution that was expected from the East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. It is expected that since the University's physical infrastructure work is almost complete and that the new campus has been inaugurated last year, its academic and research activities would increase thereby enabling other countries to collaborate with the Nalanda University.

2.114 Further, to ensure long-term financial sustainability, Nalanda University has a provision for the Endowment Committee with an intention for developing a fundraising strategy that includes attracting philanthropic donations, corporate sponsorships, and support from global foundations.

2.115 The Committee wanted to know the progress made as well as challenges faced in construction of Nalanda University. The Ministry stated that The Nalanda University's state-of-the-art NET-ZERO sustainable green campus was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 19 June, 2024. Spanning about 455 acres, the campus encompasses approximately 200 buildings and structures, catering to academic, administrative, residential, and recreational needs. It has a total built-up area of over 20 lakh square feet, including academic blocks, administrative offices, amenities, utilities, student hostels, and staff residences. Designed with sustainability at its core,

the campus features a 6.5 MW (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) farm, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connection, and advanced energy management systems, such as a demand-side energy optimization system and Building Management System (BMS). Water management utilizes the indigenous *Ahar-Pyne* method, complemented by a comprehensive waste management system.

2.116 The site development includes 12.5 kilometers of internal roads, 8.3 kilometers of boundary walls, 4.5 kilometers of stormwater drains, and 40 hectares (100 acres) of waterbodies. Extensive landscaping and horticulture further enhance the campus environment. The campus is fully furnished and equipped with modern utilities, ensuring readiness for academic and operational use.

2.117 However, the project faced several significant challenges. Being located in Rajgir, Bihar, a remote and predominantly agricultural area with limited infrastructure, posed logistical and operational difficulties. The construction of the NET-ZERO campus required highly skilled manpower, which was not readily available locally. Skilled professionals had to be mobilized from various parts of India. Additionally, the procurement and transportation of high-quality construction materials to this remote location were complex and time-consuming.

2.118 The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2022 further exacerbated these challenges. Despite the Government of India granting a six-month blanket extension for ongoing projects under force majeure provisions, the pandemic caused severe disruptions during its three waves. These included supply chain disruptions, reverse migration of laborers, and cross-border movement restrictions, leading to unavoidable delays and a time overrun. Despite these challenges, Nalanda University has undertaken the construction of its campus.

2.119 In accordance with the approved plans, the construction work of Nalanda University is nearing completion. The University has successfully achieved its goal of establishing a net-zero sustainable campus.

2.120 On being asked, the Ministry apprised the Committee about the current academic and research collaborations between Nalanda University and other global institutions. The University has 6 (Six) Schools, 3 Centers and over 30 programmes including 8 Masters and Doctoral degree programmes. The details are at **Annexure VI**.

2.121 As the nodal institution of the ASEAN-India University Network (AINU), Nalanda University facilitates structured academic exchanges and faculty programs with institutions from countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Laos. These collaborations help in promoting sustained academic engagement within the region, furthering India's educational outreach. Additionally, the university has entered into bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with institutions in various countries, including Spain, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Bangladesh, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, and the United States. These MOUs support joint research initiatives, academic exchanges, and collaborations that align with India's goal to expand its educational footprint internationally.

2.122 Nalanda University is also strengthening its regional influence through the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies, which focuses on research related to transnational issues and cooperation in the Bay of Bengal area. This initiative serves as a hub for dialogue on regional challenges and promotes deeper collaboration between India and its neighboring countries.

2.123 In addition, Nalanda University is set to host the Higher Education Summit of Heads of Institutions of East Asia Summit countries in October 2025, creating a forum for educational policy discussions and academic collaborations. This event will enhance India's role in shaping educational diplomacy and fostering deeper ties with East Asia. In all these initiatives, the Ministry and our concerned diplomatic missions abroad are actively supporting the activities and initiatives of the University to strengthen its academic and research collaborations with reputed Universities and research institutions abroad.

2.124 List of MoUs/Agreements of Nalanda University for educational and research collaboration is at **Annexure VII**

2.125 Over the question of how Nalanda University fit into India's broader foreign policy strategy, the Ministry stated that Nalanda University aligns with India's foreign policy strategy by serving as a platform for regional cooperation, educational diplomacy, and enhancing global influence. The revival of Nalanda, with its historical significance as a center of knowledge, contributes to India's efforts to rebuild connections with neighboring countries and the wider international community. The university's role is particularly relevant to India's Act East Policy, which focuses on strengthening ties with ASEAN countries and the Indo-Pacific region. Through

initiatives like the ASEAN-India University Network, Nalanda University facilitates academic collaboration and fosters deeper relationships between India and ASEAN nations. The university also provides a space for students from different countries, encouraging cross-cultural exchanges that contribute to regional integration and cooperation. These actions support India's diplomatic goals of promoting stability and shared growth in the region.

2.126 Nalanda University also contributes to India's global outreach by offering training and educational opportunities that promote understanding across borders. By engaging with a diverse range of countries, including those in the Global South, the university helps advance India's objectives of building international relationships and increasing its influence in global discussions.

2.127 The university's work in revitalizing historical connections and focusing on shared heritage further supports India's diplomatic goals of regional cooperation and international partnership. Through these educational and collaborative efforts, Nalanda University plays a significant role in advancing India's foreign policy strategy and its broader goals of global engagement.

**2.128 The Committee express their deep concern regarding the slow progress in the establishment and operationalization of the South Asian University (SAU), which is a flagship initiative under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Though India is committed to covering 100% of the capital expenditure of SAU, the operational budget is supposed to be contributed by all the member countries. However, several SAARC member states have been unable to meet their financial obligations despite repeated efforts and follow-ups by both SAU and the Indian Government resulting in SAU's operational budget becoming heavily dependent on India's contribution, which currently stands at 57.49%. This disproportionate financial burden is especially disconcerting and the continued non-payment of dues by other member states without adequate justification has led to a growing financial imbalance. This, not only undermines the university's capacity to expand its academic programmes, improve infrastructure, and offer scholarships but also threatens to derail its broader objective of fostering regional integration in providing quality education to the youth of South Asia. In light of these**

ongoing challenges, the Committee urge the Government to reconsider the operational structure of SAU. The Ministry should specifically explore the possibility of India assuming a principal role in both the administrative and academic management of the university, given its substantial financial contribution. India's leadership should be accompanied by an effort to streamline operations and ensure that the university's goals are met in a timely and efficient manner. As for the foreign member states, those countries that continue to make contributions to SAU should be granted representation on the advisory or governing board, in a manner that reflects their financial support.

*(Recommendation No.22)*

**2.129** The Committee acknowledge the steadfast commitment of the Government of India to reviving the ancient seat of learning through the establishment of Nalanda University under the Nalanda University Act, 2010. However, despite substantial budgetary allocations and the completion of a state-of-the-art Net-Zero sustainable green campus spanning 455 acres, the delays and operational challenges have hindered the University's full operationalization. Although the campus was inaugurated in June 2024, delays caused by logistical bottlenecks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shortage of skilled manpower has resulted in significant time and cost overruns.

While recognizing the progress made by Nalanda University in terms of infrastructure, academic programmes and regional collaborations, the Committee express their concern regarding its financial sustainability and global academic standing. Despite its mandate under the East Asia Summit framework to function as a collaborative global enterprise, financial support from member states and international donors has been sporadic and inadequate. The Committee also note that while Nalanda University has entered into several bilateral agreements, its global academic presence remains underdeveloped. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry should adopt a more proactive approach in urging member states to honor their financial commitments, while diversifying funding sources through philanthropic donations, corporate sponsorships, and endowments. Furthermore, to strengthen its position as a centre of global academic excellence, the university must accelerate its research output, particularly



**in emerging fields such as climate change, sustainable development, and digital transformation.**

***(Recommendation No.23)***

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

Development cooperation is a key instrument in India's foreign policy. The scope and reach of India's development cooperation has seen considerable expansion in the past few years which includes grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LoC), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses which have been growing consistently encompassing the geographical reach and sectoral coverage. Developmental cooperation with the partner countries is mainly being executed through instruments such as grant assistance, LoC and Concessional Financing Scheme.

3.2 India's development partnership is based on the needs of the partner countries and is geared towards responding to as many requests received from these countries as technically and financially feasible. The main instruments of India's development assistance include Lines-of-Credit, High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs), Technical Consultancy, disaster relief and humanitarian aid, as well as capacity-building programmes for civilian and military training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). The focus of development assistance has been the countries in India's neighbourhood, CIS and Africa, though India is also expanding its development assistance reach to South East Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Pacific Island Countries.

3.3 The major budget head '3605' on 'Technical and Economic Cooperation with Other Countries' caters to India's aid and assistance programmes not only in India's immediate and extended neighborhood, but also to the countries in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Indo-Pacific region. It also provides for Aid for Disaster Relief, ITEC Programme, SAARC Programme, Multilateral Economic Relation Programme, Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme, Aid for Cultural and Heritage Projects, Indo-Pacific Cooperation, QUAD Cooperation and Aid to TECH Infrastructure Projects. Aid programmes are influenced by the dynamics of India's national interest, diplomatic engagements and political relations as also by dependency on the pace of implementation of agreed projects by host beneficiary government's readiness, local security and climatic factors as well.

3.4 The table below illustrates the details of the aid and loans under the various sub-heads:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Country	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
1.	Bangladesh	120.00	120.00	120.00
2.	Bhutan (Grant)	1078.86	1637.78	1775.00
3.	Nepal	700.00	700.00	700.00
4.	Sri Lanka	245.00	300.00	300.00
5.	Maldives	400.00	470.00	600.00
6.	Myanmar	400.00	400.00	350.00
7.	Other Developing Countries	125.00	125.00	150.00
8.	Disaster Relief	10.00	60.00	64.00
9.	ITEC	160.00	180.00	180.00
10.	SAARC Programme	5.00	5.00	5.00
11.	African countries	200.00	200.00	225.00
12.	Multilateral Economic Relations Programmes	10.00	10.00	10.00
13.	Investment Promotion& Publicity	539.00	1000.53	980.00
14.	Eurasian Countries	20.00	30.00	40.00
15.	Afghanistan	200.00	50.00	100.00
16.	Latin America	30.00	90.00	60.00
17.	Indo-Pacific Cooperation	50.00	50.00	50.00
18.	Mongolia	5.00	5.00	5.00
19.	Chabahar Port	100.00	100.00	100.00
20.	Mauritius	370.00	576.00	500.00
21.	Seychelles	40.00	37.00	19.00
22.	Aid for Cultural and Heritage Projects	15.00	15.00	20.00
23.	Quad Cooperation	5.00	5.00	12.00
24.	Aid to Tech Infrastructure Projects	0.00	10.00	10.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4677.86</b>	<b>6212.31</b>	<b>6375.00</b>

3.5 In addition to the above grants to various countries, etc., a loan of Rs. 375.00 crore was extended to the Government of Bhutan under Capital Section Major Head '7605' - 'Advances to Foreign Governments'. Thus, in FY 2025-26, a total outlay of Rs. 2150.00 crores has been made for Bhutan.

3.6 The percentage of MEA's total budget outlay earmarked under the head 'Technical and Economic Cooperation' during the past three years, year-wise is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

<b>FY</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>Technical and Economic Cooperation</b>	<b>% of BE</b>
2022-23	17250.00	6043.77	35.04
2023-24	18050.00	5080.24	28.15
2024-25	22154.67	4677.86	21.11
2025-26	20516.61	6375.00	31.07

### **Aid and Assistance to Other Countries**

3.7 The details of budgetary demands made, actual allocations given and utilization under this Head to various countries during past three years are given below:

<b>Country</b>	<b>FY 2022-23</b>			<b>FY 2023-24</b>			<b>FY 2024-25</b>			
	<b>Demand</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Demand</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Demand</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>Actuals*</b>	
Bangladesh	275.05	300.00	133.88	300.00	200.00	157.63	200.00	120.00	52.06	
Bhutan (Grant)	1685.36	1560.01	1763.11	1469.53	1632.24	720.03	1573.58	1078.86	1019.74	
Nepal	1179.34	750.00	434.27	1000.00	550.00	657.38	850.00	700.00	370.70	
Sri Lanka	661.00	200.00	126.04	200.00	150.00	119.37	200.00	245.00	253.23	
Maldives	500.00	360.00	183.17	600.00	400.00	832.83	950.00	400.00	321.84	
Myanmar	800.00	600.00	454.62	500.00	400.00	352.96	600.00	250.00	296.53	
Other Developing Countries	104.00	150.00	89.99	210.00	150.00	112.85	130.00	125.00	69.24	
Disaster Relief	20.00	10.00	1.60	10.00	5.00	41.18	10.00	10.00	27.88	
ITEC	170.00	167.70	129.93	200.00	150.00	173.56	180.00	160.00	135.50	
SAARC Programme	6.00	6.00	2.63	6.00	6.00	0.90	5.00	5.00	1.08	

African countries	450.00	250.00	153.31	300.00	250.00	184.77	250.00	200.00	181.14	
Multilateral Economic Relations Programme	14.10	14.00	8.26	14.00	10.00	8.60	10.00	10.00	0	
Investment Promotion & Publicity	210.07	210.00	283.39	600.00	229.21	900.00	800.00	539.00	773.37	
Eurasian Countries	181.00	140.00	54.75	130.00	75.00	28.75	30.00	20.00	22.22	
Latin America	54.92	40.00	2.79	26.00	50.00	51.13	25.00	30.00	88.87	
Afghanistan	220.03	200.00	279.37	300.00	200.00	207.26	270.00	200.00	37.73	
Mongolia	30.00	12.00	0	36.00	7.00	3.50	9.00	5.00	6.44	
Chahbahar Port	100.00	100.00	100.00	150.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Mauritius	1070.00	900.00	568.08	900.00	460.79	358.88	660.00	370.00	354.93	
Seychelles	14.15	14.06	6.05	12.90	10.00	6.18	15.00	40.00	28.83	
Indo-Pacific Co-operation	93.57	50.00	55.54	70.00	40.00	48.83	50.00	50.00	45.25	
Aid for Cultural and Heritage Projects	12.00	10.00	9.24	10.00	5.00	7.98	15.00	15.00	7.99	
Quad Co-operation	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	5.00	0	
Aid to Tech Infrastructure	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	1.	

\* Expenditure till Jan 2025

3.8 Describing the parameters for allocation of Budget under this head, the Ministry stated that its anticipation of expenditure progress in a given fiscal year is regularly assessed, which

makes budgetary demand and allocation a dynamic process. Instruments for re-appropriating money, such as Supplementary requests, permit re-prioritization and re-allocation of funds in order to allocate budgetary resources fully and effectively. Therefore, funding provided to the Ministry reflects a fair evaluation of our current international obligations, predicted spending growth, and realistic assessment of requirements for that year. The quarterly budgetary and spending evaluations put in place by the Ministry in the form of Quarterly Budget Management Meetings reinforce the beneficial reallocation of budgetary distribution with a preference towards the Ministry's development partnership portfolio.

3.9 On being asked the factor distinguishing India's technical and economic cooperation programs from those of other major donor countries, the Ministry stated that India's relations with its neighbours stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries. The Government of India has a well-articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First' with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. The Government of India attaches high priority to our relationship with our neighbouring countries. These engagements cover a wide canvas of subjects like projects on greater connectivity, improved infrastructure, strong cooperation in sectoral areas (like education, culture, trade & investments, defence and security) and broader people-to-people contacts. India's development partnerships are now maturing into new areas of focus such as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and healthcare, public transport, renewable energy, small and medium enterprises, among other areas, based on the priorities of the partner countries involved. Our development partnership model is consultative and beneficiary driven. Adequate budgetary provision is done under international scheme heads based on realistic assessment of ongoing projects as well as new commitments.

3.10 The details of foreign aid budgets for FY 2025-26 in respect of India and other emerging economies in Asia, as per available information, are indicated below:

Country	Foreign Aid Budget	%age of Overall Budget of MEA/MFA
India	Rs. 6750 crore	33% [of Rs. 20,516 crore]

Singapore	SGD 36.60 million (approx.Rs. 237.3 crores as per prevailing exchange rate)	6.1% [of SGD 597.77 million (approx.Rs. 3876.5 crores as per prevailing exchange rate)]
Indonesia	USD 2.6 million (approx. Rs. 22.62 crore as per prevailing exchange rate)	NA  International aid is disbursed by Indonesia's International Development Cooperation Agency also known as Indonesian AID.
China	Official data for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is not available at this point in time. China's State Council Information Office released a White Paper (January 2021) titled "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era", which mentions that from 2013 to 2018, China had allocated a total of RMB270.2 billion (~USD 37.10 billion or approx. Rs. 3.23 lakh crore as per prevailing exchange rate) for foreign assistance in three categories – grants (RMB127.8 billion), interest-free loans (RMB11.3 billion), and concessional loans (RMB131.1 billion).	
Japan	As per Japan's 'White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023', Japan's total Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2022 was approximately US\$ 17,499.94 million (Rs. 1.5 lakh crore approx.)	

3.11 The list of ongoing as well as completed flagship Projects by MEA during the last five years is provided at **Annexure VIII**.

3.12 When asked about the long-term objectives of India's foreign aid strategy, and how does the 2025-26 budget allocation contribute to these goals, the Ministry responded that furtherance of bilateral relations along with strengthening bonds of friendship, respect and mutual trust between India and partner countries underlies Indian financial aid and assistance programmes abroad. These reaffirm the strong ties that exist between India and the host country where the programmes are implemented and enhances India's visibility globally, the relationship on ground with an increased people-to-people connect and overall appreciation of the work rendered by Government of India.

3.13 Further, India's approach to development is human-centric and is marked by respect, diversity, and care for the future, and sustainable development. India's approach towards developmental partnerships has also been comprehensive, offering assistance while sharing India's own developmental experience in the full spectrum of activities, ranging from creation of

infrastructure to building capacities to education, healthcare, agriculture and community development.

3.14 The 2025-26 budget allocation is aligned with the above long-term objectives of India's foreign aid strategy. For BE 2025-26, the allocation towards MEA's schemes – *i.e.* our overseas development partnership portfolio – is Rs. 6750 crores, comprising 33% of our overall budget. This is an increase of about 20% (*i.e.* Rs. 1082 crores) over the previous year's allocation of Rs. 5667 crores, which is in alignment with India's foreign policy objectives as well as the Hon'ble Committee's recommendation to aim for 20% annual increase in budget.

3.15 Spelling out the ways in which India's aid programme aims to strengthen people to people ties, cultural exchanges and bilateral relations with recipient countries the Ministry stated that India's aid programme whether it be through concessional loans, grant-in-aid projects, capacity building and scholarships, heritage conservation, among other interventions has been undertaken keeping all stakeholders on Indian and host country side, involved and invested in any such project. Indian aid projects, conceived and implemented with the cooperation of recipient or partner countries, are a visible instrument for furthering people-to-people ties (such as through railway linkages and integrated checkposts, etc.); cultural exchanges (such as through scholarships and construction of cultural centres, etc); and overall bode well for the bilateral relationship.

3.16 India's aid programmes are aimed at enhancing the developmental needs of partner countries, which invariably makes an impact on livelihood of and socio-economic profile of common people. Notable among them is the Government of India funded High Impact Community Development Projects, which are smaller in scale but people-oriented projects that are implemented mainly in areas of rural infrastructure such as drinking water supply networks, irrigation canals, farm roads, basic health units across social, economic and cultural sphere in friendly neighbouring countries. Being short gestation projects, these are delivered faster and spread across various parts of the recipient countries that directly impact the people at grassroots levels thereby generating significant good will for India and contributing towards deepening of people-to-people ties.



3.17 India has also been extending several capacity building initiatives through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) for civilian and defence officials, and customized training programme for various government officials from friendly foreign countries thereby contributing towards human resource development in these countries.

3.18 When enquired about the plan to evaluate the impact of our development partnership over the years, the Ministry submitted that the Government of India's developmental initiatives have had a positive impact on the overall bilateral relationship in diverse ways – the diplomatic impact is visible through enhanced interactions and exchanges with the concerned partner country, including repeated requests and even similar requests from other partner countries. From an economic perspective, projects are evaluated from the prism of the economic benefits that would accrue to India and the concerned partner country. For eg, the concessional Govt of India Lines of Credit are executed through Indian companies and these projects open up markets for Indian project exports. For further improvement in the execution of development partnership portfolio, Ministry has engaged a professional Project Management Unit in-house to further strengthen project appraisal and monitoring mechanism. An online dashboard system has been operational which has details of all our development projects abroad.

3.19 Regarding steps being taken by the Ministry to publicize our international aid projects and its impact in host country as well as in India, the Ministry informed that the XPD Division has taken several measures to increase visibility of India's aid programs among domestic and global audiences.

- a) Social media engagements: XPD Division amplifies information related to the progress of aid programs in other countries, through Ministry's social media platforms - X, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The Division also gives due visibility to the posts from Indian Missions and Posts by reposting, resharing, retweeting among others. The Division amplifies news reporting and content, related to India's aid programs, from private media, freelancers, influencers, experts on its social media platforms. The Division utilizes several modern tools such as infographics, stories, highlights, reels among others to ensure larger appeal and visibility of India's programs. In extraordinary situations like HADR operations, the Division provides regular updates of efforts by other Government of India agencies such as NDRF, Indian Army, Indian Air Force among others.

- b) **Engaging Influencers:** The Division engaged more than 80 social media content-creators/influencers, from 19 countries for familiarization visits, and were exposed to different facets of Indian foreign policy, including visibility of India's aid programs through interactions with senior officials of the MEA. Additionally, interactions with organizations such as CDRI, ISA, IFC-IOR, RIS, FICCI, PSUs among others, also provide them an opportunity to gain insights on India's aid and developmental assistance to other countries. During and after the visit, participants create posts, reels, stories, blogs etc. on social media platforms to share their experiences and learnings with their audiences and followers. XPD Division remains in continuous touch with the alumni of such visits for amplification of specific posts and more visibility of India related content, including those related to India's aid programs.
- c) **Dissemination of information among regional press:** XP Division disseminates information on India's foreign policy initiatives, including aid programs to over 100 regional/vernacular media outlets in a time bound manner. Such information is translated into almost 12 regional languages before dissemination. Besides, the Division also gets stories on aid programs written and placed in regional media, with special focus on tier 2 and tier 3 cities.
- d) **Short films and documentaries:** XPD Division commissions short films and documentaries for dissemination of information among Indian and global audiences about Indian art, culture, economy, and various aspects of Indian foreign policy.

Further, in the past year, the Division commissioned short films on India-BIMSTEC, India & Africa, 'Nalanda University', 'Restoration of temples in Vat Phou' and 'Restoration of temples in ASEAN countries', which also covers India's aid programs in these regions. The Division has commissioned a documentary "India and Global South" highlighting India's developmental partnership with countries of Global South. The documentary will cover information on India's people centric projects and their impacts in more than 25 countries in India's neighborhood and around the globe.

3.20 Elaborating on this aspect during the course of evidence meeting on 27 February 2025, the Foreign Secretary stated :

"An observation had been made by an hon. Member on a previous occasion as to how we ensure that the fruit of these projects is publicized or made known in the recipient countries. We have paid due attention to this, and we intend to work with our External Publicity Division to ensure that once projects are completed, there are publicity activities that are undertaken that bring forward the impact and value of these projects in the local communities where they are executed. We also work closely to involve and engage host Governments and other stakeholders in all aspects of projects to manage challenges, and also to stick to our philosophy of demand-driven development activities rather than supply-driven approaches. I would like to say, Sir, that India is recognized by fellow developing countries, not just for our willingness and readiness to provide

assistance, but also for our ability to provide high-quality technical and financial assistance for these projects.”

3.21 To the Committee’s specific query about the manner in which India aligns its technical and economic cooperation programs with its broader foreign policy objectives and its contribution to strengthening bilateral relations, promoting regional stability, or enhancing India’s global standing, the Ministry submitted that India’s international development cooperation has expanded significantly in the recent years in its geographical reach as well as in the areas of cooperation. Most of India’s significant development partnerships are with neighbouring countries, given the focus on the 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies, creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. Government has accorded special significance to our foreign policy and diplomatic outreach. Revitalizing traditional ties, re-setting strategic relations and reaching out to Indians abroad have been primary to India’s diplomatic efforts.

3.22 Also, adequate budgetary provision is done under international scheme heads based on realistic assessment of ongoing projects as well as new commitments. Our longstanding development cooperation with partner countries is based on consultative model of cooperation, demand based, sharing of development experiences and is focused on addressing the priorities and needs of the countries. Government’s budgetary allocations to partner countries depends on factors including status of implementation of various ongoing projects and requirement of financial assistance. Thus, technical and economic cooperation programs reflect the close partnership we share since spending is tailored to suit the partner country’s national priorities.

3.23 As regards the challenges faced in implementation of development partnership in other countries, the Ministry has stated that implementation of large infrastructure projects is a challenging task irrespective of their location. The challenges are further increased when such projects are undertaken abroad. The nature of challenges varies from country to country depending upon the special circumstances under which the project is to operate. Some common issues faced during project execution or implementation include non-availability of encumbrance-free site, difficulties in land acquisition, Right of Way issues, contractual issues, delays in environmental impact assessments, etc. Apart from these, other major challenges

include the changing politico-security situation in countries abroad which renders changed priority accorded to the project and its smooth implementation as difficult.

3.24 Regarding the measures taken to overcome these challenges, the Ministry has stated that it has been India's endeavour to put in place a robust mechanism for handling all aspects of project implementation, including project formulation, appraisal, execution, monitoring, review and evaluation, so that challenges facing projects are approached in a systematic and organized manner. Priority is given to the efforts to closely involve and engage the host beneficiary government and other stakeholders in all aspects of the project to manage the challenges in nascent stage and alleviate their impact.

3.25 Underlying the challenges faced in execution of aid projects abroad, the Foreign Secretary made the following submission before the Committee:

“.... the nature of challenges varies from country to country. Some of the common issues include difficulty in applying Indian procurement rules in foreign commercial and legal ecosystems, the non-availability of encumbrance-free sites, difficulties in land acquisition, right of way issues, contractual issues, delays in environmental impact assessments, etc. Some of these latter difficulties, I think, would be very familiar to hon. Members here, because we encounter these in a domestic context as well, and many domestic projects are delayed on account of this. So, it is only natural that when we encounter similar challenges in our neighbouring countries, they do also end up delaying project execution there.

In addition, Sir, the changing political security situation in countries abroad, and a case in point being Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, etc., do again contribute to the unique set of challenges that we face in our budget utilization capacity. So, it is not the kind of thing that a normal institution or a normal Ministry would have where these kinds of issues would not confront them”.

**3.26 The Committee acknowledge the significant role that development cooperation plays in India's foreign policy and the expanding scope of India's development assistance across various regions, including its immediate neighborhood, Africa, South East Asia, and beyond. The allocation under the overseas development partnership portfolio for the financial year 2025-26, which amounts to Rs. 6,750 crores, constitutes 33% of the overall budget of MEA. This increase of approximately 20% over the previous year's allocation is in alignment with India's foreign policy objectives and responds to the growing demands of**

partner countries for developmental assistance. The Committee recognize that this enhanced allocation is a step towards meeting India's global aspirations and fulfilling its international obligations, especially in areas like infrastructure development, capacity building, and people-to-people ties. Emphasizing the growing scope and complexity of India's development assistance, the Committee recommends that the allocation for this Head be consistently increased, as per the trajectory set by the current fiscal year's increase, to maintain and further enhance India's developmental partnerships. This increase should not only account for expanding global engagements but also cater to the rising demand for projects in emerging regions such as Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific.

*(Recommendation No 24)*

**3.27** The Committee commend the Ministry of External Affairs for its efforts to implement and monitor its development cooperation projects effectively. The creation of a dedicated Project Management Unit, the establishment of an online dashboard system for tracking project progress, and the active involvement of both Indian and host country stakeholders in project implementation are all positive steps in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of India's development assistance. However, the Committee emphasize the need for more robust and transparent monitoring mechanisms to ensure the optimal utilization of resources and timely execution of projects. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework for all ongoing and upcoming development projects.

*(Recommendation No.25)*

**3.28** The Committee understand that implementation of development projects abroad is a challenging task with the nature of challenges varying from country to country, especially with the changing politico-security situation. Recognizing that the impact of such challenges can best be managed or minimized, the Committee urge the Ministry to evolve robust institutional mechanisms at the earliest so that the challenges faced in project execution abroad are managed in a systematic and organized manner.

*(Recommendation No.26)*

**3.29 The Committee find that there is lack of information in public domain which provides a comprehensive visibility on all the grants/LoCs extended, projects undertaken or the capabilities developed abroad by India despite having completed several significant development partnership projects in various countries, especially in neighbouring countries. Though the External Publicity Division of the Ministry is using social media, influencers, regional press, reels, films and documentaries for dissemination of information among Indian and global audiences about various aspects of India's foreign policy, art, culture, economy, etc., it is felt that not enough is being done to amplify the information specifically on India's aid programmes either in the recipient communities or in India. Since India's people-oriented aid programmes in other countries are seen to impact the people at grassroots levels generating significant goodwill for India, the Committee feel the need to leverage the same into deep people-to-people ties through awareness generation about India's contributions. In this context, the Committee recommend that the Ministry publicize our international aid projects and their impact in host countries as well as in India so that the visibility of India's aid programmes is increased among domestic and global audiences. Once projects are completed, publicity activities may be undertaken to bring forward the impact and value of these projects in the local communities where they are executed.**

*(Recommendation No.27)*

**a) Aid to Bangladesh**

**3.30 The budgetary allocation made under the sub-head 'Aid to Bangladesh' has been kept constant at Rs. 120 crores for past two fiscal years. Enumerating the reasons for constant allocation, the Ministry has stated that the Budget allocation remains unchanged for FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 primarily due to political and security related disturbance during these years. In FY 2022-23, projections for FY 2023-24 were made considering potential disruptions on account of general elections in Bangladesh scheduled for late 2023 to early 2024. Similarly, due to lag in project implementation during 2023-24, the projections for FY 2024-25 were kept moderate in order to focus towards completing then ongoing projects. Notably, during second half of 2023, Bangladesh entered into a phase of preparation for General election, which were held in Jan 2024, and the entire period of political campaigning was marked by political and security related**

disturbances. In July-August 2024, these were severe political disturbances again which led to disruption in work. Hence, for major part of these years, local conditions and delay in execution of committed projects did not permit taking up of new projects, keeping the budget allocation unchanged.

3.31 When asked about the projects along with timelines that will be initiated or completed in Bangladesh during 2025-26, the Ministry has stated that no new HICDPs are expected to be initiated in 2025-26 as the political and security situation remains disturbed. Only two HICDPs are expected to be completed during 2025-26:

Sl. No.	Name of HICDP	Timeline for Completion
1	Supply of ICT equipment, courseware & reference books and training for Bangladesh-Bharat Digital Service and Employment Training (BDSET) Centre Project Cost – 24.37 crore	The project will be completed by May 2025
2	Construction of G+4 Storied Multipurpose Building for the Academy for A Better World, a Branch of Brahmakumaris at Ananda Kanon, Saner Bari, Palash, Narsingdi, Dhaka Project Cost- 12.14 crore	The project will be completed by May 2025

3.32 Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project: Due to delay in approval of variation by Bangladesh Railways (BR) and payment to the contractor could not be made in 2023-24. Further funds demand in BE 2024-25 for the project has been reduced due to variations in Contract amount from Rs. 185 Cr to Rs. 165 Cr (variation under approval with Bangladesh Railway). The Akhaura Agartala Rail Link Project has been completed and cross-country trial run with BR Locomotive and wagons has been successfully conducted on 30.10.2023. Also, the Project has been inaugurated by both countries' Prime Minister's jointly on 01.11.2023. Rs. 25 Cr. is anticipated in FY 2025-26 on the project.

3.33 The Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project was initiated to provide better connectivity between India and Bangladesh. In their Demands for Grants Reports, the Committee have been firmly recommending that this project should be expedited without any delay and adequate funds should be allocated for the same. Apprising the Committee about the present status of this

project, the Ministry stated that the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project has achieved 100% physical progress and is currently in the Defect Liability Period, which will end on 30 June 2025. GoB has recently processed the case for extension of project validity till 30 June 2025, and made adequate provisioning in their ongoing FY (till June 2025) to help the project attain financial closure. It is expected that all remaining bills pertaining to this project can be disbursed by April 2025, and with that the project could also be financially completed. The process of formal handing over of project assets to GoB is also under way. A successful trial run in Bangladesh portion has been conducted on 14.09.2023 and cross country run from Gangasagar (Bangladesh) to Nischintpur (India) has been held on 30.10.2023. The project was jointly inaugurated by both PMs on 1st November, 2023. The project is technically completed on 30.06.2024.

3.34 While tendering evidence before the Committee on 27 February 2025, the Foreign Secretary submitted as under:

“In Bangladesh, it is a specific case. The severe political and security disturbances in that country in recent months have led to delay in execution of committed projects. But the situation also warrants a consultative approach before undertaking new project commitments. And therefore, we have kept the budget allocation unchanged at Rs. 120 crores. The pace of our projects has been affected somewhat by the conditions obtaining in Bangladesh. But we remain committed to completing our ongoing development projects, which include HICDPs, the Akhaura–Agartala rail link project, and the dredging of inland waters of the Jamuna and Kushiara Rivers. We remain in touch with authorities in Bangladesh to take forward these projects.”

**3.35 The Committee note that no new High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) are expected to be initiated in 2025-26 as the political and security situation in Bangladesh remains disturbed, however, two HICDPs are expected to be completed by May of the current year. The Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project initiated to provide better connectivity between India and Bangladesh has achieved 100% physical progress and is currently in the Defect Liability Period. Government of Bangladesh has recently processed the case for extension of project validity till 30 June 2025, and made adequate provisioning in their ongoing FY (till June 2025) to help the project attain financial closure. The Committee expect that these projects, as well as the ongoing work of dredging inland waters of the Jamuna and Kushiara Rivers, would be completed as per schedule. Active coordination with Government of Bangladesh should be maintained to insulate such**



projects from the political and security related challenges and the feasibility of taking up new projects too may be explored along with additional budgetary provision at the RE stage.

*(Recommendation No.28)*

**b) Aid to Bhutan**

3.36 Government of India's aid and assistance programmes in Bhutan are currently covered under both Revenue and Capital Heads with Grants coming under Revenue and Loans coming under Capital sections of the budget.

<b>Budget Head: 3605 - Aid to Bhutan (Grant)</b>			
Financial Year	BE (in Cr.)	RE (in Cr.)	Actual Expenditure (in Cr.)
2021-22	2124.20	1274.64	1203.15
2022-23	1560.01	1779.28	1763.11
2023-24	1632.24	784.61	720.18
2024-25	1078.86 crore		
<b>Budget Head: 7605 - Loans to Bhutan</b>			
2021-22	880.75	480.59	443.43
2022-23	706.23	720.87	704.20
2023-24	768.34	1614.36	1611.99
2024-25	989.70		
2025-26			

3.37 The funds under the Grants head are utilized for various development projects including hydroelectric power projects, development subsidy to Bhutan, subsidy to Power Grid Corporation of India for drawal of power from Chukha hydroelectric project, payment to IOC for supply of kerosene oil and liquefied petroleum gas to Bhutan at a subsidized price, excise duty refund to Bhutan, projects/schemes under Project Tied Assistance framework, scholarships to Bhutanese students in various institutions in India etc.

3.38 As per BE 2025-26, for Bhutan, revenue allocation (Grant) is INR 1775 Crores whereas capital allocation (Loan) is INR 375 Crores. The loan to grant ratio is, therefore, calculated as 1:4.73.

3.39 Explaining the reason for enhanced allocation during BE 2025-26, the Ministry stated that India's development assistance to Bhutan is an important pillar of bilateral partnership. Over the past five decades since Bhutan's first plan commencing in 1961, India's development assistance and technical support has helped advance Bhutan's developmental parameters significantly, and the Kingdom graduated from Least Developed Country (LDC) to Middle-Income Country (MIC) status in December 2023. GoI has also provided financing support for construction of hydropower projects in a mix of loan and grant. For 2025-26, India's budgetary support for Bhutan is INR 2150 crores. It includes INR 1775 crores as Grant and INR 375 Crores as Loan to Bhutan. The Grant has increased by INR 101 crores (6%) compared to the RE 2024-25 allocation of INR 1673.78 crores, while the Loan has decreased by INR 495 Crores (57%) compared to the RE 2024-25 allocation.

3.40 With the ongoing shift in RGoB's development philosophy from 'Gross National Happiness' to 'High Income Economy', Bhutan aims to increase its GDP from around USD 3 billion currently to around USD 5 billion by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> FYP period (2024-2029). Accordingly, the total outlay for the 13th FYP has been set by Bhutan as INR/Nu. 51,228 Crore, a 63% increase from the 12th FYP (2018-2023). In July 2024, Bhutan commenced the 13<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. GoI's development support of INR 10,000 crores for the 13<sup>th</sup> FYP period as a percentage of RGoB's budgetary outlay is around 19.5%, an increase compared to 16.67% for the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP period. The development assistance is based on the priorities of Bhutan and underscores our unique partnership with Bhutan. The budget requirement is projected accordingly and has therefore increased to facilitate implementation of various projects and activities to be undertaken by RGoB in the 13<sup>th</sup> FYP period.

3.41 The Committee were keen to know details about various ongoing projects in Bhutan along with the fund's allocation for each project, timeframe for completion and the status of each Project. The Ministry stated that the 13th FYP of Bhutan commenced in July 2024. INR 10,000 Crores has been allocated by GoI for the 13th FYP period. Of this, INR 7,000 Ccores has been earmarked for Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, INR 1,000 crores for High Impact

Community Development Projects (HICDP), INR 1,500 crores for RGoB's Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and INR 500 Crores for Programme Grant.

3.42 The scope of PTA projects range from agriculture to irrigation, ICT, health, tertiary education, school education, scholarship, capacity development, human resources development, roads, energy, urban development, judiciary, constitutional offices, etc. Till date, 61 PTA projects worth INR 4957 Crores have been approved by both governments and have commenced implementation.

3.43 HICDPs are short-gestation projects mainly in areas such as drinking water supply networks, irrigation canals, farm roads, basic health units, and other rural infrastructure. Till date, 283 HICDP projects worth INR 417 Crores have been approved by both governments and have commenced implementation.

3.44 The Programme Grant (PG) component is a direct budgetary support to Bhutan. Till date, INR 50 Crores has been released for PG. ESP is a INR 1,500 crores programme designed to reinvigorate the economy through investments by RGoB in priority sectors. Till date, INR 750 crores has been released by GoI for ESP.

3.45 Details for the ongoing hydroelectric projects may be seen below:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Time-frame/ Project period</b>	<b>Funds allocated/ Approved amount (In Crores)</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>1.</b>	Punatsangchhu-I HEP (Loan-Head 7605) (Grant-Head 3605)	2008- till date (ongoing)	9375.58	Under implementation (Technical discussions are underway on way forward of the project)
<b>2.</b>	Punatsangchhu-II HEP (Loan-Head 7605) (Grant-Head 3605)	2010- till date (ongoing)	9445.684	Under implementation (2 units commissioned in December 2024. All 6 units expected to be commissioned by September 2025)

3.46 Hydro-electricity is central to Indian-Bhutan economic cooperation under the plan outlay. GoI has provided financing support in the form of grant and loan for construction of hydropower projects. GoI and RGoB till date have jointly constructed 4 major HEPs having a total installed capacity of 2136 MW and 2 HEPs (total capacity of 2220 MW) are ongoing, as per the details given below.

<b>Hydro-electric Projects in Bhutan built with GoI assistance</b>	<b>Status</b>
Chukha HEP (336 MW)	Commissioned in 1988
Tala HEP (1020 MW)	Commissioned in June 2006
Kurichhu HEP (60 MW)	Commissioned in Dec 2002
Mangdechhu HEP (720 MW)	Commissioned in August 2019
Punatsangchhu-I HEP (1200 MW)	Under implementation. (Technical discussions are underway on way forward of the project)
Punatsangchhu-II HEP (1020 MW)	Under implementation (2 units commissioned in December 2024. All 6 units expected to be commissioned by September 2025)

3.47 The Ministry also informed that for hydro-electric projects, built with GoI assistance in Bhutan as prescribed in the Inter-Governmental agreement, the whole amount of surplus power (after Bhutan's domestic consumption) is exported to India. Data of export of electricity to India for last three year as per the Ministry of Finance, RGoB is as follows.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports (MU)</b>	<b>Export Value (Cr)</b>
2022	7270	2247
2023	5072	1667
2024 (first three quarters)	3639	1275

3.48 The Committee note that Bhutan has again garnered the highest share from the external aid portfolio with an outlay of Rs. 2,150 crores in the budget for 2025-26. It includes a Grant component of Rs. 1775 crore and Rs. 375 crores as Loans. The Grant component has increased by Rs. 101 crore (6%) compared to the RE 2024-25 allocation of

**Rs. 1673.78 crore. Till date, 61 Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects worth Rs. 4957 crore and 283 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) worth Rs. 417 crores have been approved by both Governments and have commenced implementation. In respect of hydroelectric projects, technical discussions are underway for Punatsangchhu-I HEP while all the 6 units of Punatsangchhu-II HEP are expected to be commissioned by September 2025. The Committee urge for fruitful completion of the ongoing PTA projects and HICDPs at the earliest. Hydro-electricity being central to Indian-Bhutan economic cooperation under the plan outlay, all out efforts should be made to conclude the technical discussions for Punatsangchhu-I HEP so that the project is brought forward without further delay and Punatsangchhu-II HEP is fully commissioned as scheduled.**

*(Recommendation No.29)*

**c) Aid to Nepal**

3.49 Under the sub-head 'Aid to Nepal', budgetary allocation of Rs 700 crore has been provisioned for FY 2024-25 and 2025-26. The 'Aid to Nepal' Budget estimate for FY 2025-26 stands at Rs. 700 crore, covering India's Development Aid to Nepal in key sectors such as earthquake reconstruction and capacity building infrastructure, energy supply and related infrastructure, trade & connectivity, defence and community development. Broad breakup of the BE for next financial year, is as below:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>FY 2025-26 (in Cr)</b>	<b>Key Projects &amp; Allocations (FY 2025-26)</b>
Infrastructure & Reconstruction	300	Earthquake Reconstruction (Rs. 140 Cr), Nepal Police Academy (Rs.150 Cr), Embankments (Rs.10 Cr),
Energy Supply and related infrastructure	162	Siliguri-Jhapa Petroleum Pipeline (Rs. 127 Cr), Payment for energy supply to Nepal from Tanakpur HEP (Rs. 35 Cr),
Scholarship / Training	80	Scholarships (rs. 78 Cr) and ITEC courses (Rs. 2 Cr),
Trade & Connectivity	65	ICPs at Bhairahawa (Rs. 20 Cr) and Dodhara Chandini (Rs 30 Cr); Rail Connectivity (Rs 15 Cr -Jogbani - Biratnagar and Jayanagar Bardibas Rail

Sector	FY 2025-26 (in Cr)	Key Projects & Allocations (FY 2025-26)
		Links)
Community Development	35	High Impact Community Development Projects (Rs35 Cr- in sectors like Education, Health, Infrastructure, Sanitation & Water Supply, Culture & Heritage, Community Development, Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation)
Transport & Mobility	17	Supply of e-buses (Rs 17 Cr)
Disaster Relief and Response	15	Prefabricated Houses (Rs 5 Cr), Bailey Bridges remaining expense (Rs 7 Cr), Flood relief support (Rs 3 Cr)
Healthcare	11	Medicines supply (Rs 8 Cr) and Kidney Dialysis Machines (Rs 3 Cr)
Defence	10	Supply of Defence Stores (Rs 10 Cr)
Miscellaneous	5	High Level Visits, Publications, outreach programs etc.
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	

3.50 On the budgetary allocation and India's engagement with Nepal, the Foreign Secretary during the course of evidence on 27 February, 2025 stated:

“Nepal follows Bhutan as one of the largest aid heads, with an allocation of Rs. 700 crores for BE 2025-26. Our engagement with Nepal includes the development of ICPs, rail link projects, supply of defence stores, humanitarian and vaccine assistance, and the supply of dialysis machines and other medical equipment. India is also building Nepal's National Police Academy and is carrying out earthquake reconstruction projects in the areas of education, health and cultural heritage. It would be recalled, Sir, that in 2015, after the massive earthquake that hit Nepal, India had announced a grant of \$ 250 million to assist Nepal in a number of areas. That assistance is currently being completed and is in its final stages”.

3.51 The details of projects initiated/completed during last three financial years and in the current fiscal year is as under:

A) Large Projects

S. No.	Name of Project	Cost of project (INR	Physical progress	Financial progress	Expected timeline for completion	Remarks / Status
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		crores)			of project	
<b>Large projects (Initiated / completed during this period)</b>						
1.	National Police Academy	625.94	54.11%	37.12%	July, 2025	Initiated on 13.07.2022
2.	ICP Bhairahawa	161.76	62.5%	56.2%	May, 2025	Initiated on 26.05.2023
3.	Final Location Survey report for Raxaul Kathmandu Rail Link	30.44	100%	0%	-	Initiated in 2021
4.	ICP Nepalgunj	152.17	100%	100%	-	Completed in 2024.
5.	Gifting of Kidney Dialysis Machines to GoN	20.01	100%	100%	-	Completed in 2024.
6.	ICP DodharaChandani	359.9 (Cost as per DPR)	-	-	-	Process for selection of contract is ongoing.
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1350.22</b>				

**Other ongoing projects**

S. No.	Name of Project	Cost of project (INR crores)	Physical progress	Financial progress	Expected timeline for completion of project	Remarks / Status
<b>Large projects (Initiated before this period)</b>						
1.	Terai Roads Project	500	100%	99%	-	Ongoing
2.	Jayanagar-Bardibas rail link	548	74.86%	72%	Phase-III yet to start	Ongoing
3.	Jogbani - Biratnagar rail link	373.87	85.73%	89%	Phase-II yet to start	Ongoing
4.	Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic Institute,	39.31	46.08%	64%	Decision pending with Ministry	Ongoing

	Hetauda					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1461.18</b>				

## B) Reconstruction Projects

<b>Reconstruction projects</b>						
S. No.	Name of Project	Cost of project (INR crores)	Physical progress	Financial progress	Expected timeline for completion of project	Remarks / Status
1.	Reconstruction of 50,000 private houses in the <b>Housing</b> Sector	741.62 (Actual)	100%	103.93%	-	Completed in November 2021
2.	Reconstruction of 71 educational facilities in the <b>Education</b> Sector	434.75	100%	87%	-	Completed in January 2024
3.	Reconstruction of 133 health facilities in 11 districts of Nepal in <b>Health</b> Sector	434.75	90%	65%	September 2025	Project was started on 19.06.2020.  Current Status:  Completed and handed over: 50 Ready for handover: 43 Ongoing: 39 Yet to start: 1
4.	Reconstruction of 30 <b>cultural</b> heritage projects in the Cultural Heritage Sector	423.75	83%	34%	March 2026	Project was started on 12.12.2019.  <b>Current Status:</b>  Completed and handed over: 5 Ready for



						handover:9 Ongoing:12 Yet to start:4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2034.87</b>				

C) HICDP Projects

<b><u>F/Y 2024 - 2025 [Current Financial Year] as on 10.02.2025</u></b>				
1	Construction of Operation Theatre Building of Rapti Eye Hospital, Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan City, Dang	Dang	2,70,67,668	27.09.2024
2	Construction of School building of Shree Nepal Rastriya Secondary School Multi-Purpose Building, Dullu Municipality, Dailekh	Dailekh	2,44,14,428	
3	Construction of school building of Shree Panchayat Ma. Vi. School, Sundarharaicha, Municipality -07, Gothgaun, Morang	Morang	2,70,99,449	
4	Construction of Basepu-HuluKhanepaniAayojana (Water Supply Project), Sotang Rural Municipality -1 & 3, Solukhumbu District	Solukhumbu	1,14,12,237	
5	Construction of school building of Shree Swornantara Basic School, Toksel, Manebhanjyang Rural Municipality, Okhaldhunga	Okhaldhunga	2,73,47,115	
6	Construction of School building of Shree Rajya Laxmi Secondary School, Siddhicharan Municipality-5, Okhaldhunga	Okhaldhunga	2,73,54,583	

7	Construction of Bachhauli Secondary School, Ward No. 6, Ratnagar Municipality, Chitwan District	Chitwan	2,78,11,102
8	Construction of school building of Shree Janata Secondary School, Surunga Municipality-1, Saptari	Saptari	2,68,60,338
9	Construction of Arun Multipurpose Foundation Building, Arun Rural Municipality- 3, Bhojpur	Bhojpur	2,76,93,513
10	Construction of school building of Shree Tribhuvan Secondary School, Inaruwa Municipality-8, Dumraha, Sunsari	Sunsari	2,19,31,554
11	Construction of building for Agricluture Promotion Centre for Food Grain Collection and Distribution Centre at Muktikot, SwamikartikKhapar Rural Municipality, Bajura	Bajura	3,12,50,000
12	Construction of Health Post-Birthing Centre in Kuri-03, Khaniyabas Rural Municipality, Dhading	Dhading	1,57,17,464

**3.52 India's development aid to Nepal covers key sectors such as earthquake reconstruction and capacity building infrastructure, energy supply and related infrastructure, trade & connectivity, defence and community development. The Committee find that the assistance to Nepal in the wake of the massive earthquake is currently being completed and is in its final stages. Major ongoing projects include construction of National Police Academy, ICPs at Bhairahawa and Dodhara Chandani, Terai roads projects, Jayanagar-Bardibas rail link, Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link, Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic Institute, Hetauda, reconstruction of health facilities and cultural heritage projects, etc. The Committee express hope that the Ministry would adequately give**

attention to cyber-security, training and preparedness in neighbouring areas. Emphasizing the need to complete and operationalize all the ongoing projects within the specified timeframe and given in particular fraternal relationship that India seeks to maintain with our neighbour, the Committee urge for effective monitoring and oversight mechanism in the execution of such projects. The Committee hope that inadequate funds would not stand in the way of implementation of these projects and urge the Ministry to seek additional funds, if required, at the RE stage.

*(Recommendation No. 30)*

**d) Aid to Sri Lanka**

3.53 The budgetary allocation under 'Aid to Sri Lanka' for BE 2024-25 was Rs. 245.00 crore. It has been increased to Rs. 300.00 crore at the RE stage as well as BE 2025-26. On being asked about the reason for increased allocation under this head, the Ministry indicated that currently, India is implementing several projects such as Phase IV of Indian Housing Project, Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project, Floating Dock as well as Solar Electrification of Religious Places in Sri Lanka. In addition, several projects under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) framework are at various stages of implementation. These projects would require budgetary support for their continued implementation. Further, during the State Visit of President of Sri Lanka to India in December 2024, India announced its decision to extend grant assistance towards undertaking rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Port, provision of 22 diesel locomotives to Sri Lankan Railways, training of 1500 Sri Lankan civil servants over 5 years etc, which requires additional budgetary support to implement. It is in this context, Ministry has sought increased budgetary allocation for Sri Lanka.

3.54 The utilization of budget allocation for various projects in BE 2024-25 is given below:

S.No.	Name of the Project	Expenditure incurred in CFY (in INR Cr) as of 12.02.2025
1	Partial payment towards completed LoC Projects	<b>121.85</b>

2.	LoC of 100 Mn USD: Grant payment for DPR in respect of Solar Electrification of Religious places	<b>4.85</b>
3	Hybrid Power Project in 3 Island in Jaffna	<b>32.66</b>
4	Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) package (Teacher Training, Supply of School Bags and Note Books)	<b>2.00</b>
5	Training for Sri Lankan Police Personnel	<b>1.60</b>
6	VGF for Nagapattinam Port in respect of India Sri Lanka Ferry Service	<b>2.42</b>
7	Indian Housing Project Phase-IV	<b>0.97</b>
8	High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs)	<b>13.15</b>
9	Floating Dock	<b>41.35</b>
10	Training for Sri Lankan Defence Personnel/Debit Claim	<b>28.27</b>
11	ICCR Scholarship	<b>7.68</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>243.68</b>

3.55 When enquired about the various projects that have been initiated and completed during the last financial year, the Ministry stated that GoI has successfully completed and handed over Maritime Rescue and Coordination and Centre (MRCC) in Colombo, several houses under Phase III of Indian Housing Project as well as Surgical Unit of Batticaloa General Hospital under High Impact Community Development framework in Sri Lanka in the current Financial Year. Further, India has initiated the 3-Island Hybrid Power project, Development of Fishing harbour at Point Pedro, SL UDI Project, Jaffna Cultural Centre (maintenance), Solar Electrification of Religious Places and few HICDPs in the current Financial Year.

**3.56 The Committee note that the budgetary allocation under ‘Aid to Sri Lanka’ has been increased to Rs. 300.00 crores at RE 2024-25 as well as BE 2025-26 to cater to Phase IV of Indian Housing Project, Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project, Floating Dock and the Solar Electrification of Religious Places in Sri Lanka. Moreover, several projects under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) framework are at various stages of implementation and would require budgetary support for their continued implementation. India’s announcement to extend grant assistance towards undertaking rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Port, provision of 22 diesel locomotives to Sri Lankan Railways, training of 1500 Sri Lankan civil servants over 5 years, etc. further necessitated additional budgetary support for implementation. The Committee hope that inadequate**

**funds would not stand in the way of implementation of these projects and urge the Ministry to seek additional funds, if required, at the RE stage.**

*(Recommendation No. 31)*

**e) Aid to Maldives**

3.57 Under ‘Aid to Maldives’, an allocation of Rs. 400 crore was made during BE 2024-25 and the same was increased to Rs. 470.00 crore at the RE stage. The allocation has further been increased to Rs. 600.00 in the BE 2025-26.

3.58 Explaining the reason for increase in budgetary allocations under this Head during RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26, the Ministry stated that the ongoing Greater Male Connectivity Project and Ekatha Harbor project in Maldives accounts for major expenditure under ‘Aid to Maldives’ budget head. The projects are under various stages of implementation and accordingly, projections were made in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Ministry foresees a requirement of approx. INR 112 crore for Ekatha Harbour project and INR 40 crore for Greater Male Connectivity Project alone during remaining period of this FY. In FY 2025-2026, majority of the budgetary allocations made will cater for payment towards the Ekatha Harbour project and the Greater Male Connectivity Project.

3.59 Maldives has been an important maritime neighbour and it holds special place under India’s Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR. Accordingly, India has been extending necessary financial assistance to Maldives, as per its needs and priorities, to undertake several infrastructure and developmental works in Maldives.

3.60 On being asked to furnish a status note on the long-standing project regarding construction of Police Academy, the Ministry informed that Police Academy (NCPL) Project has been successfully completed and satisfactorily handed over (inaugurated by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar on 22 March 2022) to the Maldives Police Services on 31.03.2022. Furthermore, the defect liability period stands concluded on 30.04.2023. The project is complete.

**3.61 The budgetary allocation under ‘Aid to Maldives’ has been increased from Rs. 400 crores during BE 2024-25 to Rs. 600 crores in BE 2025-26. The major chunk of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 600 crores would cater for payment towards the Ekatha**

**Harbour project and the Greater Male Connectivity Project. The Committee appreciate the financial assistance extended by India for undertaking infrastructure and developmental works in Maldives and desire that the Government should continue to extend support - financial or technical, in view of the special place it holds under India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR.**

*(Recommendation No.32)*

**f) Aid to Myanmar**

3.62 An allocation of Rs.250.00 crore was made under this head during BE 2024-25. However, the allocation has been increased to Rs.400.00 and Rs. 350.00 crore at RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 stage respectively. Providing the reasons for increased allocation, the Ministry stated that the political turmoil and the security situation have negatively impacted the pace of progress of key projects underway in Myanmar. However, projects stalled or delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and political crisis have been revived and work has progressed further. It may be mentioned that construction works are underway on Kalewa-Yargi road section and Road component of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Corridor. In addition, new proposals including small community infrastructure, education, capacity building initiatives, healthcare have been proposed and agreements have been concluded necessitating appropriate budget allocation. Additionally, India has extended support through Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) response to economic, climate, and humanitarian hardships in Myanmar.

3.63 When asked whether the allocated funds are adequate for the completion/ progress of the projects, the Ministry stated that the funds allocated are commensurate to the given pace of work and implementation schedule of the projects. The allocated funds are determined based on an assessment of the current proposals in the pipeline.

3.64 On the specific query regarding the adequacy of the funds in a situation where China has already made strategic inroads into Myanmar, the Ministry responded that the current allocation is commensurate in light of the current scope and pace of work under progress. The utilization is dependent upon the ensuing political situation and the security concerns in project areas. Our relations with Myanmar stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of

Myanmar with third countries. Due to prevailing security challenges in Myanmar, various infrastructure projects progress has suffered, resulting with lower expenditure. However, increase in BE for 2025-26 will be required in view of anticipated expenditure for KMMTT, Kalewa Yargi etc. projects. For Kalewa Yargi Project, Rs. 140 crores has already been released in the FY 2024-25. The details are as under:

a) Supply of Books to Nay Pyi Taw State Academy, Myanmar- Purchase Order to NBT has been issued on 23.12.2024. 100% advance payment (cost of books + shipping charge) to NBT has been released on 27.01.2025. An amount of 0.26 Cr. have been made in the CFY.

(b) Supply of Lab Equipment to Nyi Pyi Taw State Academy, Myanmar- Draft MoU has been vetted by competent authority. Signing process to start soon. Agreement with PIA is being finalized. Rs. 6.67 Cr. Likely expenditure in the CFY. Anticipated expenditure in FY 2025-26 Rs 15.57 Cr.

c). Trilateral Highway road connectivity Project in Myanmar: India has undertaken two projects in Myanmar under the Trilateral Highway that starts from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar (Total length of 1360 kms) on the request of Government of Myanmar.

(i) Construction of 112 kms of Kalewa-Yagyi road section to highway standard: Construction work in the project is underway since May 2018. M/s National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the project. Current Physical progress is 54 %. The first phase of the project (55 km stretch) is targeted to be handed over to Government of Myanmar after issuance of provisional completion certificate. Anticipated expenditure for FY 2025-26: **Rs. 50 Cr**

(ii). Construction of 69 Bridges on Tamu-Kyigone Kalewa (TKK) section of 150 kms: The project was approved in December 2015 at the estimated cost of Rs.371.58 crore. The contractor for implementing the project was appointed on 28 November 2017. Contract was terminated on 24 December 2018 in view of Nil progress. Manipur high court on 20.08.2020 dismissed the contractor's appeal and upheld the termination. However, due to present security challenges (including Manipur) the project is kept on hold.

d) India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS): The Government of India (GoI) has been assisting the Government of Myanmar (GoM) for establishing and running the IMCEITS in Yangon since 2008. The project has gone through four phases. IMCEITS was set up with GoI's financial assistance by CDAC in 2008. The Division has received the request of GoM forwarded by the Mission in Yangon for extension of the project for phase V for further three years. The proposal is under process in the Ministry.

e) Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), Mandalay: The Bilateral MoU for setting up of MIIT was signed between India and Myanmar in May 2012. The project

was approved in March 2015 at a total cost of Rs 125.15 cr. The project has now been completed.

3.65 With regard to the impact of ongoing political turmoil on our developmental projects in Myanmar, the Ministry stated that due to the prevailing security situation in Myanmar, the pace of progress on the development projects has been impacted. Ground-level difficulties are being addressed through coordination among the various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project, and work is continuing in the segments where access is available.

3.66 On being asked, the Ministry furnished a status note on the progress of Kaladan Project, which aims to create a multi-modal transport corridor for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar as well as North-Eastern part of India via Myanmar. It includes a port and waterway component and a road component of 109 km from Paletwa to Zorinpui, Mizoram.

Port and Waterway Component: The Sittwe port was completed and jointly inaugurated on 9 May 2023. It is being managed by a selected Indian entity, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL). Approval of Government of Myanmar for appointment of IPGL is under process. The port has handled over 155 vessels by January 2025.

Road Component: M/s Ircan International Ltd is the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for the complete stretch of 109.2 Kms. M/s IRCON started the work in October 2023. There has been gradual but steady progress on road construction in various stretches where secure work-front is available. The work has resumed in the month of September 2024 after monsoon season and is currently under way in patches between 109 – 99 km, 89 – 80 km, 70- 60 km.

The current physical progress of the road component is approaching 15% and the progress has been affected due to prevailing security situation in Myanmar.

3.67 The Ministry also furnished details about the various ongoing, completed and under progress projects in Myanmar since the last three Financial Years.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Percentage of completion	Date commencement of	Expected/ Date of completion
1.	Port component of Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Projects	100%	April 2008	May 2023
2.	Road component of Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Projects	10%	July 2022	Under progress



3.	Kalewa - Yargyi Section of Trilateral Highway	49.32%	August 2016	Under progress
4.	Maintenance work for the bridges in respect to construction of 69 bridges along with approach roads on the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa road section of Trilateral Highway in Myanmar	60%	April 2020	Under progress
5.	Conservation of 92 Earthquake damaged Pagodas at Bagan	On-going 1 <sup>ST</sup> Phase handed over in December 2024.	May 2018	Under progress
6.	Construction of Sarsobeikman Edifice	35%	March 2024	March 2026
7.	India Myanmar Border Area Development (5 <sup>th</sup> cycle)	100%	November 2020	December 2024
8.	Distribution of electricity by solar power in five townships of Rakhine State under RSDP	100%	February 2020	February 2023
9.	Water supply systems in Gwa township under RSDP	100%	February 2020	December 2024
10.	Construction of incinerator in Mrauk Oo township under RSDP	100%	February 2020	December 2024
11.	Upgrading of Agriculture Mechanization Sub-station under RSDP	80%	October 2020	December 2025
12.	Industrial Training Centre, Thaton	100%	May 2018	January 2024
13.	Industrial Training Centre, Monywa	80%	May 2018	July 2026
14.	Myanmar Institute of Information Technology	100%	May 2012	March 2022
15.	India- Myanmar Center for Enhancement of Information Technology Skills (IMCEITS) Yangon	100%	December 2020	March 2024
16.	India- Myanmar Advance Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) at Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw	100%	May 2012	March 2022

17.	Operating vocational training and teaching aids for rehabilitation of ex-drugs addicts under SDP	Tendering stage	January 2025	December 2026
18.	Upgrading the existing Home Science School in Yangon Region under SDP	Tendering stage	January 2025	December 2026
19.	Supply of Machinery and Equipment to 11 Home Science School under SDP	Tendering stage	January 2025	December 2026

**3.68 The budgetary allocation under ‘Aid to Myanmar’ was increased from Rs. 250.00 crores during BE 2024-25 to Rs.400.00 crore at RE 2024-25 and to Rs. 350.00 crores in BE 2025-26. The Committee note that the political turmoil and the security situation have negatively impacted the pace of progress of key projects underway in Myanmar, however, projects stalled or delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and political crisis have been revived and the work on the same has progressed further. The Committee find it reassuring that construction works are underway including key projects such as the Kalewa-Yargi road section and Road component of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Corridor and agreements have been concluded on new proposals including small community infrastructure, education, capacity building initiatives, healthcare, etc. The Committee urge the Government to extend all assistance to the stakeholders involved in the implementation of these projects for early completion.**

***(Recommendation No.33)***

**g) Aid to Afghanistan**

**3.69 The allocation for ‘Aid to Afghanistan’ was Rs. 200 crores during BE 2024-25, but it was decreased to Rs. 50 crores at the RE 2024-25 stage and then increased to Rs. 100 crores in BE 2025-26. When questioned about the decreased allocation under this sub head, the Ministry stated that budgetary allocation to Afghanistan over the past 3.5 years was primarily aimed at stabilizing the country in terms of food security, medicines and emergency supplies. These efforts have been fruitful, leading to marked improvement in these areas. As a result, expenditure on supply of wheat, pesticides, etc., which were projected for this FY were not undertaken as**

they were not required by the Afghan side. Following the meeting between Foreign Secretary and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Mr. Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on 08 January 2025, it was decided to explore development cooperation projects in addition to the ongoing humanitarian aid.

3.70 On Committee's specific enquiry about the manner in which current political landscape in Afghanistan influenced India's decision to reduce financial aid, the Ministry replied that the relationship between the people of India and Afghanistan is a special relationship which has lasted centuries. Given this special relationship, our efforts are to work towards alleviation of suffering of the Afghan people and to meet their aspirations for prosperity and well-being. This people-to-people relationship is not dependent on the political regime in place.

3.71 In view of the security challenges in Afghanistan the Committee asked about the steps taken by the Government to address the safety concerns of Indian personnel involved in developmental and humanitarian work. The Ministry stated that as on date, we have a Technical Mission in Kabul which was established in June 2022. The Technical Mission oversees our developmental assistance to Afghanistan. We have also had meetings with the Afghan side regularly. Our senior representative JS (PAI) visited Kabul regularly from 2022-24, the most recent being in November, 2024. Foreign Secretary met Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on 08 January, 2025. During these meetings, they have underlined their sensitivities to our security concerns.

3.72 The quantum of humanitarian assistance, medical support, supply of wheat, and scholarships for Afghan students, space cooperation and other related activities along with the funds utilized is illustrated below:

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Quantum	Funds utilized (in crore in INR)
1.	Medical Assistance (IGICH, 400-bed, 300-bed Hospitals)	The expenditure has already been incurred on procurement/supply of 01 MRI, 01 CT scan machine and 4.30 tons of medicines in CFY.	16.80
2.	Medical scheme for 200 Afghan Patients	As of now, total 130 slots have been utilized out of 200 slots. Out of these,	1.02

		29 slots have been utilized in the CFY till date.	
3.	Treatment of local staff of EoI, Kabul	The expenditure is on the follow-up treatment of 03 local staff members of EoI, Kabul.	0.56
4.	Wheat assistance to Afghan People	Earlier it was decided to provide humanitarian assistance of 10,000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan. However, the project is put on hold for this FY.	-
5.	e-ICCR Scholarship scheme for Afghan students	2000 students (1000 annually)	-
6.	Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) (Physical mode)	Currently, there are 489 students studying under this scheme.	17.98
7.	500 Scholarships for ANDSF martyrs Children	Currently, there are 53 students studying under this scheme.	02.45
8.	Habibia School	Stationery items, 650 toys and 500 winter pullovers in this FY.	0.15
9.	Space cooperation	Payment of this Financial Year has already been made in the last FY.	-

As on date, INR 38.96 crore has been utilized in this Financial Year (FY).

3.73 Given the severe restrictions on women in Afghanistan under the Taliban, the Ministry was asked about specific initiatives that are being planned or continued under this aid to support women and children, especially in sectors like education, healthcare, and economic empowerment. The Ministry submitted that as on date, India has provided the following assistance to support women and children:

- (i) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) : 11,000 hygiene kits for women, 60 tons of medicines and 11.60 tons of toys, school uniform and stationery items.
- (ii) e-ICCR Scholarships (online) : Currently, there are approximate 600 female students out of 2000 Afghan students studying under this scheme.
- (iii) Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) : Currently, there are 74 female students out of 489 Afghan students studying under this scheme.

(iv) 500 Scholarship Scheme for Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) Martyrs Children : Currently, there are 53 Afghan students studying under this scheme, out of which there are 06 female students.

3.74 During the oral evidence before the Committee on 27.02.25, the Secretary submitted as under:

“In the case of Afghanistan, India has been providing humanitarian and medical assistance to the country over the past few years. We have seen considerable improvement in Afghanistan’s capacity to cater to domestic needs in the current financial year.

We have not received any specific request for the kinds of goods that we were supplying in the previous year for the next financial year. And the budget allocation has accordingly been reduced from Rs.200 crore to Rs.100 crore for the next financial year. Nevertheless, I wish to underline that the people of India and Afghanistan share a special relationship going back centuries.

Over 2,500 Afghan students are currently benefiting from Government of India-sponsored scholarship schemes, including 650 female students. Our development assistance has primarily aimed at stabilising the country in terms of food security, medicines and emergency supplies, and these efforts have actually been fruitful, leading to marked improvements in these areas. This year, we plan to supply high-value medical equipment, including MRI machines to people in Afghanistan. I would also like to state that if there is a need that is expressed at any point during the next financial year, we would be in a position to either reallocate or request the Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation at the Revised Estimate stage.”

**3.75 The Committee note that the budgetary allocation for ‘Aid to Afghanistan’ was Rs. 200 crores during BE 2024-25, which was decreased to Rs. 50 crores at the RE 2024-25 stage and then increased to Rs. 100 crores in BE 2025-26. Regarding the reductions, the Ministry stated that the budgetary allocation to Afghanistan over the past three and a half years was primarily aimed at stabilizing the country in terms of food security, medicines and emergency supplies, etc. and now, that these efforts have been fruitful, leading to marked improvement in these areas, it has been decided to explore development cooperation projects in addition to the ongoing humanitarian aid. The Committee welcome this move as it presents a good opportunity for furthering our foreign policy objectives through development cooperation and desire that projects/programmes which caters to the**

domestic needs of the people of Afghanistan should be identified and action plan drawn up for implementation at the earliest.

*(Recommendation No.34)*

**3.76** The security situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern for the safety of Indian personnel involved in developmental and humanitarian work. The Committee have been informed that the Technical Mission in Kabul oversees our developmental assistance to Afghanistan. It is also true that the Afghan side have underlined their sensitivities to our security concerns in meetings with them. The Committee, however, feel the need for a separate mechanism/wing to give focused attention to the security aspects and urge the Government to work out the modalities in this regard, in consultation with the agencies concerned in India.

*(Recommendation No.35)*

**3.77** The Committee note that India has provided assistance to support women and children in Afghanistan through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, e- ICCR scholarships, Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) and Scholarship Scheme for Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Currently, there are 600 female students approximately, out of 2000 Afghan students studying under the e- ICCR scholarships while 74 female students out of 489 Afghan students under SSSAN. Out of 53 Afghan students, the number of female students studying under ANDSF is only 6. The Committee feel that the coverage of female students under these scholarship schemes needs to be improved and urge the Government to make efforts in this direction. The Committee attach the highest importance to the welfare of women in Afghanistan as an objective of India's foreign policy and therefore desire that projects/programmes aimed at the welfare of women and children may be launched and additional funds, if required, may be sought at the RE stage.

*(Recommendation No.36)*

## **h ) Aid to African Countries**

3.78 The budgetary allocation for ‘Aid to African Countries’ has been marginally increased from Rs. 200 crores in BE and RE 2024-25 to Rs. 225 crores in BE 2025-26. Explaining the reason for the modest increase despite the Committee’s repeated recommendations for a significantly higher allocation, the Ministry has stated that the budgetary allocation is being sought after assessing funds utilization during the previous years and based on activities proposed to be undertaken by the E&SA Division. Currently, the major expenditure incurred by division under the budget head “Aid to African Countries” is for implementation of “India-Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme” and other bilateral projects. The IAFS-IV Summit was expected to take place during the FY 2024-25, therefore, budgetary provisions have not been made for the India-Africa Forum Summit for the FY 2025-26. The expenditure for IAFS-IV will be incurred only after agreement of African Union for hosting of IAFS-IV. In consultation with African Union, this Ministry is exploring various options to hold the IAFS-IV at the earliest. Additional funds, if required, shall be sought based on the future requirements for the organization of IAFS-IV.

3.79 The Committee observed that Africa, with its vast geographical extent and strategic significance, plays a crucial role in India’s geopolitical and economic priorities and sought to know as to why the Ministry had not recommended a more enhanced budget allocation under this head to reflect Africa’s growing importance in India’s foreign relations. Given the increasing influence of other global players in Africa, the Committee enquired as to how India intends to compete effectively with limited funding in this area. The Ministry responded that engagement with Africa is a priority for India. In order to enhance our diplomatic presence in African continent, India has opened 18 new Missions. After opening of the 18 new Missions in Africa, India now has resident Missions in 47 out of 54 African countries. The Ministry will continue to vigorously follow up and review the projects announced during IAFS-I, IAFS-II and IAFS-III which are presently at various stages of execution. In order to augment our development partnership with the friendly African countries, India would continue to partner with African countries keeping in view India’s geopolitical and economic interests and also development priorities of our partners.

3.80 On being asked to outline the budgetary provisions made in the past for India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and the manner in which the current allocation support India's commitments made during the IAFS, the Ministry has stated that the budgetary provision made for the organization of India-Africa Summit-IV within the budgetary head "Aid to African Countries" during the FY 2023-24 & 2024-25 was 40.00 crores. As the Summit was expected to be held during the FY 2024-25, no budgetary provisions are made for the India-Africa Forum Summit for the FY 2025-26. However, the Ministry, with the budgetary allocation of Rs. 225 crores for the financial year 2025-26 provisioned under the Head "Aid to African Countries", would continue to focus on catering to the ongoing projects. These include setting up of Institutes; offering Scholarships/Training programmes; Food Aid, Medical Aid including equipment; humanitarian aids to fight natural disasters; Vehicles; organizing Events/Seminars/Studies/Visits; development assistance projects; etc.

3.81 On the key areas of cooperation between India and African countries that the current allocation will focus on, the Committee have been informed that India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation which is responsive to the needs of African countries. Our activities in African countries are guided by India's policy towards Africa. The key areas of cooperation between India and African countries would be Defence, Maritime Security, Capacity Building, Cooperation in Mineral Exploration, Health & Pharmaceuticals, Energy Security and Food Security.

3.82 The current budget allocation for the Financial Year 2025-26 will focus on areas such as offering scholarship to African students under India-Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme, setting up of Institutes in African countries, donation of medicines/medical equipment to African countries, food aid to African countries, donation of vehicles/ambulances, donation of computer and accessories, donation of defence equipment etc.

3.83 The Ministry will ensure for effective utilisation of funds for expeditious implementation of our ongoing projects in Africa and seek enhanced allocation under the budgetary Head "Aid to African countries" at Revised Estimates (RE) stage, if necessary; and/or on finalisation of the dates of the IAFS-IV. We have noted Hon'ble Committee's observations on the reduced allocation and the slow pace of progress in projects under this budget sub-head. During the fiscal



year 2022-23, we made utmost efforts to spend the funds allocated under the budgetary Head “Aid to African Countries”. In view of the COVID-19 induced restrictions, many of our aid projects in Africa could not make optimal progress. However, as the situation has returned to normal, the Ministry will make all out efforts for expeditious execution of projects in African Countries and also for fulfilling commitments made under the IAFS.

3.84 The allocation and actual budget for the last 5 years and till date on the Pan Africa e-network Project is as below:

S.No.	Financial Year	‘Aid to Africa’ Budget Allocation	e-VBAB Actual Expenditure
1	2019 -2020	300 Cr	1.89 Cr + 20 Cr (mobilization advance)
2	2020-2021	200 Cr	2.30 Cr
3	2021-2022	200 Cr	21.99 Cr
4	2022-2023	160 Cr	19.45 Cr
5	2023-2024	180 Cr	33.38 Cr
6	2024-2025	200 Cr	7.12 Cr*

\*payment of approx. Rs. 7 crore is under process

3.85 22 African Countries are beneficiaries to the e-VBAB Project namely, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Mozambique, Gambia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, DR Congo, Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Benin, Madagascar, Djibouti, Comoros, Eritrea, Seychelles.

3.86 Regarding the time and cost overrun during the last two years, the Committee have been informed that there was no cost overrun. The Ministry also stated that the reasons for overall time overrun are Ministry initiated the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project, which was originally approved by Cabinet for a period of 5 years from 2016-21 to offer 15,000 tele-education scholarships to Africa. The e-VBAB Project is an extension of Phase 1- Pan Africa e-Network Project (PAeNP) with technological upgradation. Though the Phase 2- PAeNP was to be implemented from 2016, the project was re-christened as e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) and formally launched in October 2019. The actual implementation of project could begin only in January 2020. This was mainly because of two reasons i.e. the implementation modality changed from satellite to internet-based service delivery; and UGC could approve the first set of 7 Universities eligible to offer online

UG/PG/Diploma courses only in January 2020. Subsequently, since the Cabinet approved period of e-VBAB project expired in 2021, approvals were obtained for the extension of the e-VBAB project beyond 2021 till December 2024’.

3.87 To a query whether any complaints have been received about the functioning of the pan Africa e-network project, the Ministry stated that all academic activities regarding delivery of online degree programme are managed by the participating Indian University. Thus, students directly interact with Indian Universities for any issues related to academics and technical support. Any grievances which are escalated to the Ministry, are being addressed on real time basis.

3.88 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry has a framework for evaluating the impact of the aid extended to African countries and the Ministry responded that C&WA Division is currently implementing only one project namely e-VBAB Network Project. The mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of the project are as follows:

i. Collaborative meetings headed by Secretary (ER)/JS(C&WA) were undertaken with African Ambassadors in New Delhi and Indian Missions in Africa to appraise the implementation progress and support required from African countries (17.05.2019 and 22.03.2021).

ii. The Inter-Ministerial meeting chaired by the Joint Secretary (C&WA) was conducted with a representative of MoHFW, MoE and MeitY for overall monitoring, support and coordination of the project (30.05.2019, 18.08.2020).

iii. Review meetings at the highest level by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) were held in December 2021 and April 2022.

iv. Feedback Sessions chaired by Secretary (ER) were conducted with Head of Missions 9 May 2023, and with Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities on 17 May 2023.

v. Periodic meetings chaired by Additional Secretary (C&WA) are organized with M/s TCIL and Project Monitoring Unit to review the progress of implementation and resolve the day-to-day issues arising in the implementation of the Project.

vi. A Delegation led by AS(C&WA), MEA visited Zambia (10 -11 July 2023) & Mauritius (13-14 July 2023) to assess the functioning of the project and seek feedback on the progress made from the stakeholders.

vii. Review meeting chaired by Additional Secretary (C&WA) was conducted with Indian Universities on 12 April 2023. The review meetings are being conducted every week with VCs of Indian Universities to review the project.

viii. Research & Information Systems for Developing Countries is conducting mid-term impact assessment of the project.

**3.89** The budgetary allocation for ‘Aid to African Countries’ has been marginally increased from Rs. 200 crores in BE and RE 2024-25 to Rs. 225 crores in BE 2025-26. The Committee note that no budgetary provision has been made for the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) for the FY 2025-26 as agreement of African Union for hosting of IAFS-IV is yet to be firmed up. The Committee are concerned about the delay in conducting the India-Africa Forum Summit–IV and urge the Ministry to maintain active coordination with the African Union so that dates for the summit are finalized at the earliest and seek additional allocation for the same at Revised Estimate stage, if necessary. In respect of ongoing projects committed under IAFS- I, II and III, the status may be communicated to the Committee.

*(Recommendation No.37)*

**3.90** The Committee note that Research & Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) is conducting mid-term impact assessment of the e-VBAB Network Project. The Terms of Reference, timeline and status of the assessment may be communicated to Committee. Further, the feasibility of conducting mid-term impact assessment of the projects under IAFS by RIS may also be explored.

*(Recommendation No.38)*

**i) Aid to Latin American Countries**

**3.91** The BE 2024-25 under this Head was Rs. 30 crores which was increased to Rs. 90.00 crores at the RE stage. The allocation has been kept at Rs. 60.00 crores in BE 2025-26.

**3.92** Given the strategic significance and economic potential of Latin America, the Committee enquired as to why this region is receiving relatively low priority in the current budget allocation. The Ministry responded that BE 2025-26 (Rs.60 crores) is twice the amount allocated in BE 2024-25 (Rs.30 crores). During 2024-25, the budgetary allocation was increased from Rs 30 crores to Rs 90 crores, following multiple proposals for HADR support from countries beset with natural disasters and on account of updated payment schedules in respect of ongoing projects. In

2025-26 too similar adjustment is expected at RE stage, e.g., resulting from various announcement made by Hon'ble PM during 2nd India-CARICOM summit in Georgetown in November 2024, for which we have already requested additional funds of Rs.200 Cr during 2025-26.

3.93 The Committee observed that Latin America holds significant potential in terms of trade, investment, and strategic partnerships and sought to know the manner in which the Ministry plans to tap into this potential. The Ministry informed that it continues to deepen its engagement with the region building Brand India on 5Ts, viz., Trade, Technology, Tourism, Talent, and Tradition. Of the three G20 countries in LAC region, Brazil and Argentina are India's strategic partners, while Mexico is a privileged partner. India's engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has seen notable growth, with trade increasing from US\$2 billion in 2003-04 to US\$49 billion in 2022-23. Total investment by the Indian companies in LAC is estimated to be around \$ 15 bn and spans diverse sector including energy, agriculture, agro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, information technology, automobile, mining and manufacturing. Indian companies employ more than 38000 people in the LAC region. Major Investments from LAC countries in India are from Brazil (~\$ 1 bn), Mexico (~\$1 bn), Chile (~\$118 mn) and Peru.

3.94 Enumerating the key challenges preventing the full exploitation of economic, cultural, and diplomatic opportunities with Latin America, the Ministry stated that India has resident diplomatic missions in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries with plans to open more in the pipeline. India and LAC countries have very close cooperation in the multilateral fora and support each other's candidatures. Out of the three G20 countries in LAC region, Brazil and Argentina are India's strategic partners, while Mexico is privileged partner.

3.95 India's engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has seen notable growth, with trade increasing from US\$2 billion in 2003-04 to US\$49 billion in 2022-23. Key sectors such as refined petroleum products, automobiles, agro-chemicals, machinery and pharmaceuticals lead our exports; crude oil, vegetable oil, gold and copper lead our imports.

3.96 Given the shared interests on global issues such as climate change, regional security, and multilateral governance, the Committee sought to know why India has not allocated more

resources to strengthening collaboration with Latin American countries in international forums and regional groupings. The Ministry responded that India has consistently engaged with key regional groupings in Latin America, including CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), CARICOM (Caribbean Community), SICA (Central American Integration System) and MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market. From LAC region, 26 LAC countries have signed ISA framework agreement, 12 countries have joined CDRI, 5 countries have joined GBA and 5 countries have joined IBCA.

3.97 On the manner in which India plan to enhance its geopolitical presence in this important region, the Ministry informed that India plans to enhance its geopolitical presence in Latin America through a multi-dimensional approach, focusing on seven key pillars, as outlined by Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi at the Second CARICOM Summit, namely, CARICOM, with each letter of the word referring to a specific vertical, as listed below:

- Capacity building
- Agriculture and Food Security,
- Renewable Energy and Climate Change,
- Innovation, Technology, and Trade;
- Cricket and Culture;
- Ocean Economy and Maritime Security; and,
- Medicine and Healthcare

Further, by implementing the mandate given by Hon'ble Prime Minister of 5Ts (Trade, Technology, Tourism, Talent, and Tradition), India seeks to deepen its strategic, economic, and cultural engagement with the region, solidifying its position as a key partner of Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.98 On being asked the manner in which the Ministry assess the effectiveness of its current strategy towards Latin America and whether the relatively low budget allocation is an indication that the strategy needs to be revised, the Ministry responded that it assesses the effectiveness of its current strategy as satisfactory. As described earlier, BE 2025-26 (Rs.60 crores) is twice the amount allocated in BE 2024-25 (Rs.30 crores). As earlier, we hope to receive, at RE stage, whatever additional funds that we require, e.g., resulting from various announcements made by Hon'ble PM during 2nd India-CARICOM summit in Georgetown in November 2024, for which we have already requested additional funds of Rs.200 Cr during 2025-26.

**3.99** The Committee are aware that the budgetary allocation for 2025-26 under ‘Aid to Latin American Countries’ is pegged at Rs. 60 crores. Following various announcement made by the Hon’ble PM during 2<sup>nd</sup> India-CARICOM summit in Georgetown in November 2024, additional funds of Rs.200 crores has already been requested during 2025-26. Being aware of the potential for significant growth in trade, investment, strategic partnership and developmental cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, and the need to tap the same, the Committee desire that the Ministry should actively pursue its request for additional funds in FY 2025-26 so that the commitments are honoured, projects/programmes announced are implemented, thereby significantly enhancing India’s geopolitical presence in the region.

*(Recommendation No.39)*

**3.100** The Committee note that in addition to India’s resident diplomatic missions in 17 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, plans to open more are in the pipeline. India has also been consistently engaging with key regional groupings in Latin America, including CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), CARICOM (Caribbean Community), SICA (Central American Integration System) and MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market). 26 LAC countries have signed ISA framework agreement, 12 countries have joined CDRI, 5 countries have joined GBA and 5 countries have joined IBCA. For optimum exploitation of economic, cultural and diplomatic opportunities with the LAC countries, the Committee desire that resident Indian diplomatic missions should be opened in the identified countries of the LAC region at the earliest and the Ministry should make constant efforts to persuade the remaining countries in the LAC region to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) and International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

*(Recommendation No.40)*

## CHAPTER 4

### OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

Consequent upon the merger of the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), various Divisions have been set up under the MEA to provide the requisite institutional and administrative support for wider engagement with diaspora and formulate policies for the same. Budgetary allocations are made for programmes/schemes for engagement with diaspora and welfare under Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD), celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill Upgradation of Emigrant Worker, Evacuation of Indian due to War/Civil Disturbance, Repatriation of Indian Destitutes, Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriages, Legal Counselling/Assistance to Indian workers in the Gulf, etc.

4.2 Since the Committee on External Affairs (2024-25) has selected the subject ‘Indian Diaspora Overseas including NRIs, PIOs, OCIs and Migrant Workers: All Aspects of their Conditions and Welfare, including the Status of the Emigration Bill’ for detailed examination and Report during their term 2024-25 and the detailed examination of the subject is at its final stages, a detailed review of the performance of the various schemes will be covered in the subject Report and this chapter will only focus on the overall budgetary allocation for the welfare of Indian Diaspora.

#### a) Budgetary Allocation for Overseas Indians

4.3 The budgetary allocation dealing specifically for welfare of overseas Indians is provisioned under the Major Head ‘External Affairs’ (sub-heads ‘Welfare of Overseas Indians’ and ‘Engagement with Indian Diaspora’). The allocation under this Head is given below:

Sub Head	BE-2023-24	BE-2024-25	BE-2025-26
Welfare of Overseas Indians	13.21	15.21	15.21
Engagement with Indian Diaspora	37.00	44.00	77.00

4.4 The Ministry of External Affairs has furnished details of allocations made to various schemes/programmes implemented for the welfare of Indian Diaspora and for Engagement with Indian Diaspora since 2019-20 and in B.E 25-26, scheme-wise, as under:

**(Welfare of Overseas Indians)**

*(Rs. in crore)*

Heads	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill Upgradation of Emigrant Worker	5.50	7.00	7.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	5.00
Evacuation of Indian due to War/Civil Disturbance	0.01	0.01	3.00	3.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Repatriation of Indian Destitutes	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriages	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Legal Counselling/Assistance to Indian workers in the Gulf	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15

**(Engagement with Indian Diaspora)**

*(Rs. in crore)*

Heads	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Know India Programme	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	10.00	20.00
Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00
Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	6.00
Awareness Campaign/media Plan	11.00	11.00	2.00	5.50	2.00	1.00	1.00



Celebration of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas	39.12	40.00	20.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	40.00
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4.5 The Diaspora Engagement (DE) Division of MEA plans, implements and monitors different schemes and programmes for engaging with and for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora living abroad. The various programmes are :

“**The Know India Programme (KIP)** gives an opportunity to the Indian Diaspora youth to connect with their ancestral homeland and update their knowledge about India. On an average, each year the KIP engages upto around 400 young PIOs, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of India’s history, culture and contemporary achievements, besides providing a platform to interact with high dignitaries and exposure to various sectors such as government policy, science and research, education, etc.

**Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)** provides financial assistance to children of NRIs and PIOs. The scheme enables students to pursue undergraduate courses in India.

**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)**, organized biennially, celebrates the contributions of the Indian Diaspora. Diaspora members are encouraged to attend the event, held in collaboration with a partner Indian state, to explore the rich cultural heritage of India. It provides a platform to leverage the diaspora’s expertise in technology, education, innovation, attract investments and entrepreneurship, and promoting India’s global soft power. Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to India are honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

**Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD)** scheme aims to strengthen the cultural connection between India and its diaspora through various initiatives to engage the Indian diaspora in cultural activities, promote Indian heritage and foster a sense of belonging among overseas Indians.”

4.6 The funds provided and their utilization for these schemes / programmes are as follows :

(Figures in INR Thousands)

Budget Head	FE 2022-23	Exp 2022-23	FE 2023-24	Exp 2023-24	RE 2024-25*	Exp 2024-25#
Know India Programme	30000	37000	100000	100900	100000	41500
Promotion of Cultural Ties	30000	18900	40000	39100	40000	16400

with Diaspora (PCTD)						
Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children	90000	90000	90000	90000	90000	59500
Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	300000	309600	150000	143900	200000	81000
Awareness Campaign/Media Plan	10000	2300	10000	0	10000	300

*\* FE for FY 2024-25 is yet to be received.*

*# Progressive expenditure until December 2024*

4.7 Under the ‘Surakshit Jaayein Prashikshit Jaayein’ campaign of the Government of India, the Pre-Departure Orientation Training Programme was launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in January, 2018 with an aim of enhancing soft skills of Indian emigrant workers, going abroad specially to Gulf and other ECR countries. Under this programme, the emigrant workers are given one day free of cost orientation training aiming to help them to understand local rules and regulations of the destination country and their culture, tradition, language etc. Since the inception of the PDOT programme in 2018, a total of 1,72,220 emigrant workers have been imparted orientation training till 31st December 2024.

4.8 Financial assistance is given by the Ministry for the PDOT programme every year. Funds from the allocated budget are disbursed to the State government run departments/agencies on demand basis, which operationalise the scheme.

4.9 Details of Budget allocation under PDOT head during last three financial years is given below:

Financial Year	Budget Grant (in INR)	Funds released to State Agencies (in INR)
2022-23	3 Crore (300 lakhs)	0
2023-24	1.20 Crore (120 lakhs)	79.77 lakhs
2024-25	1 Crore (100 lakhs)	16.08 lakhs (as on January 2025)

4.9 Here is an overview of the approved revised estimates for FY 2024-25, vis-a-vis budgetary allocations received by the Diaspora Engagement Division (erstwhile Overseas Indian Affairs-II Division) in the previous two financial years:

<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>FE 2022-23</b>	<b>FE 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2024-25*</b>
Know India Programme	30000	100000	100000
Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD)	30000	40000	40000
Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children	90000	90000	90000
Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	300000	150000	200000
Awareness Campaign/Media Plan	10000	10000	10000

*\* FE for FY 2024-25 is yet to be received.*

4.10 As is evident from above, scheme-specific allocation for ‘Know India Programme’ has witnessed more than 300% increase in the last two years, with the number of editions being conducted in a Financial Year having increased in the recent years. Further, the scope of the programme has also been broadened to include presentations on the country’s political progress, economy, developments in various sectors like science & technology, pharmaceuticals, startup ecosystem, digital public infrastructure, India stacks, JAM trinity, agriculture & tourism, besides industry visits and demonstration of successful schemes like Skill India, Digital India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, etc.

4.11 The budgetary allocation under the ‘Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora’ (PCTD) has also been increased by about 30% in the current year, in line with previous FY 2023-24, in response to the increasing requests from Missions/ Posts abroad to support their initiatives to strengthen ties with the Overseas Indian Community. The growing Indian community living abroad increasingly expect and await Indian cultural events organized by the Indian Embassies and Consulates in their countries, and the Indian Missions and Posts work towards meeting these expectations with the limited resources available to them.

4.12 While there has been no change in the total number of scholarships being granted in an academic year (150) under the ‘Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children’ (SPDC) Scheme, the guidelines have been modified to facilitate greater participation of female applicants across all categories, viz. PIOs, NRIs and children of Indian workers in ECR countries.

4.13 To summarize the above trends, it can be said that scheme-wise fund allocation and utilization has dynamically changed in recent times to accommodate the requirements of our

Missions/ Posts abroad, in accordance with the demands and priorities of the local Indian diaspora in their respective jurisdictions.

4.14 When asked about the reasons for the underutilization of funds allocated to various welfare schemes for the Indian Diaspora and the measures being taken to address it it was submitted in a written reply as under:

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Pre-Departure Orientation Training(PDOT) temporarily stopped from March 2020 to November 2021. After resumption of PDOT in November 2021, initially the training did not pick up pace due to low demand and the restrictions in place during the subsequent waves of the pandemic. The training started to pick up pace from late 2022.

In 2023, the Ministry reached out to the concerned State Governments to seek their proposals for allocation of funds to carry out the PDOT. Some of the States still had the previously sanctioned funds with them, which could not be utilized during the previous financial years due to the pandemic. The disbursal of funds resumed from Financial Year 2023-24 on receipt of demands for funds from the states of Telangana, Punjab and Karnataka, and funds were disbursed accordingly.

Funds under the budget head ‘Evacuation of Indians due to War/Civil Disturbance’ are utilized for the safe evacuation of stranded Indian nationals from foreign countries during crises arising due to conflict/war/civil disturbances. The expenditure under this budget head is not certain and can only be anticipated.

The funds allocated to for ‘Engagement with Indian diaspora’ have been fully utilized in the last three years, with little or no amount being surrendered in most cases. Since most of the welfare schemes and programmes for Indian diaspora abroad are conducted in physical mode, their implementation was interrupted due to Covid-19 pandemic and related restriction s in some of the countries. This impacted the utilization of the funds in the years of the pandemic and, to some extent, in the years that followed. However, since FY 2022-23, the Ministry has been successful in addressing the under-utilization of funds allocated to diaspora welfare schemes as shown in the table below:

(Rs. in crore)

<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>RE 2022-23</b>	<b>Actuals 2022-23</b>	<b>RE 2023-24</b>	<b>Actuals 2023-24</b>	<b>RE 2024-25</b>	<b>Actuals till Jan 2025</b>
Know India Programme		3.70	10.00	10.09	10.00	5.19
Scholarship Programme for	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	5.95

Diaspora Children						
Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora	3.00	1.89	4.00	3.91	4.00	2.20
Awareness Campaign/Media Plan	1.00	0.23	1.00	0.00	1.0	0.03
Celebration of PravasiBharatiya Divas	30.00	30.96	15.00	14.39	20.00	2.16

4.15 Justifying the request for additional funding for welfare schemes for the Indian Diaspora when the existing allocations have not been fully utilized, the Ministry submitted that since the inception of the Pre-Departure Orientation Training(PDOT) programme in 2018, a total of 1,82,381 emigrant workers have been imparted orientation training till 31st January 2025. The pace of PDOT is expected to pick up during the upcoming Financial Years as Ministry has been closely coordinating with all State Governments/training partners to expand the PDOT outreach.

4.16 Expenditure for the budget head ‘Evacuation of Indians due to War/Civil Disturbance’ is not certain and can only be anticipated. In FY 2024-25, given the actual circumstances, the full amount could not be utilized and would have to re-appropriated for suitable use under other budget heads of the Ministry that require the funds. However, during the previous FY 2023-24, the allocated fund of Rs. 60 crore was booked upto more than 90%. Given this experience, an amount of Rs. 10 crore has been allocated for FY 2025-26.

4.17 As regards the budget head ‘Engagement with Indian diaspora’, after the resumption of normal activities post the Covid-19 pandemic, Ministry has continuously endeavored to disburse the allocated funds within the ongoing financial year and to fully utilize the approved budget. The number of editions of ‘Know India Programme’ being organized in a Financial Year has been increased since FY 2023-24. Further, demands from Missions/Posts abroad under the ‘Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora’ have increased manifold, due to wide publicity and increased engagement activities by the Missions/Posts involving the Indian diaspora. With regard to disbursement of ‘Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children’scholarships, the Ministry is

now endeavoring to release the due scholarships for the new batches in the same academic year, besides the earlier practice of releasing the scholarships of the previous year's recipients.

4.18 On being asked about the intention to undertake a review of the existing welfare schemes and programs for the Indian Diaspora to assess their effectiveness and impact, the Ministry informed that the schemes and programmes of the Ministry are evaluated by the CAG. There is no provision for independent assessment of diaspora engagement programs and welfare schemes.

4.19 Further, it was submitted that the Ministry has not been provided with any funds in the budget to carry out any independent assessment of the diaspora programmes. However, the Diaspora Engagement Division closely monitors the utilization of funds through different schemes such as PCTD and SPDC. Missions are required to submit detailed reports on the activities held by them through these funds and to certify its utilization in a timely manner. These reports are scrutinized regularly before approving any further allocation of funds.

4.20 The participants of the KIP programme have given positive feedback about the programme and have stayed connected with India even after the end of the programme. They also advocate to their peers to avail the benefits accorded by the Government of India through these programmes.

4.21 The Ministry monitors regularly the utilization of funds and ensures that the funds are effectively utilized for welfare schemes, research activities, seminars and workshops etc. which contribute for policy formulation on diaspora affairs through an effective system of internal control established through periodic checks and thematic and transaction audits from time to time. This is also ensured by way of seeking Annual audited accounts along with Utilization Certificate and Annual Performance cum Achievement Report, indicating outputs/deliverables and outcomes generated from the funds allocated by the Ministry.

**4.22 The Committee observe that budgetary allocations are made for programmes aimed at welfare of Indian Diaspora and engagement with them under the sub-heads 'Welfare of Overseas Indians' and 'Engagement with Indian Diaspora'. Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD), celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill Upgradation of Emigrant Worker, Evacuation of Indian due to**

War/Civil Disturbance, Repatriation of Indian Destitutes, Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriages and Legal Counselling/Assistance to Indian workers in the Gulf are funded from the grants. In 2025-26, Rs. 92.21 crores is seen to have been earmarked for these schemes which shows an increase of 55% as compared to BE 2024-25 of Rs. 59.21 crores. This increase, the Committee note is under the sub-head 'Engagement with Indian Diaspora' and mainly on Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Know India Programme. While appreciating this enhancement, the Committee note with concern that the allocation under the 'Welfare of Overseas Indians' has remained unchanged from BE 2024-25 and is almost stagnant for over the last several years without even accounting for inflation. While viewing that the existing allocations made to various schemes and programmes for the welfare of Overseas Indians is quite inadequate, the Committee desire that additional funds be sought during the next financial year. Since the Indian Diaspora of 15.85 million NRIs and 19.57 million PIOs/OCIs, spread across the globe is one of the largest overseas community comprising a diverse range from laborers/workers, traders, political leaders, professionals, students etc., the Committee have been continuously recommending the Ministry to ensure that requisite budgetary allocation for all the schemes for their welfare and protection are sought and received. While reiterating the same, it is strongly felt that an increase in funds is essential if our Missions/ Posts abroad have to meet the demands, expectations and priorities of the local Indian diaspora in their respective jurisdictions.

*(Recommendation No. 41)*

4.23 Under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) initiative, the Ministry provides funds to Missions/Posts across the globe. In BE 2023-24 and 2024-25 an amount of Rs.4 crore was provided and in BE 2025-26, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 6 crore is made for PCTD. However, the Committee note with dismay that the funds released to Missions/Posts for financial year 2023-24 & 2024-25 are Rs. 3,48,38000 and Rs. 3,80,50000 respectively. The Committee wonder, how the Indian Missions and Posts are expected to organize cultural events with limited resources available to them and are surprised to see that the Ministry had projected only Rs. 10 crores for 66 Missions in the current FY despite knowing that it is difficult to meet the expectations with meager funds. The

Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make further improvements in its Budgetary projections taking into consideration the requests received from Missions/Posts and impress upon the Ministry of Finance to provide adequate Budgetary provisions so that the Missions are able to support their initiatives to strengthen ties with the Overseas Indian Community without being hindered by financial constraints.

*(Recommendation No. 42)*

4.24 The Committee note that the Pre-Departure Orientation Training Programme launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in January, 2018 under the ‘*Surakshit Jaayein Prashikshit Jaayein*’ campaign of the Government of India provides one day free of cost orientation training to emigrant workers to help them understand local rules and regulations of the destination country, its culture, tradition, language, etc. in addition to enhancing their soft skills. From its inception till 31st January 2025, a total of 1, 82,381 emigrant workers have been imparted orientation training under PDOT programme and financial assistance for the same is being disbursed to the State government run departments/agencies. However, the Committee are startled to see that no fund was released to the State Agencies in 2022-23 and in 2023-24, Rs. 79.77 lakh out of 1.20 Crore and in 2024-25, only 16.08 lakh have been released till January 2025 out of the 1 crore Budget. This financial performance of the scheme makes the Committee worry about the working of the scheme as well as its efficacy. The Committee, while expressing their displeasure, desire that the reasons may be identified and earnest efforts are made for optimum utilization of the funds so that the migrant workers are sensitized about the pathways to safe and legal migration as well as on about various government programmes for their welfare and protection.

*(Recommendation No.43)*

4.25 The Committee are aware that the Diaspora Engagement (DE) Division of MEA plans, implements and monitors different schemes and programmes for engaging with and for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora living abroad. The Division also closely monitors the utilization of funds for different schemes by calling for detailed reports from Missions on the activities held by them through these funds and scrutinizing the reports regularly



before approving any further allocation of funds. Though the Ministry has informed that the schemes and programmes of the Ministry are evaluated by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, a closer look at the performance of the programmes/schemes aimed at welfare of Indian Diaspora and engagement with them, prompt the Committee to call for a thorough review in terms of effectiveness and impact, over and above the financial audit by CAG. In this regard, the Committee may be apprised of the outcome of the Joint Working Group constituted to analyze the objectives, working and challenges of various programmes/initiatives/schemes for welfare of Indian diaspora and the extent of reach and delivery of such schemes. The Committee on External Affairs (2024-25) has selected the subject 'Indian Diaspora Overseas including NRIs, PIOs, OCIs and Migrant Workers: All Aspects of their Conditions and Welfare, including the Status of the Emigration Bill' for detailed examination and Report during their current term. A more detailed Report on schemes and programmes for welfare of Indian diaspora will be presented to the Parliament shortly.

*(Recommendation No.44)*

## CHAPTER 5

### ASSISTANCE TO AUTONOMOUS BODIES

Allocation under this head is towards Ministry's Grants-in-Aid to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and other institutions such as International Society of International Law. The allocations made to these institutions are shown in the table below:-

*(Rs. in Crores)*

Assistance to Autonomous Bodies and other Institutions						
Sl. No.	Name	BE 2023-24	RE 2023-24	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
1.	ICCR	345.21	315.21	331.25	331.25	351.25
2.	ICWA	14.02	13.77	15.47	14.40	15.48
3.	RIS	16.64	16.64	18.00	18.00	19.51
4.	Other Institutions	4.63	4.54	5.13	5.04	7.94
	<b>Total</b>	<b>380.50</b>	<b>350.16</b>	<b>369.85</b>	<b>368.69</b>	<b>394.18</b>

5.2 The details of the actual assistance given to autonomous institution during the last three financial years and during 2025-26 have been tabulated below:

*(in Rs cr)*

Autonomous Bodies	FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2024-25			FY 2025-26
	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals*	BE
<b>ICCR</b>	320.00	320.00	290.26	345.21	315.21	298.24	331.25	331.25	330.94	351.25
<b>ICWA</b>	14.81	14.24	13.74	14.02	13.77	13.81	15.47	14.40	11.29	15.48
<b>RIS</b>	14.59	14.59	14.59	16.64	16.64	15.80	18.00	18.00	15.52	19.51
<b>Other Institutions</b>	4.50	3.63	2.60	4.63	4.54	3.04	5.13	5.04	2.93	7.94

\* - Expenditure till Jan 2025

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5.3 The Committee wanted to know how the Ministry monitors the utilization of funds by autonomous bodies like ICCR, ICWA, and RIS to ensure accountability and transparency in their

spending, The Ministry stated that the ICCR receives grants from the MEA and as per the existing practice, IFD, MEA releases the funds to MEA.

- (i) release of 50% of BE as 1st Instalment,
- (ii) 25% of approved BE as 2nd Instalment on submission of Utilization Certificate (UC) of 80% of 1st Instalment and
- (iii) 25% of BE as final Instalment on submission of final UC for the previous financial year along with audited Final Account.

At the time of release of 2nd installment, the ICCR provides the copy of Utilization Certificate in respect of the funds received in 1st installment. Similarly, at the time of release of 3rd installment the ICCR provides the copy of Utilization Certificate in respect of the funds received upto 2nd instalment and also provide final UC for the previous financial year along with audited Final Account. The ICCR Accounts are audited by the DG, Audit (Central Expenditure) on yearly basis, and after obtaining the Audit Certificates, the Annual Accounts and Annual Report of ICCR are laid down in both Houses of Parliament. Apart from this, the Internal Audit is also conducted by the O/o Pr. Chief Controller of Accounts, MEA.

#### **a) RIS & ICWA**

5.4 There is an established mechanism whereby the Ministry of External Affairs ensures accountability and transparency of the spending by ICWA and RIS. The Ministry disburses the Grant-in-Aid to ICWA and RIS in installments in a year. The utilisation of funds is monitored and each installment of the Grant-in-Aid is sanctioned to ICWA and RIS on the basis of requirements. The accounts of ICWA and RIS are audited by the Director General of Audit, Central Expenditure. The audited Annual Accounts of ICWA and RIS are laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament every year. Moreover, the Financial Advisor of the Ministry is a member of the Finance Committee, Governing Body and Governing Council of ICWA.”

5.5 Explaining about the contributions of these institutions in carrying out the foreign policy goals, the Ministry have submitted as under:

“Both ICWA and RIS play an important role towards the promotion of India’s foreign policy goals in the field of regional and international trade, finance, development, science, technology and innovations. ICWA performs three principal functions - a) carry out research with a Foreign Policy focus; b) to act as a platform for discourse on foreign policy and international affairs and maintains a robust publication programme; and c)

outreach with like-minded institutions nationally and internationally. In each of these three aspects, ICWA brings to bear focus on ‘Area Studies’, as a distinct body of research.

Most recently, the Ministry established DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence – at RIS which was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) in November 2023. It offers research in digitally driven development solutions to interested partner countries in areas of their interest in the Global South. The Centre is engaged in the promotion of some of India’s widely acclaimed development programmes and digital public infrastructure in the fields of agriculture, financial inclusion and health, to begin with, in close coordination with the Ministries/Departments/agencies concerned.

To strengthen India’s “Neighbourhood First policy” and “Act East Policy”, on the advice of MEA, RIS is closely working with Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways to strengthen India’s maritime connectivity pillar through its newly established Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) at RIS. MEA has nominated JS (Indo-Pacific) as a member of the Advisory Board of this Centre. In addition, to strengthen collaboration on regional issues, RIS is closely working with the Indo-Pacific Division for its ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) on issues related to multi-modal connectivity. MEA has also nominated RIS as member of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) and the Europe West Division of MEA has also engaged RIS for leading to India-EU Connectivity Partnership launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India and EU President. On trade facilitation measures, RIS has come up with dedicated research.

In partnership with RIS, the Ministry organized a major Lecture Series during the G20 Presidency under its “University Connect Initiative” in 65 institutions of higher learning with a view to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues across the country and to establish close links with scholars and academics. MEA is also strongly encouraging RIS to expand its internship programme for young scholars and RIS has taken several important steps in this regard.

RIS hosts annual Delhi Process dialogue with the support of MEA on international development cooperation with the participation of international development experts. MEA has instituted the IBSA Fellowship Programme at RIS to reinvigorate the process. It also organizes some ITEC programmes every year with the support of MEA.

RIS by virtue of its convening power and regional and global network of partner think-tank/educational/research institutions vigorously promotes India’s narrative on issues of India’s core interest in the backdrop of growing threats to multilateralism and rising protectionism. Its focus is on issues confronting the Global South, enabling MEA to cultivate this important constituency in the Global South, which is important to pave the way for the creation of market access opportunities for India in these countries.

5.6 MEA has been supporting ICWA in its Research and Intellectual activities. It has picked up several research articles shared by ICWA for further circulation and dissemination to relevant stakeholders. MEA has closely coordinated and supported ICWA in several activities like Sapru House lectures, bilateral dialogues, international conferences, participation in Think Tank Forums, and also activities of its special centers which include Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS), SCO Study Centre and CSCAP-India.

5.7 The Council organized International Conferences, Bilateral Dialogues (Track II & Track 1.5), and Lectures on important themes of international affairs. The Council undertook research and analyses on broad range of subjects including political, economic and security developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America, Caribbean, Indo-Pacific and the wider geo-strategic environment; multilateral groupings- G20, SCO, BRICS, ASEAN, UN, SDGs, technology, cyber security, defense & security, migration and mobility. Endeavour remained to address issues that were at the top of foreign policy agenda, and advance India's foreign policy priorities.

5.8 Its research outcomes were disseminated in the form of short analytical papers in the form of Issue Briefs, Viewpoints and Special Reports, which were shared regularly on the ICWA website on its twitter account and other social media platforms. These analytical papers were compiled annually as a Global Review compendium and disseminated to all its stakeholders including MEA, and it has become a relevant reference book for policy community. Besides the above publications, Council continued with research projects, which were published in form of Books and Sapru House Papers covering issues from global and regional developments to diplomacy, trade, culture, civilization, SDGs, and grey zone governance. ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly.

5.9 In addition, the Council published Special Publications and Guest Columns that contained papers by eminent experts. Some of the recent publications dealt on subjects related to Management of Ocean Space and the High Seas Treaty, Emerging Technologies and Indian Diplomacy, Migration and Mobility, Changing Dynamics in South Caucasus, Evolving Landscape of Northeast Asia, Sahelian Politics and Renewing Quad. It published Guest columns by experts. Some of the issues focused were the Crisis in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, African Position on UN Reform and its Limitations, G20 and Disaster Risk Reduction, India Middle East

Europe Economic Corridor, The Case for Reviewing the UN Charter, Thirty Years of the 1994 Moscow Declaration: Pluralistic States in a Changing World.

5.10 Elaborating on the the manner in which ICCR, ICWA, RIS can play a more effective role in policy planning, research and foreign policy formulations, the Ministry have stated as under:

ICCR:Ministry of External Affairs, India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian Culture through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. MEA recognizes the strategic significance of the work done by ICCR through public and cultural diplomacy as one of the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy and therefore, Heads of India's Missions attach top priority to the task of projecting cultural heritage and assets abroad. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned. Activities of ICCR contribute substantially towards formulation of India's foreign policy and enhancing India's Global profile and public appeal.

ICWA:To address issues that are at the top of the foreign policy agenda and make its dialogues, discussions and research outputs more policy effective and impactful, ICWA would continue its coordination with MEA and increase consultations with various Divisions of MEA. To undertake focused studies on specific areas of government priorities in consultation with Government stakeholders; such as G20, Migration, Multilateralism etc. Mechanism to provide feedback to MEA on various consultations and discussions organized at the Council can be strengthened. ICWA can play the role of lead Think Tank from India in Think Tank Forums. MEA has nominated ICWA to represent India at the SCO Forum, which is a multilateral Track II mechanism comprising designated Think Tanks of Member Countries. In coordination with the MEA, ICWA has participated in all SCO Forum meetings from 2018 onward. During India's Chairmanship of the SCO (2022-2023), ICWA SCO study centre actively engaged with the Ministry of External Affairs in hosting programmes and events.

ICWA has also been nominated as the representative think-tank to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Think Tank Forum (TTF) from India, is an academic platform for interactions at the expert level. ICWA delegation participates in the annual CICATTFF in consultation with the MEA. MEA has suggested ICWA to positively consider presenting its candidature for CICA TTF Chair 2026-2027.

ICWA has been the lead Think Tank for CSCAP-India, which is funded by MEA through D&ISA Division. Director General of the ICWA is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee.

ICWA's Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) established on 2022 with the merger of erstwhile India Centre for Migration (ICM) has been closely working with MEA on the following projects: (1)INDIA-EU CAMM Phase II which was

launched in 2023; (II) ICWA has also collaborated with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and MEA for Project PRAYAS (Promoting Regular & Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals) .

RIS: The specialized research programme of RIS can be further strengthened and integrated within the Government system, including the MEA, for timely absorption of its critical research inputs in policy formulation. Closer interaction of government officials with RIS would help take further advantage of the policy research studies, publications as well as interactions organized by RIS. RIS can also widen its outreach to put across India's standpoint on areas of critical importance to the country in the evolving world where counter narratives need to be handled effectively through evidence-based research, for example- in South-South Development Cooperation, technology adoption, new ITEC programs, etc. DAKSHIN, the global South centre of excellence was set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle under RIS in 2023, to steer institutional collaboration between think-tanks of Global South countries to conduct research, identify specific projects, and share best practices in the fields of health, education, digital connectivity/solutions, and agriculture. Till date RIS has reached out to think-tanks in 121 countries, and signed Letters of Association with think-tanks in 65 countries.

Ministry of External Affairs, India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian Culture through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. MEA recognizes the strategic significance of the work done by ICCR through public and cultural diplomacy as one of the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy and therefore, Heads of India's Missions attach top priority to the task of projecting cultural heritage and assets abroad. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned. Activities of ICCR contribute substantially towards formulation of India's foreign policy and enhancing India's Global profile and public appeal."

5.11 The Committee enquired about the steps being taken to increase the visibility and impact of these bodies, particularly in countries with strategic importance to India's foreign policy. In response the Ministry have informed that ICCR has been organizing more and more activities through its cultural Centers, in partnership with Indian States and local entities to target foreigners and Indian diaspora, especially the youth. ICCR is also using new technologies, to strengthen its cultural outreach. Activity Information Management System (AIMS) and Gyan-Setu portals, online classes of Hindi, Kathak, Odishi, Bharatnatyam, Rangoli, Henna, Madhubani Painting and Puppet (More than 4500 participants enrolled for these classes) & Gen next Democracy Network Programmes are some of the recent new steps of ICCR.

5.12 Efforts are made to increase dialogues, regular interactions with think tanks and universities in countries with strategic importance to India's foreign policy; come out with joint publications with experts from counterpart institutes; disseminate its research publications to MoU partners and experts through email and social media platforms; facilitate visiting residential scholars/researchers; provide platform to experts and scholars from strategically important countries to contribute research articles in its journals, special publications and Guest columns.

5.13 Also, MEA, in close coordination with its Missions and Posts concerned abroad, is taking appropriate steps to enhance the visibility and footprint of RIS with its deeper engagement with think tanks in the Global South as part of India's efforts to be a major Voice of Global South. As part of this strategy, Government has established DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence - at RIS itself to promote the exchange of best development practices among interested partners in Global South, including wider replication of India's best digitally driven development practices in the field of health, agriculture and financial inclusion, including UPI, to begin with. Government is also engaged in the process of promotion of triangular cooperation which would ensure transfer of India's development knows how and technology among interested partners in Global South with financing from partners in the developed world.

5.14 Asked to explain how the Ministry incorporates the research and recommendations from autonomous bodies like ICWA and RIS into its foreign policy formulation process, the Ministry in their reply have stated that ICWA shares research outcomes with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which provides academic insights, and policy perspectives, on issues of international affairs and foreign policy. They are often incorporated into Foreign Policy Daily Reports and Think Tank Compendium by the Policy Planning Division for wider internal circulation among policy makers.

5.15 Research products sometimes feed into the Ministry's policy briefs, speeches. ICWA's Annual Global Review is utilized as a reference book by the policy community. Sometimes they are also appropriately utilized by the Division in its bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices, preparation of research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign



policy in particular. For instance, ICWA's recent inputs related to IORA, Africa, Latin America, Migration and Mobility have been used appropriately in its documents and speeches.

5.16 The reports and publications emerging from ICWA's international dialogues act as reference points for India's long-term foreign policy strategy. While the immediate influence may not always be overt, the intellectual outputs from these activities often contribute to the development of India's strategic vision, which is periodically articulated through several policy documents and speeches. ICWA's publications are also instrumental in supporting India's public diplomacy efforts. Articles, books, and research papers published are often used as resources to engage the global community, foreign scholars, media, and the general public. By disseminating these findings, ICWA helps shape the narrative around India's foreign policy objectives, often contributing to global perceptions of India as a responsible and engaged international actor.

5.17 Providing instances of how research from these bodies has influenced recent foreign policy decisions the Ministry have submitted that the University Connect Programme pioneered by RIS for its Delhi Process annual international conference has been supported by the government during India's G20 Presidency through commissioning of G-20 Lecture Series, consisting of 101 Lectures by eminent personalities in universities across the country to generate greater awareness on India's importance and role in the G20 process. Similarly, the idea of replication of India's best digitally driven development practices in Global South has been supported by the Government with the establishment of DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence – at RIS. The research programme of RIS in the field of Blue Economy has also resulted in the established of a Centre of Maritime Economic Cooperation at RIS with the support of Indian Ports Association for research on integrated development of India's ports.

5.18 Asked about the role played by MEA in these institutions, the Ministry has informed that Ministry of External Affairs, India's Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of projecting Indian Culture through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. MEA accept the strategic significance of the work done by ICCR through public and cultural diplomacy as among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy and therefore, Heads of Mission attach top priority and importance to the task of projecting cultural heritage and assets of India. All ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms like Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign

Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with MEA and Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned. Activities of ICCR contribute substantially towards overall formulation of India's foreign policy.

5.19 Apart from its annual financial support, MEA continues to be actively involved in the work programme of ICWA and RIS so that it is aligned to the evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals. EAM is the Vice-President of the Governing Council and a member of the Governing Body of ICWA. Foreign Secretary is a member of both the Governing Body and the Governing Council of ICWA. Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA attend the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS and share their vision which forms a vital part of the work programme of RIS. The PP& R division is part of ICWA's Research, Programme and Finance Committees.

5.20 At the functional level, PP&R Division maintains regular contact with ICWA and RIS. It also coordinates with various divisions of the Ministry where inputs and programmatic & research support might be required from ICWA and RIS. Senior officials of the MEA participate in the wide range of conferences, dialogues and workshops organized by ICWA and RIS on core areas of India's interest in geopolitics, geo-economics, trade, finance, development, neighborhood connectivity and South-South Cooperation and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India. MEA also works with ICWA and RIS to hold track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues so as to promote India's foreign policy objectives. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.

**5.21 The Committee recognize the critical role played by autonomous bodies such as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in advancing India's foreign policy objectives, especially in the domains of cultural diplomacy, international relations, and research on emerging global issues. In the Committee's considered opinion, the current financial allocations to these institutions fall short of adequately supporting the expanding demands for their research, outreach activities, and strategic collaborations with international think tanks—endeavors that are pivotal to advancing India's interests**

and influencing global discourse on critical issues such as South-South cooperation, Digital Diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence, Climate Action, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), food security, women-led development, sharing of best practices, etc. Therefore, the Committee strongly urge for a substantial augmentation of the financial provisions for these institutions to align with their expanded mandates and activities. The increased funding would facilitate the growth of their research capabilities, outreach initiatives, and global visibility, which are crucial for elevating India's standing in the international policy sphere.

*(Recommendation No.45)*

## **B. INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR)**

5.22 The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was formally set up in 1950 with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. As enunciated in the Memorandum of Association, it aims at participating in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's cultural relations with other countries, fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries and establishing and developing relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

5.23 The major activities undertaken by the ICCR is as follows:

1. Scholarships and Welfare of International Students
2. Operation of ICCs and Chairs abroad
3. Incoming and Outgoing Cultural delegations
4. Incoming and Outgoing Exhibitions
5. Installation of Busts and Statues of Indian Icons National Leaders
6. Conferences and Seminars on subjects like Indology, Buddhism, Tagore and other subjects related to Indian Culture and Society.
7. Distinguished Visitors Programme, AVP, IVP, Hindi Visitors Program

Publication:

1. Bi-Monthly Hindi Magazine, Gagananchal

## 2. Annual Report of ICCR.

### i) **Budgetary Allocation**

5.24 The allocation during BE 2024-25 and RE 2024-25 was Rs. 331.25 crore and has been increased to Rs. 351.25 crore during BE 2025-26. The Ministry has stated that enhanced allocation in BE 2025-26 has been made from RE 2024-25 on account of expanding research & academic activities, expanding scope of cultural diplomacy under ICCR as well as revision in scholarship rates, cultural hospitality norms, etc. for ICCR schemes and programmes. The major activities where enhance allocation has been made are:

- i. Welfare activities for foreign students
- ii. Scholarship to foreign students
- iii. Alumni Activities and Award
- iv. Incoming Cultural Delegation (ICD)
- v. Outgoing Cultural Delegation (OCD)
- vi. Festivals abroad
- vii. Incoming and Outgoing Exhibitions
- viii. Bust & Statue
- ix. Conference & Seminar
- x. Indian Cultural Centres abroad
- xi. International Day of Yoga (IDY – 2025)
- xii. ICCR Chairs abroad
- xiii. Visitors Programmes

5.25 The details of budgetary allocations sought by ICCR, actual allocations made and expenditure incurred during the last three financial years and in the current fiscal are tabulated below.

*(Amount in Crore)*

<b>F.Y.</b>	<b>BE Demand</b>	<b>Allocation of BE</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2021-22	300.00	300.00	207.53
2022-23	350.00	320.00	290.28

2023-24	370.00	345.21	301.02
2024-25	381.25	331.25	292.38 (Up to 31/01/2025)

5.26 On being asked whether the allocated amount is sufficient to meet the expanding activities of ICCR, the Ministry have stated that against the projected budget of Rs. 381.25 crores, BE of Rs. 331.25 crores was allocated which is reasonable to run the activities of ICCR, based on utilization pattern and anticipated activities in last financial year.

5.27 The detailed breakdown of the funds allocated to different programs and initiatives managed by ICCR (such as cultural exchanges, scholarships, and international events) are provided hereunder:

S.No.	Particulars	*Approved BE/RE2024-25 Less budgetsurrendered (in INR lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	<b>Scholarships and Welfare to the Foreign Students</b>	
(i)	Welfare Activities	350.00
(ii)	<i>Scholarships</i>	
(a)	Expenditure booked	7640.00
(b)	Remittances made to ZOs	
(iii)	Alumni Activities & Awards	80.00
(iv)	ICCR Foundation Day	10.00
2	Outgoing Exhibitions	10.00
3	Incoming Exhibitions	20.00
4	Distinguished Visitors Programme	
5	Gen Next	295.00
6	Academic Visitors Programme	
7	Outgoing Visitors Programme	
8	Horizon Series & Other Programmes	72.00
9	Incoming Cultural Delegations	540.00
10	G-20	
11	Outgoing Cultural Delegations	1070.00
12	Empanelment	10.00
13	Conferences&Seminars	200.00
14	Special Projects	40.00

15	Fellowships	20.00
16	Bust/Statues	90.00
17	Publications	10.00
18	Presentations	5.00
19	Library	5.00
20	Hindi Activities	25.00
21	Hindi teachers abroad	880.00
22	ICCR Chairs	
(a)	Expenditure booked	
(b)	Remittance to Chairs	
23	<b>Expenditure abroad</b>	
(i)	Indian Cultural Centres	
(a)	Expenditure booked	11200.00
(b)	Remittances to ICCs	
(ii)	Opening of new Cultural Centres abroad	100.00
(iii)	Deployment of Resource Persons	450.00
(iv)	ICCs in PPP mode(Casa De La India,Spain)	120.00
(v)	Teachers of Indian Culture(TIC)	589.00
(vi)	International Day of Yoga	1565.00
24	Media & Website	200.00
25	Meeting of GA/GB & other Committees	3.50
26	<b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Activities</b>	
(i)	Birth/Death Anniversary	0.50
27	<b>Establishment and Offices Expenses</b>	
(a)	Establishment Expenses (HQ+ROs)	4494.00
(b)	Office Expenses (HQ+ROs)	580.00
(c)	Balance remittances with ROs/ZOs	
28	Repair,Maintenance of Buildings & RRT	10.00
29	Maintenance of Jinnah House	10.00
30	Loan&Advances(MCA/OMCA/HBA/Computer)	6.00
	<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
31	Purchase of Vehicles	
32	Furniture & Fixtures Hqrs & RO	13.00
33	Computer & Computerization Hqrs & RO	10.00
34	Capital Expenditure on Building (HQ&RO)	27.00
A request has been made to re-appropriate an amount of ₹23.00 Cr. from GIA (SAL) and ₹ 0.75 Cr. from GIA (Capital Assets) to GIA (General).		

5.28 On being asked whether any extra budgetary resources are available with ICCR, the Ministry have informed that ICCR is fully funded by MEA through Grants-in-Aid except receipt from ICCs abroad on account of fee from local students and renting of auditoriums, which is insignificant amount, ICCR has no further source of funding to run its activities.

5.29 Elaborating on the efforts being made by ICCR to further generate additional resources, the Ministry has stated that ICCR's cultural Centres abroad are either co-located in our Embassies or are treated as adjunct diplomatic entities of our Embassies. Therefore, they are restricted by local laws from engaging in commercial activities. Nonetheless, our Cultural Centre charge modest fees from local students learning yoga, Indian music, dance etc. and also earn some revenue by renting their auditoriums to local public bodies. Further, with the new initiatives of MEA/ ICCR, one centre in Valladolid (Spain) has been established on Public-Private-Partnership model. Considering the soft power and cultural diplomatic activities being undertaken by other countries, it is necessary that substantial Government funding should continue to sponsor proactive and effective conduct of India's soft power and cultural projection. Going forward, ICCR is encouraging its Cultural Centres and Embassies to undertake culture promotion activities in partnership with local entities and existing resources in PPP mode to expand our Cultural outreach and enhance the impact of India soft power.

5.30 Apprising the Committee of the achievements and success that have resulted from the key cultural programs or initiatives that have received the most funding in recent years the Ministry have stated as under:

1. Scholarships and Welfare to the Foreign Students

Scholarship for foreign nationals is an important tool to encourage them to study and appreciate Indian arts, heritage and culture. This is also a way to create outreach, a feeling of goodwill and promote India's influence across the world. In the academic year 2024-25, ICCR offered 3960 scholarship slots to foreign nationals under its 20 Scholarship Schemes including 1000 scholarships for Afghan nationals to pursue online Under Graduate/Post Graduate (UG/PG) courses.

ICCR organised "Exit Engagement Evening 2024" for the foreign students who have completed their course/study through ICCR scholarships at (i) Guwahati on 19 June 2024; (ii) Kolkata on 20 June 2024; (iii) Lucknow on 29 June 2024; (iv) Mumbai on 3 July 2024; (v) Pune on 4 July 2024; (vi) Delhi on 12 July 2024; (vii) Ahmedabad on 19 July 2024 ;

and(viii) Bengaluru on 22 August 2024. Various Ministries/Departments participated in the event and encouraged the foreign students to promote Ayurveda, Khadi, Indian tourism and economic cooperation worldwide.

## 2. Outgoing Cultural Delegations

ICCR in its efforts to create international understanding through culture sponsored 62 cultural troupes of different genre such as Kathak, Mohiniattam, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Odissi, Bollywood etc. and Folk Dance & Music Group such as Punjabi, Assamese, Gujarati & Rajasthani to give cultural performances in 52 countries.

## 3. ICCR Chairs

ICCR is instrumental in setting up Chairs of (a) Indian Studies such as Political Science, Philosophy, History, Sociology, Economics & Buddhist Studies; (b) Indian languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil; and (c) Dance & Music in different foreign universities across the world as per the requests received from the Universities and recommended by Missions. During the period 10 MoUs have been signed with various universities and 4 scholars have been deployed as ICCR visiting professor at various foreign Universities.

## 4. Indian Culture Centre Abroad

ICCR has 38 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. Additionally extends support to the Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain established on Public-Private Partnership. ICCR deployed 48 Teachers of Indian Culture and 28 India based Performing Arts teachers in the disciplines of Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Tabla, Hindustani & Carnatic Vocal in the Missions / Posts / ICCs. ICCR encouraged Missions /Posts for hiring of Local Resources Persons (LRPs) as Teachers of Yoga, Indian Dance and Music. Total numbers of 103 LRPs are presently deployed at various Missions / Posts / ICCs.

As per the tripartite agreement signed by ICCR with Routes2Roots (R2R) and Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, one year online classes commenced in the disciplines of Kathak (194 students from 48 countries), Bharatnatyam (136 students from 39 countries) and Odissi Dances (82 students from 27 countries) from 15 January 2024 onwards.

ICCR in coordination with R2R conducted online short-term classes of Henna, Rangoli, Madhubani Painting and Puppet Making for the Indian Diaspora and foreign students on pilot basis in order to popularise these disciplines. 4056 students from 51 countries registered themselves in the said courses and four classes in each discipline were held from 26 September to 22 October 2024.

## 5. International Day of Yoga



To promote Yoga worldwide the ICCR facilitated the celebration of the 10th International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2024 in 192 Missions/Posts abroad. Over 1121 IDY events were organized worldwide.

#### 6. Incoming Cultural Delegations (ICD)

ICCR organized cultural performances of (i) 'Shree Satsang Ramayana Mandali' – Ramayana cultural troupe from Fiji in New Delhi, Ayodhya and Ujjain during 9 - 15 March 2024; (ii) 'Manipuri Cultural Troupe' & Jazz performance by 'Benny & the Jazz Collective' group in honor of visiting ASEAN-SOM leaders & delegates as a part of the 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting held from 2 & 3 May 2024; (iii) Sitar Recital by Shri Mehtab Ali Niazi at New Delhi on 11 July 2024 during the BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's retreat hosted by EAM, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar; (iv) International Performing Art Workshop on Ramayana (2nd edition under the ongoing series) in Bengaluru from 29-31 July 2024 as part of its yearlong celebration of "Connecting World through Ramayana – 2024; and (v) India International Tribal Festival at Stayajit Ray Auditorium, RTC, Kolkata from 19 & 20 November 2024.

ICCR organized '8th India International Folk Festival' at Kamani Auditorium New Delhi from 26 & 27 November 2024. International cultural troupes from Colombia, Sri Lanka, Slovakia & Iraq participated in the festival. The Festival was inaugurated by Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles on 26 November 2024. ICCR has also participated 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (Jan. 2025) which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

5.31 The Committee desired to know how ICCR coordinates with other Ministries (such as the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, and Ministry of Education) in the allocation and utilization of its budget for cultural diplomacy. The Ministry have informed that ICCR administers 20 scholarship schemes including 6 scholarship schemes (1474 slots) with ICCR's own budget and 11 scholarship schemes (2412 slots including 1000 slots for Afghan Nationals for online course) on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs and 3 scholarship schemes (74 slots) on behalf of Ministry of AYUSH to facilitate studying of foreign students in India. As per general norms, ICCR sponsors cultural events as per proposals received from MEA, PMO, Rashtrapati Bhavan Secretariat in addition to its routine cultural activities under Plan of Action. For other Ministries, ICCR generally supports the designated cultural events by way of consulting & recommending artists/ cultural troupes from its existing panel for performances. There is no Cross Ministry funding for ICCR activities.

5.32 When asked how ICCR measures the success of its cultural diplomacy efforts, the Ministry have submitted that success of our cultural efforts is measured through various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including the number of scholarships awarded, the number of cultural events organized, and the number of countries participating in our cultural programs. The increased utilization of scholarship slots in the past few years is a notable achievement.

5.33 Enumerating the contributions of ICCR to the formulation and implementation of India's foreign policy, the Ministry has submitted that ICCR is a unique platform to promote India's global cultural relations and soft power abroad. Some key aspects of how the ICCR promotes its soft power and aid implementation of India's foreign policy are as follows:

- ICCR has been playing an important role in the field of education for international students in India. Scholarship for foreign nationals is an important tool to encourage them to study and appreciate Indian arts, heritage and culture. This is also a way to create outreach, a feeling of goodwill and promote India's influence across the world. In the academic year 2024-25, ICCR offered 3960 scholarship slots to foreign nationals under its 20 Scholarship Schemes including 1000 scholarships for Afghan nationals to pursue online Under Graduate/Post Graduate (UG/PG) courses. Many of ICCR Alumni have achieved positions of influence in their respective countries and each ICCR scholar is India's goodwill Ambassador abroad.
- ICCR organised "Exit Engagement Evening 2024" for the foreign students who have completed their course/study through ICCR scholarships at (i) Guwahati on 19 June 2024; (ii) Kolkata on 20 June 2024; (iii) Lucknow on 29 June 2024; (iv) Mumbai on 3 July 2024; (v) Pune on 4 July 2024; (vi) Delhi on 12 July 2024; (vii) Ahmedabad on 19 July 2024; and (viii) Bangaluru on 22 August 2024. Various Ministries/Departments participated in the event and encouraged the foreign students to promote Ayurveda, Khadi, Indian tourism and economic cooperation worldwide.
- To promote Indian Studies and languages abroad, ICCR established Chairs of Indian Studies in foreign universities/institutes. ICCR is instrumental in setting up Chairs of (a) Indian Studies such as Political Science, Philosophy, History, Sociology, Economics & Buddhist Studies; (b) Indian languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil; and (c) Dance & Music in different foreign universities across the world as per the requests received from the Universities and recommended by Missions. During the period 10 MoUs have been signed with various universities and 4 scholars has been deployed as ICCR visiting professor at various foreign Universities.
- ICCR has 38 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. Additionally extends support to the Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain

established on Public-Private Partnership. This facilitates the exchange of ideas, traditions and artistic expressions between India and the rest of the world, helping to strengthen cultural bonds and promoting mutual understanding. ICCR supported 192 Missions / Posts for celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga on 21 June, 2024.

- ICCR deployed 48 Teachers of Indian Culture and 28 India based Performing Arts teachers in the disciplines of Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Tabla, Hindustani & Carnatic Vocal in the Missions / Posts / ICCs. ICCR encouraged Missions /Posts for hiring of Local Resources Persons (LRPs) as Teachers of Yoga, Indian Dance and Music. Total numbers of 103 LRPs are presently deployed at various Missions / Posts / ICCs.
- As per the tripartite agreement signed by ICCR with Routes2Roots (R2R) and Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, one year online classes commenced in the disciplines of Kathak (194 students from 48 countries), Bharatnatyam (136 students from 39 countries) and Odissi Dances (82 students from 27 countries) from 15 January 2024 onwards.
- One of the major activities of the Council is to send Indian Cultural troupes abroad to showcase rich Indian Dance and Music to the world and to invite cultural troupes from abroad on a reciprocal basis. ICCR in its efforts to create international understanding through culture, sponsored 62 cultural troupes of different genre such as Kathak, Mohiniattam, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Odissi, Bollywood etc. and Folk Dance & Music Group such as Punjabi, Assamese, Gujarati & Rajasthani to give cultural performances in 52 countries.
- To promote India's cultural relations with other countries, ICCR has instituted various awards to recognize the foreign nationals for their contribution in the respective fields. Mr. Lungtaen Gyatso, President College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan conferred Bharat Mitra Samman –Indology 2023 in Bhutan on 10 May 2024. Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, Chancellor, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Myanmar conferred the International Award for Promotion of Buddhism 2023 in Yangon, Myanmar on 31 May 2024. Ms. Masako Satou, Artist, Kathak Dancer, Choreographer, Japan conferred the Bharat Mitra Samman-Distinguished Alumni 2022 in Japan on 8 November 2024.
- ICCR organized cultural performances of (i) 'Shree Satsang Ramayana Mandali' – Ramayana cultural troupe from Fiji in New Delhi, Ayodhya and Ujjain during 9 - 15 March 2024; (ii) 'Manipuri Cultural Troupe' & Jazz performance by 'Benny & the Jazz Collective' group in honor of visiting ASEAN-SOM leaders & delegates as a part of the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting held from 2 & 3 May 2024; (iii) Sitar Recital by Shri Mehtab Ali Niazi at New Delhi on 11 July 2024 during the BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's retreat hosted by EAM, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar; (iv) International Performing Art Workshop on Ramayana (2nd edition under the ongoing series) in Bengaluru from 29-31 July 2024 as part of its yearlong celebration

- of “Connecting World through Ramayana – 2024; and (v) India International Tribal Festival at Stayajit Ray Auditorium, RTC, Kolkata from 19 & 20 November 2024.
- ICCR organized ‘8<sup>th</sup> India International Folk Festival’ at Kamani Auditorium New Delhi from 26 & 27 November 2024. International cultural troupes from Colombia, Sri Lanka, Slovakia & Iraq participated in the festival. The Festival was inaugurated by Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon’ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles on 26 November 2024.
  - ICCR organised 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2024 for resident Foreign Heads of Missions at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan on 21 June 2024. The event was graced by Hon’ble EAM, Members of the diplomatic corps and senior officials.
  - ICCR organised a two-day International Yoga Conference titled “Yoga for Self and Society” in collaboration with S-VYASA and University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa at Senate Chambers, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban on 27 & 28 June 2024.
  - ICCR sent 9 Busts and Statues of iconic leaders viz Mahatma Gandhi, Hansa Jivraj Mehta, Kasturba Gandhi and Lord Buddha to different countries viz. Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, Kuwait, Italy, Durban and Sri Lanka for installation at prominent places during January-November 2024.
  - ICCR is publishing Hindi bi-monthly magazine “Gagananchal” for the last 46 years, to promote Hindi in the country and abroad. A Book launch ceremony of the special issue of Gagananchal "Videsh Mein Hindi" was organized in the prestigious presence of Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon’ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles on 14 October 2024 in New Delhi.
  - Under its Distinguished Visitors Programmes, ICCR hosted the visits of (i) Ms. Natalia Gavrilita, former Prime Minister of Moldova from 23 January-1 February 2024; (ii) Prof. Morten Meldal, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry of Denmark from 31 January-9 February 2024; (iii) H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes, Vice- President of Guatemala from 9-18 February 2024; (iv) Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake, Sr. Leader of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and former Minister of Sri Lanka from 5-10 February 2024; and (v) Ms. Rene Baptiste Mercedes, former Cabinet Minister of Government of St. Vincent and Grenadines and Speaker of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean from 19-27 March 2024.
  - Under its Academic Visitors Programme, ICCR hosted the visits of (i) Mr. Alexanr Koichubayev, Rector of Alikhan Bokeikhan University, Kazakhstan from 10-18 March, 2024; (ii) Prof. Amer Ali Abdullah Al Rawas, Vice Chancellor, Dhofar University, Oman from 9-15 November 2024; and (iii) Prof. Mundia Muya, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia from 19-26 November 2024.
  - Under its Important Visitors Programme, ICCR hosted the visit of Captain Saleh Bin Said Al Jabri from Muscat, Oman during 14-21 October 2024.

- ICCR Organized the 7<sup>th</sup> “India International Ramayana Mela-2024” at Purana Qila, New Delhi from 18-24 January 2024 as part of its yearlong celebration of “Year of Connecting World through Ramayana Tradition- 2024”.
- Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi inaugurated the exhibition titled Arindam-Indian Chapter on the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of ICCR on 9 April 2024 at Bikaner House.
- ICCR organised an exhibition titled "Ramayana Resonance: Celebrating a Shared Heritage," in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Kathmandu and Nepal Academy of Fine Arts at Kathmandu from 23-30 September, 2024. Shri. Badri Prasad Pandey, Minister of Culture, Tourism, & Civil Aviation, Nepal inaugurated the Exhibition. The exhibition was also exhibited at National Museum, Yangon, Myanmar from 8-15 November 2024.
- The ICCR signed 2 MoUs with State Governments of Odisha and Jharkhand and an MoU with Auroville Foundation, Tamilnadu on 27 September 2024 to promote Culture and Education.
- Leveraging social media and digital platforms, ICCR shares cultural content, heritage, and traditions, through its various social media handles engaging with a broader audience and fostering connections across borders.

5.34 On being asked about the status of restructuring of ICCR as recommended by this Committee in their Reports, the Ministry have stated that in terms of better utilization of resources, more efficiency and better use of existing human resources in the Council. 20 ICCR Regional Offices were restructured and consolidated into 5 Zonal Offices at Bengaluru, Delhi, Guwahati, Kolkata and Mumbai and 4 Sub-Zonal Offices at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Pune and Shillong. RPO at Patna and Jammu have been entrusted with ICCR’s work as well.

5.35 Elaborating the manner in which ICCR can play a more effective role in promotion of India’s soft power and cultural diplomacy abroad, the Ministry have stated that Ministry of External Affairs, India’s Missions abroad and ICCR constitute the triangle within which the task of India’s soft power projection through public and cultural diplomacy is fulfilled. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) subsumed the strategic significance of the work of soft power projection through public and cultural diplomacy among the key tools in the formulation and implementation of India’s foreign policy and therefore, Heads of Mission attach top priority and importance to the task of soft-power projection and cultural diplomacy. The primary objective of the Council is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding

between India and other countries in order to promote awareness and appreciation of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy, To achieve this, the Council is operating Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. Additionally, ICCR extends support to the Casa-de-la India in Valladolid, Spain established on 'PPP' Model (Public-Private Partnership). ICCR's activities, including those conducted through its extended arms Indian Cultural Centers, the Chairs of Indian Studies in Foreign Universities, and the foreign students' scholarships programme, are conducted in close coordination with Indian Missions/posts in the country concerned. To promote Yoga and Indian Dances & Music globally, the Council deploys Teachers of Indian Culture (TICs) to teach Yoga and India based Performing Arts teachers in the disciplines of Bharatnatyam, Kathak Odissi, Hind Vocal, Tabla in the various Missions/Posts /ICCs. As far as Scholarship Division is concerned, for the promotion of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy abroad, the ICCR is offering around 4000 scholarships annually to foreign nationals for higher studies at various institutions in India. During their study period, students get the opportunity to learn about Indian Culture.

## **ii) *ICCR Scholarships***

5.36 The total budget allocated for scholarships and educational exchanges under ICCR for the financial year 2025-26 is Rs. 80.50 Crore which includes Rs. 80 Crore for scholarships and Rs. 50 lakhs for educational exchanges. 3960 scholarship slots have been awarded to various countries under various scholarship schemes. The countries where most of the scholarship slots are offered under various scholarship schemes are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Tanzania.

5.37 As regards the plans to increase the budget or expand the scope of scholarships in the coming years, the Ministry have stated the ICCR plans to increase the budget for scholarships and educational exchanges by 15% for the financial year 2026-27 due to the frequent demand of slots from various Missions abroad and due to the increase of TF/OCF payable to the Universities. Also, for maintaining the quality of education of recipients, ICCR only empanels premier Universities/Institutes having NAAC grading 'A' and above and NIRF ranking from 1 to 100.

5.38 The Committee also sought to know whether ICCR has executed the new process for admission of Foreign National on scholarship slots. In response the Ministry have stated that in order to digitize various scholarship schemes administered by ICCR, an "A2A" (Admissions to Alumni) Portal was developed in 2018 to manage admissions of foreign students. The portal has been designed to keep all records of the students in a transparent manner. The flow of the A2A portal through which admissions of foreign students are procured, is as under:-

- 1) Interested students apply on the A2A portal for the course he/she desires to pursue.
- 2) Simultaneously he/she opts for 5 University/Institute where student desires to pursue the said course.
- 3) The applications are received directly by the University/Institute, who accesses the same on the A2A portal (the log in Id/password of A2A portal for that particular University is available with them).
- 4) University/Institute examines the applications and based upon the qualification of the student confirms the admission and upload the admission letter on A2A Portal.
- 5) The admission confirmation letter is received by the Indian Mission/Post, who further offer the scholarship to the desired candidate based upon the availability of slots with them.
- 6) After receiving the offer letter from the concerned Mission, student arrives in India and joins the desired course.

5.39 Asked how the new system has helped ICCR in improving its academic and intellectual activities, the Ministry has stated that the portal consists of all relevant information available for students abroad including names and details of all State and Central Universities and Institutes, information like availability of hostels, availability of various academic courses, guidelines, eligibility criteria etc. This information helps students in decision making while applying for Universities/Institutes of their choice in academic courses of their preference. The launch of this portal helped digitalizing the entire admission process and improved the effectiveness of the very large scholarship programme which is administered by ICCR on behalf of MEA. The introduction of A2A portal has led to expeditious, time-bound, transparent and accountable method of admissions, as well as keeping track of academic progress of the student and financial management.

**iii) ICCR Cultural Centres**

5.40 The Ministry has informed that there are 37 ICCR cultural centres which are currently operational across the globe. The list of Indian Cultural Centres is as under:

- 1) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana
- 2) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname
- 3) Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius
- 4) Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 5) Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia
- 6) The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany
- 7) Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt
- 8) The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom
- 9) Indian Cultural Centre Tel Aviv, Israel
- 10) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa
- 11) Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 12) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Astana, Kazakhstan
- 13) Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
- 14) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 15) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- 16) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre Bali, Indonesia
- 17) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Suva, Fiji
- 18) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 19) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Kabul, Afghanistan
- 20) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Beijing, China
- 21) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
- 22) Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Tokyo, Japan
- 23) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 24) Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 25) Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Centre, Thimphu, Bhutan
- 26) Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre, Mexico City, Mexico
- 27) Amrita Shergill Cultural Centre, Budapest, Hungary
- 28) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Prague, Czech Republic



- 29) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Yangon, Myanmar
- 30) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
- 31) Indian Cultural Centre, Male, Maldives
- 32) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 33) The Gandhi Centre, The Hague, Netherlands
- 34) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 35) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre Tehran, Iran
- 36) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Sydney, Australia
- 37) Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam

5.41 On being asked about the status and functioning of these centres, particularly in terms of their contribution to cultural diplomacy, the Ministry has in their written reply submitted that the Indian Culture Centres (ICC)'s are principal instruments for executing ICCR's mandate of taking the uniquely rich and powerful cultural message of India to the world. ICCs, headed by a Director and supported by a team of teachers & local staff, make dedicated efforts to disseminate India's vibrant cultural heritage abroad and cultivate enduring connections between India and the rest of the world. Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) undertake cultural outreach and project India's soft power abroad through a wide range of cultural, academic intellectual activities, promoting, inter alia, knowledge, information and understanding of various aspects of Indian culture, including Indian dance, music, yoga, languages, food, festivals, history, ethos & traditions and contemporary India.

5.42 The ICCs play a vital role in developing and strengthening people-to-people links between India and the country where the ICCs are located and are also the first point of contact in Missions abroad for knowing more about India, for generating positive interest in India, and spreading knowledge about her civilizational heritage and contemporary achievements. They serve as the cultural diplomacy interface in India's Missions abroad, winning friends and influencing people.

5.43 Ever since the ICCs were first started, teaching has been among the principal focal points of ICC activities. Teachers are sent from India to the ICCs, where they run classes in Indian classical music, dance, Yoga and Indian languages. Apart from teachers deputed by ICCR from India, ICCs can hire teachers locally as Local Resource Persons (LRPs). This enable our ICCs to

tap into local talent of foreigners and diaspora community; fosters networks of collaboration with locals; encourages foreigners/diaspora to explore India and Indian culture; incentivizes lovers of India who voluntarily promote India pro-bono and allows teaching in local languages for enhanced impact.

5.44 ICCs also actively organize Indian cultural events, food and film festivals, celebrate Indian festivals, organize seminars/lectures and exhibitions; invite locals for important national occasion and undertake publicity for Indian initiatives like G-20, PBD, International Day of Yoga (IDY) etc. They also facilitate participation of Indian cultural troops and Indian artists in cultural festivals abroad and help organize their standalone performances. ICCs also help bring foreign artists/troops for performances in India and participation in events. They also facilitate opening of 'India Corners' in foreign universities, run library/resource facilitates (in some ICC's) and help enhance the impact of Indian cultural organizations/Indian States abroad.

5.45 ICCR offers over 3000 scholarships annually to over 3000 foreign students for studies in India. ICCs help our Embassies remain connected with ICCR alumni and engage them through alumni events, invitations to Indian cultural events and networking.

5.46 As regards the objective criterion for opening of new cultural centres abroad, the Ministry have stated that Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) are principal institutional instrument mandated for cultural outreach abroad and projecting India's Cultural Diplomacy through a wide range of cultural, academic intellectual activities, promoting, inter alia, knowledge, information and understanding of various aspects of Indian culture including Indian Dance, Music, Yoga, Languages, Food, Festivals, History, Ethos & Traditions and contemporary issues.

5.47 Elaborating upon the procedure for opening these centers abroad, the Ministry has stated that Indian Cultural Centres are opened by ICCR in consultation with concerned Mission and with approval of MEA. Hiring of premises/property is taken up in consultation with Global Estate Management Division (GEM Division), MEA and Creation of posts at Cultural Centre has been taken up with Administration Division, MEA, who could thereafter take it up with Ministry of Finance. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) has been formulated for the same in consultation with MEA.

5.48 The Committee enquired whether there are any plans to further expand the footprints of Indian culture and soft power by opening more cultural centres, especially in those regions where Indian diaspora may not be present in large numbers. The Ministry has responded that ICCR is in the process of reviewing the geographical spread of ICCs as well as their current activities with the intent of rationalizing their locations and enhancing the scope and scale of their activities, in line with India's rising global profile. To this end, ICCR is looking at leveraging partnerships with a range of stakeholders working in the cultural space, including PPP partnerships and making ICCs self-sustaining and revenue generating like the cultural centres run by major powers.

5.49 When asked whether ICCR is in the process of opening more Indian Cultural Centers abroad during the upcoming financial year, the Ministry have informed that at present ICCR is in process of establishing Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre (TVCC) at Singapore. The operationalization of new Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Paris is in the final stage and may be inaugurated soon.

5.50 Responding to a specific query about the status of setting up Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre, the Ministry has informed that the Mission, ICCR and MEA are working on identifying a suitable property for setting up Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre (TVCC) in Singapore, which was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit last year. ICCR and MEA are also working together to create a few posts, in consultation with Department of Expenditure to run this centre in Singapore. MEA and Mission are in correspondence, keeping ICCR in loop, for examining draft lease deed for renting property considering the local laws/practice (in Singapore) and security clearance from BOS. Approval of MEA is awaited.

5.51 Moreover, for creation of post for Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centres (TVCC), Singapore, approval of Deptt. of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance is required. ICCR vide email dated 06.11.2024 has sent the duly filled check list in DoE format for each of the requisite posts i.e. 03 India-based staff (Director, PA to Director, Programme Executive), 03 Local Staff (Receptionist, MTS, Driver) and 04 India-based teachers (Bharatnatyam, Yoga, Carnatic Music, Tamil language teacher) with other documents to MEA for further taking up the matter with Deptt. of Expenditure. Upon receiving, all the required clearance & approval from MEA, renting of premises, approval for creation of the posts from Deptt. of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) and

announcement for formal opening of the centre, ICCR may deploy India based officer & India based Teachers in the Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre, Singapore.

5.52 On the Committee's query regarding the cost incurred on construction of ICCR Cultural Centres at Washington and Paris so far and the reasons for the delay, the Ministry in their written reply have submitted as under:

“ICCR Cultural Centre at Washington DC

The property for the Culture Centre at Washington DC was purchased in 2013 but could not be renovated and put to use in a timely manner for the following reasons:

- Restrictions in local law and major divergence in tendering practices locally vis-à-vis GoI norms.
- Approvals for undertaking the renovation works took considerable time, in addition to the time taken subsequently for obtaining local municipal body approvals.
- The delays were further compounded due to the Covid pandemic related lockdowns and the resultant disruption in supply chain issue.
- The building codes of Washington DC had been changed in 2022, hence the architect had to amend all the drawings and documents as per the revised codes for obtaining new permits entailing additional expenditure which was not concurred by the Ministry.

Periodic inspections of the property are undertaken regularly so as to ensure its overall security and upkeep. Emergency repairs are being carried out regularly to avoid deterioration of the property. The property is being used for storage of some Embassy materials. Ministry is open to all prudent and reasonable proposals for the future of the property.

Mission has so far paid an amount of US\$ 441,581.91/- to M/s Studios Architecture towards consultancy services and still has an outstanding fee of US\$ 36,023.34/- to be released to the firm.

ICCR Cultural Centre at Paris

After purchase of the building in 2011 for the Indian Cultural Centre in Paris, the Ministry appointed a Consultant-Architect in May 2015. The work on renovation of the Centre started in June 2018. The renovation work schedule was, however, adversely affected due to the following reasons:

- Bankruptcy of one of the contractors who was then replaced after intervention by the Judicial Administrator of the Nanterre Court
- Because of COVID-19 and supply issues, the project work came to a complete halt for a long time.
- Delay in getting requisite approvals for variation orders and cost related escalations.
- Backing out of one of the companies responsible for electrical & HVAC works and delay in finding the replacement of this company.
- Hosting of Olympics-2024 in Paris obstructed movement of raw materials as restrictions were placed on movement of vehicles as well as personnel near the construction site as it was close to the Olympic venues.

Mission has so far paid an amount of **Euro 2,812,953.3/-** (excl. VAT) on the renovation of the ICC in Paris. The project is almost completed except the Indianisation work, which is underway, paving the way for the building to be put to use in near future.”

5.53 Regarding the appointments made thereon, the Ministry have stated that ICCs are headed by a Director and supported by a team of teachers & local staff. They, closely coordinate with the Mission’s Culture, Education and Press wings.

5.54 ICCR deploys Directors, teachers of Yoga, Hindi & Performing Arts in the ICCs. While directors are deployed by three modes (1) nominated by President ICCR, (2) ICCR officials and (3) Open advertisement, selection of teachers is done through open advertisements. List of Directors of all ICCR Centres along with their mode of selection is as below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Officer	Station	Tenure	Mode of Selection/Remarks
1	Dr. Jyoti Kiran Shukla	SVCC, <b>SaoPaulo</b> , Brazil (2011)	02-01-2023 - 01-01-2026	Nomination by President ICCR
2	Shri Sanjay Vedi	SVCC, <b>Nur-Sultan</b> , Kazakhstan (1994)	04-02-2022 - 03-02-2025	ICCR Cadre
3	Ms. Kanika Aggarwal	SVCC, <b>Tokyo</b> , Japan (2009)	16-09-2022 - 15-09-2025	Open Advertisement
4	Dr. Ankuran Dutta	SVCC, <b>Colombo</b> Sri Lanka (1998)	06-12-2022 - 05-12-2025	Open Advertisement

5	Dr. Balram Shukla	SVCC, <b>Tehran</b> , Iran (2013)	29-01-2023 - 28-01-2026	Nomination by President ICCR
6	Ms. Trisha Saklecha	Tagore Centre, <b>Berlin</b> , Germany (1990)	01-03-2023 - 28-02-2026	Open Advertisement
7	Ms. Manjitha Mukherjee Bhatt	ICC, <b>Male</b> , Maldives (2011)	07-05-2023 - 06-05-2026	ICCR Cadre
8	Ms. Niyati Sunil Mehta	SVCC, <b>Sydney</b> , Australia (2015)	03-03-2023 - 02-03-2026	Open Advertisement
9	Sh. Naveen Meghwal	SVCC, <b>Bali</b> , Indonesia (2004)	18-04-2022 - 17-04-2025	Open Advertisement
10	Dr. Anasuya B.	SVCC, <b>Durban</b> , South Africa (1993)	30-10-2022 - 29-10-2025	Open Advertisement
11	Dr. Soumya Manjunath Chavan	SVCC, <b>Dar-es-Salaam</b> , Tanzania (2011)	10-11-2022 - 09-11-2025	Open Advertisement
12	Sh. Krish Gupta	Gandhi Centre, <b>TheHague</b> , Netherlands (2011)	15-11-2022 - 14-11-2025	Open Advertisement
13	Dr. Abhinaw Raj	GTICC, <b>Mexico City</b> Mexico (2010)	23-11-2022 - 22-11-2025	Open Advertisement
14	Dr. Kadambini Acharya	IGCIC, <b>Port Louis</b> , Mauritius (1988)	05-12-2022 - 04-12-2025	Nomination by President ICCR
15	Dr. Somveer Arya	SVCC, <b>Paramaribo</b> , Suriname (1978)	19-12-2022 - 18-12-2025	Open Advertisement
16	Dr. Monica Sharma	SVCC, <b>Hanoi</b> Vietnam (2016)	20-12-2022 - 19-12-2025	Open Advertisement
17	Ms. Nishi Bala	SVCC, <b>Suva</b> , FIJI	15-06-2023 - 14-06-2026	ICCR Cadre
18	Dr. Ashish Kumar	SVCC, <b>Yangon</b> , Myanmar (2010)	30-06-2023 - 29-06-2026	Open Advertisement
19	Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagwati	SVCC, <b>Georgetown</b> , Guyana (1972)	08-08-2023 - 07-08-2026	Nomination by President ICCR
20	Dr. Mukesh Kumar Srivastava	ASCC, <b>Budapest</b> , Hungary (2010)	21-07-2023 - 20-07-2026	Nomination by President ICCR

21	Dr. Chaitanya Prakash Yogi	SVCC, <b>Bangkok, Thailand</b> (2009)	26-07-2023 - 25-07-2026	Nomination by President ICCR
22	Ms. Madhur Konkana Roy	JNCC, <b>Moscow</b> Russia (1989)	28-07-2023 - 27-07-2026	ICCR Cadre
23	Ms. Neethu Rajan	SVCC, <b>Beijing, China</b> (2008)	Order of appointment issued by ICCR on 12 September 2024	MEA Cadre
24	Ms. Mhetre Sayali Narayan	ICC, <b>TelAviv, Israel</b> (2019)	Order of appointment issued by ICCR on 08 May 2024	MEA Cadre
25	Shri Prakash Kumar Choudhary	MACIC, <b>Cairo, Egypt</b> (1992)	Order of appointment issued by ICCR on 08 May 2024	MEA Cadre
26	Ms. Vijayalakshmy Suderrajan	NSCCIC, <b>KualaLumpur, Malaysia</b> (2009)	Order of appointment issued by ICCR on 23 August 2024	MEA Cadre
27	Ms. Priyadharsini Ravindran	SVCC, <b>Paris, France</b> (2022)	Order of appointment issued by ICCR on 23 August 2024	MEA Cadre
28	Ms. Ann Mary George	IGCC, <b>Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> (2010)	Approval vide email dated 30.01.2025 sent to Mission	MEA Cadre
29	<b>Vacant</b>	SVCC, <b>Seoul, S-Korea</b> (2011)		EoI, Seoul vide letter dated 21.03.2024 has requested MEA to consider deploying an IFS officer. Vacant since 16.03.2024.
30	<b>Vacant</b>	TNC, <b>London, UK</b> (1992)		As informed verbally, MEA has identified an officer for deployment. Vacant since 01.11.2023.
31	<b>Vacant</b>	SVCC, <b>Dushanbe, Tajikistan</b> (2002)		As per Mission's email dated 01.05.2023 they do not require a dedicated Director for SVCC, Dushanbe. Vacant since 01.07.2023.

32	<b>Vacant</b>	LBSCIC, <b>Tashkent,</b> Uzbekistan (1994)		Note dated 24.04.2024 sent to DGO for approval for deploying suitable officers from MEA's pool of officers.
33	<b>Vacant</b>	NWCC, <b>Thimphu,</b> Bhutan (2010)		Note dated 24.04.2024 sent to DGO for approval for deploying suitable officers from MEA's pool of officers.
34	<b>Vacant</b>	SVCC, <b>Kabul,</b> Afghanistan (2007)		Cultural center is not operational.
35	<b>Vacant</b>	JNICC, <b>Jakarta,</b> Indonesia (1988)		
36	<b>Vacant</b>	SVCC, <b>Prague,</b> Czech Republic		Last Director Ms. Jui Deogaonkar was recalled. MEA vide note dated 26.04.2019 informed that Mission do not require her replacement.
37	<b>Vacant</b>	SVCC, <b>Kathmandu,</b> Nepal (2007)	Last Director Dr. Aswari Uday Bapat 24-05-2022 - 22-05-2024	Note dated 24.04.2024 sent to DGO for approval for deploying suitable officers from MEA's pool of officers.
38	<b>Vacant</b>	MGICC, <b>Port of Spain</b> T & T (1996)	Last Director Ms. Ramya Ajay from 13-09-2021 - 23-12-2024	Vacant since 24.12.2024

#### iv) **Empanelment of Artists**

5.55 Noting that the last empanelment by ICCR was done in the year 2019, with 451 artistes/groups from 27 States, the Committee enquired as to the reasons for the same despite COVID related concerns being over. In response the Ministry has stated that ICCR is transitioning to the digitalization of empanelment process before starting fresh empanelment process. SOPs put in place by ICCR for empanelment of artists includes steps as under –

- Applications along with recent performance recordings are invited from interested candidates.
- Various committees are constituted for selection of artists in various genres
- Selection is made on the recommendation of the committee.



5.56 On being asked about the stipulated time-span of empanelment, the Ministry has informed that there is no predefined time span for empanelment.

5.57 Regarding the review process in place for empanelment, the Ministry have submitted that after every performance abroad, feedback is sought from our Embassies and troops with negative feedback are removed from the panel. Along with digitization, ICCR is looking at innovative ways of including fresh, young talent through national level youth competitions; full sponsorship of underrepresented regions/genres through a 'lottery system' and categorizing Senior Artist above 60 years as 'Master Trainers'. ICCR has also signed MoU's with 23 States to support projection of various regional art forms abroad. Though up-gradation of artist are done during the empanelment committee meetings.

5.58 The Committee also enquired about the steps taken for ensuring empanelment of artists from all parts of the country and transparency in the empanelment process. The Ministry has submitted that any artist irrespective of his/her place of origin/residence may apply for empanelment. For ensuring transparency an independent expert committee decides upon selection of artists for empanelment.

**5.59 The Committee acknowledge that ICCR plays a crucial role in India's cultural diplomacy and the projection of India's soft power. The activities of ICCR encompass a broad spectrum, including scholarships, hosting of cultural delegations/events, establishment of Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) abroad, promotion of Indian languages, dance, music, etc. The Committee note that allocation to ICCR for FY 2025-26 has been increased to Rs. 351.25 crore. The enhanced allocation is on account of expanding research and scholarship rates, cultural hospitality norms and for various cultural initiatives.**

**The Committee observe with concern that the budget allocation for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has always remained in the range of Rs. 300-350 crore annually over the past decade. While acknowledging incremental improvements, the Committee contends that such funding levels are insufficient to meet ICCR's expanding mandate and the growing breadth of its activities. The Committee, therefore, recommend a substantial increase in ICCR's budget, proposing an allocation of Rs. 500-600 crores in the forthcoming years to enable the ICCR to carry out its pivotal role mandate of cultural**

outreach and promotion of India's soft power. Further, efforts should also be geared towards diversification of ICCR's resource generation, including the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, exemplified by the ICCR's Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain.

*(Recommendation No.46)*

**5.60** The 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) serve as vital instruments in projecting India's rich and diverse cultural heritage through a wide array of activities, including dance, music, yoga, languages, food, festivals, history, and contemporary cultural narratives. However, the Committee note with concern that, despite the property for the ICC in Washington D.C. being acquired as early as 2013, renovation and operationalization have been delayed for several years, resulting in an escalating cost of US\$ 441,581.91. Similarly, the acquisition of property for the ICC in Paris occurred in 2011, and although renovation work commenced in 2018, the project has incurred costs amounting to €2.8 million thus far.

The Committee are concerned by these prolonged delays and the significant cost overruns in the establishment of the ICCs in Washington D.C. and Paris. These delays reflect inefficiencies in project execution and are wholly unacceptable, especially given the strategic importance of these centres in advancing India's cultural diplomacy. Such inefficiencies not only undermine the mission of cultural outreach but also result in unnecessary financial wastage. The Committee strongly urge the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to expedite the completion and operationalization of both centres, ensuring that any future delays are averted. Furthermore, the Committee underscore the urgent need to operationalize the Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre (TVCC) in Singapore. In addition, the Committee desire that they be kept informed of the progress made on these three centres every three months, ensuring full accountability and transparency throughout the process.

*(Recommendation No.47)*

**5.61** The Committee are aware that the ICCR scholarship programme is a vital initiative in enhancing India's soft power, promoting educational exchanges and fostering global

cooperation. The Committee note that a total budget allocation of Rs. 80.50 crore including Rs. 80 crore for scholarships and Rs. 50 lakhs for educational exchanges has been provisioned for BE 2025-26. The Ministry has informed that 3960 scholarship slots have been awarded so far, with the highest number of scholarships granted to countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, and Tanzania. The Ministry has submitted that ICCR plans to increase the budget for scholarships and educational exchanges by 15% for the financial year 2026-27. It is observed that the digitization of the scholarship process through the A2A (Admissions to Alumni) Portal has streamlined the application and admission process for foreign students, ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency.

The Committee recommend a robust expansion of the ICCR scholarship program to better accommodate the increasing demand for educational opportunities, particularly from regions such as Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. The Committee endorse the proposed 15% budget increase for FY 2026-27, recognizing its necessity to address the rising costs of tuition fees and related charges, and urge the Ministry to ensure that this expansion also includes a greater number of scholarship slots. Additionally, the Committee emphasize the importance of expanding the pool of participating institutions, ensuring that both state and central universities are better represented while preserving the quality of education by adhering to high academic standards.

*(Recommendation No .48)*

**5.62** The Committee are aware that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) works in collaboration with various governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education, Ministry of AYUSH, and others. While ICCR currently coordinates with these ministries for specific events and scholarship schemes, the Committee believe there is significant potential for more integrated and cohesive planning and execution of joint initiatives. The Committee, therefore, recommend that ICCR enhance its coordination with relevant ministries, particularly in areas such as managing cultural events, promoting Indian tourism, and fostering a more comprehensive approach to cultural diplomacy. A formalized mechanism for inter-ministerial cooperation and

resource sharing should be established to maximize the impact of India's soft power initiatives.

*(Recommendation No .49)*

**5.63** The Committee note that the last empanelment by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was conducted in 2019, with the inclusion of 451 artists/groups from 27 states. The Committee appreciate the steps ICCR has undertaken to digitize the empanelment process and introduce measures such as national-level youth competitions, inclusion of underrepresented regions through a lottery system, and the categorization of senior artists as 'Master Trainers'. In the considered view of the Committee, these initiatives, along with the signing of MoUs with 23 States to promote regional art forms, are commendable and should help in broadening the scope of cultural representation. There should be a five yearly review of the empanelment of artists by ICCR to give opportunity to emerging talents.

*(Recommendation No. 50)*

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH**

As per the Ministry, the mandate of the Policy & Research Planning Division is as follows:

- The Policy Planning Division is the nodal division for coordinating Ministry's engagement for Viksit Bharat and the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS-10). It is also the nodal Division for the organisation of the Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS), the three editions of which were held respectively in January, 2023, November 2023, and August 2024.
- The Policy Planning & Research Division is also the nodal division of the Ministry for outreach to the think-tank, strategic, and academic community on policy and public diplomacy initiatives. The Division along with its network of autonomous bodies (Indian Council of World Affairs and Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries), think tanks and academic collaborations, provides a well-organized mechanism for the purpose of Policy Planning and Research in foreign affairs. These think tanks include both Government funded and private organizations.
- The Division organises four flagship Track 1.5 strategic outreach initiatives, namely the Raisina Dialogue, Global Technology Summit, Asia Economic Dialogue, and the Indian Ocean Conference, as well as a gamut of country and region-specific Track 1.5 engagements, in association with various think-tanks. Narrative-building on India's foreign policy is a key purpose of these outreach initiatives. In such conferences, policy ideas are also gathered from specialists from outside the government, for seeding into and deliberation in the government apparatus.
- In addition to these, the Division also organizes national level seminars in collaboration with universities and academic institutions in different locations in the country to aid in the dissemination of foreign policy awareness. Recently, the Division has also taken the initiative to expand its footprint beyond New Delhi through initiatives such as NADI Dialogue in Guwahati, "Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North Eastern States in Connecting the Connectivities" in Imphal, and the Raisina Forum for Future of Diplomacy in New Delhi and Varanasi, Track 1.5 Kochi Dialogue in Kochi, Technology Dialogue in Bengaluru, Track 1.5 Polar Dialogue in Bengaluru, the GTS Innovation

Dialogue in Bengaluru, Health Diplomacy Dialogue in Gandhinagar, India-Indonesia Track 1.5 Dialogue in Mumbai.

- The Division also conducts Track 1.0 policy planning dialogues with the Foreign Offices of more than 20 countries. These engagements are either bilateral, trilateral or plurilateral in nature.
- The Division is tasked with responsibility of providing inputs for Foreign Policy Planning. It prepares research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular. The Division also prepares the Daily Report and Connecting the Dots, Arth Niti, Raksha Niti, and Tech Niti, Monthly Reports and other reports. These reports are disseminated within the Ministry and our Missions abroad.
- The Division's research output also goes to several Government agencies/departments/ministries including PMO, Ministry of Defence, NSCS, etc. as well as to heads of some prominent think tanks in India.
- The Division is also mandated to prepare and publish the Annual Report of the Ministry which is tabled in Parliament. This is an intensive, three-month-long process during which this Division collates and synthesizes inputs from all our Divisions. The Annual Report of the Ministry is the only such comprehensive document on India's foreign policy in the public domain and is referred to by the academic and think-tank community both within India and abroad.
- The Division is also the nodal division for India's "Neighbourhood First Policy" where it conducts regular mid-term evaluation and research on India's engagement with its immediate neighbourhood in consultation with the concerned territorial and functional Divisions of the Ministry.

6.2 On being asked about training programs or capacity-building initiatives are provided to personnel in the Policy Planning Division, the Ministry submitted that Officers with the PP&R Division are required to read extensively on the emerging trends in foreign policy and developments in global affairs. They are required to track such trends and prepare regular and occasional reports on developments in the areas of geo-technology, geo-economy, and geopolitics, that are shared within the Ministry in our Missions and Posts abroad as well as at

headquarters. Officers are also required to regularly attend the various strategic outreach initiatives that are supported by it, as well as seminars and conferences on subjects related to foreign policy held in Delhi and outside. Reports are prepared on the same which are also shared within the Ministry. The deliberations at these initiatives are picked up for future policy recommendations.

6.3 The Committee wanted to know about the PPD coordinate with state governments, parliamentarians, and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure that foreign policy decisions reflect diverse viewpoints and national interests. The Ministry responded that all the strategic outreach initiatives held outside Delhi and supported by this Division witness participation by Ministers and senior officers of the concerned state government. Agenda items of such initiatives are also decided by organisers in consultation with various stakeholders in the concerned state. The information shared and policy recommendations generated at such initiatives serve as feedback to both MEA and the state governments concerned. PP&R Division has briefed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on its activities, as well as the activities of the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and RIS, on several occasions. The Annual Report of the MEA that is prepared by PP&R Division is circulated in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha every year and it continues to be the most comprehensive policy publication of the MEA.

6.4 Further, the non-governmental stakeholders in the policy space approach PP&R Division regularly with proposals for collaboration in research, organisation of strategic outreach initiatives or even seeking guidance from officers on foreign policy priorities for MEA. The Division is in regular touch with the experts and academicians in these think-tanks and closely follows their work for a better understanding of this rapidly growing sector. Consultations are held with various other Ministries/Departments/agencies of the Government of India depending on the subject or issue under consideration. The outcomes are utilized for various policy documents and other inputs prepared by the Division for the Ministry's leadership.

6.5 Regarding collaboration with universities, think tanks, or research institutions to leverage specialized knowledge, the Ministry stated that the Division collaborates with universities such as Rashtriya Raksha University, Indian Institute of Science and National Institute of Advanced Studies etc as well as think-tanks & research institutions such as NEDFi, Carnegie India, Observer Research Foundation, Pune International Centre, The Energy Forum, Centre for Public

Policy Research, Ananta Centre for undertaking research studies as well as various strategic outreach initiatives which involves participation of domain experts on such key policy issues. Key takeaways from the deliberations and suggestions of domain experts at these outreach initiatives are leveraged to better understand such complex global issues.

6.6 In addition, Indian Missions/Posts abroad undertakes various strategic outreach activities and research studies in collaboration local think-tanks, research institutes and universities under Strategic Outreach Fund of the Ministry focusing on a number of key areas of interest to India, which includes: India's foreign policy; strengthening India's bilateral ties with the respective host countries including political, economic, military and technology cooperation; invest cooperation, regional connectivity and global supply chains etc. Key takeaways from such initiatives are also utilized to gain specialized knowledge on such issues.

6.7 Further, the Ministry in July 2024 launched 'MEA Niti Shakti Initiative' which enables the divisions within the Ministry to commission research on specific topics from relevant think tanks and universities having required domain expertise. This initiative would further help the divisions within the Ministry to equip themselves with the specialized knowledge on various key areas.

6.8 Elucidating the manner in which external expertise has been inducted into the Ministry, the Ministry stated through its nodal division for policy planning and public diplomacy initiatives; i.e. PP&R Division, it organizes collaborative conferences and seminars with various think tanks enabling the participation of domain experts on key foreign policy issues. The Raisina Dialogue, the Global Technology Summit, the Asian Economic Dialogue and the Indian Ocean Conference are some of the flagship conferences organised by the division, in partnership with prominent think-tanks. These conferences are intrinsically Public Private Partnership (PPP) where think tank partners play a key role in designing the event, curating themes, listing speakers and panelists, and raising funds (generally about 50-80% of overall budget) from other sponsors, with Ministry's financial support forming only a part of multiple funding sources.

6.9 The track 1.5 and 2.0 conferences of MEA form a significant component of India's public diplomacy outreach and serve multiple diplomatic objectives such as agenda setting, narrative



building, and shaping international discourses on geopolitics, besides academic deliberations on topical foreign policy themes.

6.10 Over the years, the Ministry's flagship conferences such as Raisina Dialogue and Global Technology Summit have steadily grown in stature and profile, ranking amongst the top international strategic dialogues, comparable to global peers like Munich Security Conference. Achieving such an enhanced profile for these initiatives was one of the original objectives conceived in 2015, when policy decisions were undertaken to expand the Ministry's track 1.5 outreach to strategic community.

6.11 The Ministry has also been utilizing external expertise in the form of subject specialist consultants for the purpose of research and policy planning. These consultants are used for producing research papers, policy briefs, coverage of strategic conferences and seminars, preparation of template speeches, think-tank compendium, as well as daily analysis of significant global events.

6.12 The Ministry also furnished examples of some of the research institutes/think tanks/universities that Ministry of External Affairs collaborates with from time to time, through the Policy Planning Division are placed below:

<b>Name of Research Institutes</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>ICWA</b>	ICWA was established in 1943 as a think tank and was registered as a non-official, non-political and non-profit organization under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, the Council has been declared an institution of national importance. The Hon'ble Vice President of India is ICWA's ex-officio President. ICWA is administered as per the provisions of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001. The budget for ICWA is provided by the PP&R Division, MEA.
<b>RIS</b>	The RIS was established in 1983 as a registered society. The Society was envisaged to serve as a national focal point to identify and discuss priority areas of research concerning multilateral issues, primarily on economic, social, scientific and technological matters. It was decided that the society will undertake research activities or may assign areas of research to

	specified national institutions. The society will also forge effective links between research institutions of other Nonaligned and developing countries. It would also organize discussions, seminars and workshops and involve research institutions of other countries in these undertakings. It would also advise the Government of India on all matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues as may be referred to from time to time.
<b>MP-IDSA</b>	The Manohar Parikar Institute for Defence and Strategic Analysis is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence. PP&R Division collaborates with IDSA for carrying out various conferences and thematic projects.
<b>Delhi Policy Group</b>	The Ministry collaborates with Delhi Policy Group for the organisation of the India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue.
<b>Asian Confluence</b>	The Ministry collaborates with Asian Confluence for organising NADI Dialogue in the North East. Recently, the Ministry organized a dialogue on Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian States in Connecting the Connectivities” in Imphal, Manipur with Asian Confluence.
<b>Observer Research Foundation (ORF)</b>	The Division collaborates with ORF for the organisation of the Raisina Dialogue. So far 09 editions of the Raisina Dialogue have been successfully organised till 2024. Raisina Dialogue is the Ministry’s flagship conference relating to international strategic affairs and geopolitics. In the past, ORF has also collaborated with the Ministry for activities connected to BRICS. ORF has also organized the Raisina Forum for Future of Diplomacy for young diplomats since 2022.
<b>India Foundation</b>	The Division collaborates with India Foundation for the organisation of the Indian Ocean Conference. So far 7 editions of the Indian Ocean Conference have been held since 2016.
<b>Ananta Aspen Centre</b>	The Division collaborates with Ananta Centre for the organising of the India US Forum, India-Japan Forum, India-EU Track 1.5 Dialogue, India-Nordic Dialogue and India Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue.
<b>Carnegie India</b>	The Division collaborates with Carnegie India for organising the Global Technology Summit. 8 editions of the Global

	Technology Summit have been held so far. Further, the 1 <sup>st</sup> GTS Innovation Dialogue was held on October 8-9, 2024 in Bengaluru in partnership with Carnegie India.
<b>Pune International Centre</b>	The Ministry collaborates with PIC in organising the Asia Economic Dialogue which is one of the Ministry's flagship strategic outreach conferences.
<b>Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies</b>	The Ministry provides grant-in-aid to this institute for funding its research activities where all to the Ministry.
<b>Centre for China Analysis and Strategy</b>	The Ministry provides grant-in-aid to this institute for funding its research activities.
<b>Manipur University, and Rashtriya</b>	The division collaborates with Universities to organize seminars, events, etc.
<b>Usanas Foundation, Udaipur</b>	The Division collaborates with Usanas Foundation to organize Maharana Pratap Annual Geopolitics Dialogue.
<b>The Energy Forum (TEF)</b>	The Division collaborates with TEF to organize the International Conference 'Purvodaya Perspectives', held in Bhubaneswar.
<b>North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi)</b>	The Division has collaborated with NEDFi on a Research Study focused on Neighbourhood.
<b>Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)</b>	The Division has collaborated with RRU for organizing Asian African Treaty Law and Practice Conference in Gandhinagar and on several other research studies.
<b>National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)</b>	The Division has organized the Track 1.5 Polar Dialogue from August 30-31, 2024 in Bengaluru in partnership with NIAS.
<b>Gateway House, Mumbai</b>	The Division has organized the 1 <sup>st</sup> India-Indonesia Track 1.5 Dialogue from 23-24 September 2024 in partnership with Gateway House.
<b>Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR)</b>	The Division has organized the Track 1.5 Kochi Dialogue – 2025 from January 16-17, 2025 in Kochi, Kerala in partnership with CPPR.
<b>Indian Institute of Public Health and Governance</b>	The Division has organized the Health Diplomacy Dialogue 2025 from January 17-18, 2025 in Gandhinagar in partnership

<b>(IIPHG), Gandhinagar</b>	with IIPHG.
<b>Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru</b>	The Division has organized the Track 1.5 Technology Dialogue – 2025 from January 24-25, 2025 in Bengaluru in partnership with IISc.
<b>Symbiosis International University (SIU), Pune</b>	The Division collaborates with SIU to organize International Relations Conference (IRC).

6.13 Regarding existence of research collaboration with other countries on issues pertaining to Foreign Policy, the Ministry stated that it undertakes research collaborations with other countries through ICWA and RIS. ICWA maintains a regular programme of interactions and academic collaborations with its partner institutions in several countries. Similarly, the RIS has a comprehensive programme of research collaboration with international organisations and academic bodies of other countries. The ASEAN-India Centre located within the RIS is specifically mandated for research collaboration on issues of mutual interest for India and ASEAN countries. DAKSHIN, the global South centre of excellence was set up a Special Purpose Vehicle under RIS in 2023, to steer institutional collaboration between think-tanks of Global South countries to conduct research, identify specific projects, and share best practices in the fields of health, education, digital connectivity/solutions, and agriculture. Till date RIS has reached out to think-tanks in 121 countries, and signed Letters of Association with think-tanks in 65 countries. The outcome of such collaboration is usually in the form of academic research which is published in various prominent academic journals.

6.14 Further, the Ministry, in June 2024, has established the Strategic Outreach Fund (SOF) - to provide budgetary support to Political Wings of our Missions to conduct strategic outreach activities in their respective countries, as well as commission short term research projects with think-tanks, on topics/issues of immediate relevance to bilateral relations of India and the country of Mission's accreditation. Since its launch, the initiative has seen enthusiastic participation of our Missions, with as many as 43 proposals having been granted NOC for incurring an expenditure of Rs. 4.00 crore (approx) till date.

6.15 The Committee were keen to know whether the Ministry has explored the idea of having a grand strategy that clearly spells out coherent foreign policy objectives, goals and strategy for the long run. The Ministry responded that while there is no single overarching and formalized

strategic document that can delineate a roadmap for India's foreign policy apparatus, the underlying principles of our diplomatic strategy are long-established and enduring. The Ministry continually assesses and refines its diplomatic stance and policies in response to evolving global challenges. India's positions on relevant issues and its interests, in the context of these principles, have been articulated through various platforms.

6.16 These principles include safeguarding India's sovereignty and security, protecting and promoting India's national interests, enabling India's domestic economic transformation, ensuring peaceful, secure and stable regional and global environment that is conducive to India's growth and development and building influence in global forums through bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts. This pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy orientation has revitalized our traditional ties, re-energized our strategic, commercial, and economic relations with new partners and re-connected us with our Diaspora abroad. It has provided us with a foundation for dealing with the new and fast-changing realities of the world.

6.17 The Ministry has also provided an indicative list of major countries that have publicly put out strategy documents in recent years:

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Issuing Authority</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Australia</b>	Foreign Policy White Paper 2017	Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
<b>2.</b>	<b>Austria</b>	Austrian Security Strategy 2013  Austrian Security Strategy 2024	Office of Head of Government (Federal Chancellor) Office of Head of Government (Federal Chancellor)
<b>3.</b>	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	National Security Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2007	Office of the President of Azerbaijan
<b>4.</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	Comprehensive Approach - Strategy Note 2017	Council of Ministers

5.	<b>Belarus</b>	The National Security Concept and the Military Doctrine of the Republic of Belarus, 2024	Belarus National Assembly
6.	<b>Bhutan</b>	Bhutan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade released a "Foreign Policy" document in 2021.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
7.	<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	The foreign policy strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 – 2023	Office of Head of State
8.	<b>Costa Rica</b>	Institutional Strategic Plan 2021-2025	Ministry of External Affairs
9.	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Concept of the Czech Republic's Foreign Policy, 2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10.	<b>Ecuador</b>	Agenda De Politica Exterior, 2018	Ministry for External Relations
11.	<b>Estonia</b>	Estonian Foreign Policy Strategy 2030	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12.	<b>European Union</b>	Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe European Union Global Strategy 2016	European External Action Service
13.	<b>Finland</b>	Foreign and Security Policy for New Era 2024	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
14.	<b>Germany</b>	National Security Strategy 2022 National Security Strategy 2023	Federal Ministry of Defence
15.	<b>Iceland</b>	Parliamentary Resolution on a national security policy for Iceland, 2023	
16.	<b>Ireland</b>	Statement of Strategy, 2023-25	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (Such statements are released by various ministries)
17.	<b>Japan</b>	National Security Strategy of Japan 2022 Diplomatic Bluebook, 2023 Defence of Japan Pamphlet, 2024 (Link)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Ministry of Defence of Japan

18.	<b>Malawi</b>	Malawi Foreign Policy: A Catalyst for Sustainable Development, 2017-2022	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Foreword by President)
19.	<b>New Zealand</b>	Strategic Intentions 2024-2028	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
20.	<b>Nigeria</b>	National Security Strategy, 2019	Office of the President
21.	<b>Pakistan</b>	National Security Policy (NSP) 2022-2026	The National Security Division (NSD) of Pakistan is a federal body that is part of the National Security Council (NSC)
22.	<b>The Philippines</b>	National Security Policy 2023-2028	Office of the President
23.	<b>Peru</b>	Multi-annual Strategic Plan for Foreign Affairs of Peru for 2015-2021 Management Bulletin by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022-23	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24.	<b>Poland</b>	The Polish Foreign Policy Strategy 2017-2021	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
25.	<b>Russia</b>	The Concept of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation, 2023	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
26.	<b>Serbia</b>	National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, 2021	Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Defence
27.	<b>Slovenia</b>	Safe, Successful, globally respected: The Foreign Policy of Republic of Slovenia, 2022  Foreign Policy Strategy, 2024	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
28.	<b>Spain</b>	External Action Strategy 2021-2024	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

29.	<b>South Africa</b>	Strategic Plan 2020-25	Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Made separately by various Ministries)
30.	<b>Sweden</b>	Statement of Foreign Policy 2024	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
31.	<b>Switzerland</b>	Foreign Policy Strategy 2024-27	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
32.	<b>Thailand</b>	20-year foreign affairs masterplan (2018-2037)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
33.	<b>Turkey</b>	2019-23 Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commentaries issued by Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 'Century of Türkiye' as well as on other key issues, 2023	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
34.	<b>United Kingdom (UK)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Britain in a Competitive Age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy 2021</li> <li>❖ Integrated Review Refresh 2023: Responding to a more contested and volatile world</li> <li>❖ UK Foreign Policy in a changing world, 2025</li> </ul>	Prime Minister's Office  Prime Minister's Office
35.	<b>United States of America (USA)</b>	US National Security Strategy 2022 No new strategy after 2022	Office of the President
36.	<b>Uruguay</b>	Strategic Priorities for International Cooperation for Sustainable Development (2020-2025)	Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation



6.18 As regards the lessons India can learn from other countries' grand foreign strategies to help formulate one suited to India's unique geopolitical and economic context, the Ministry submitted that the foreign policy strategies published by other countries are studied closely by the PP&R Division in tandem with the concerned territorial Divisions in MEA, to better understand the stated objectives and priorities of the foreign policy of these countries. This serves as additional intelligence and guiding highlights in conversations at the Policy Planning Dialogues and other bilateral engagements.

6.19 Over the Committee's query about the challenges faced in developing a comprehensive foreign policy document or grand strategy for India, the Ministry stated that there are no challenges deterring the formulation of a comprehensive foreign policy document. This Division is in charge of the publication of the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs that continues to be the most comprehensive policy publication of the Ministry in the public domain.

**6.20 The Committee recognize the role of the Policy Planning & Research Division for its strategic outreach, policy research and engagement with academia, think-tanks and international partners in shaping India's foreign policy. The Committee appreciate the Division's efforts to engage State Governments through regional strategic dialogues like NADI Dialogue, Kochi Dialogue, Health Diplomacy Dialogue and in organizing major strategic outreach initiatives such as the Raisina Dialogue, the Global Technology Summit, and the Indian Ocean Conference. Furthermore, the Division's collaborative engagements with universities, think tanks, and international institutions have strengthened India's foreign policy framework by incorporating expert insights and fostering a culture of research-driven policy-making. The Committee urge the Ministry to continue its momentum in institutionalizing global collaborations, promoting greater inter-governmental coordination, and encouraging the active participation of non-governmental stakeholders in foreign policy discussions on a regular basis.**

*(Recommendation No. 51)*

**6.21 The Committee acknowledge the longstanding and well-established principles that have underpinned India's foreign policy, which have significantly contributed to the nation's diplomatic successes and global standing. The Committee also recognize that a**

growing number of countries, such as the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, and Japan have formalized national foreign policy strategies, which have proven to be valuable tools in guiding their international engagement. India, with its burgeoning geopolitical influence must not lag behind in articulating its own roadmap for a future-oriented foreign policy that corresponds to its increasing global stature. The Ministry of External Affairs, through its ongoing assessment of the foreign policy strategies of other nations has undertaken a valuable exercise in understanding the shifting paradigms of global diplomacy. The Committee, however, suggest that the Ministry should consider the desirability of taking the logical next step which is the formulation of a formal and comprehensive foreign policy document/strategy that is specifically tailored to India's distinctive geopolitical context, emerging economic clout, and evolving global relationships. The Committee recommend that MEA should expeditiously initiate consultations with relevant stakeholders, including experts, diplomats, policymakers, and the Committee, to explore the feasibility and scope of such a document. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

*(Recommendation No. 52)*

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (2024-25) HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY, 2025**

The Committee sat on Thursday, 27 February, 2025 from 1530 hrs. to 1810 hrs. in Committee Room No. 2, Extension Building, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

- 2 Shri Arun Govil
- 3 Shri Brijendra Singh Ola
- 4 Shri Asaduddin Owaisi
- 5 Shri Sanatan Pandey
- 6 Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
- 7 Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant
- 8 Ms. Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde
- 9 Ms. Bansuri Swaraj

**RAJYA SABHA**

- 10 Smt. Kiran Choudhry
- 11 Shri A. D. Singh
- 12 Kunwar Ratanjeet Pratap Narayan Singh
- 13 Shri Rajeev Shukla

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Anjani Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan - Director
3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunglut - Deputy Secretary

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Sl	Name of the officer /official	Designation
1.	Shri Vikram Misri	Foreign Secretary
2.	Shri. Arun Kumar Chatterjee	Secretary (CPV&OIA)
3.	Shri Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas	OSD (LAC)

4.	Shri Anurag Agarwal	Special Secretary & Financial Advisor
5.	Shri Munu Mahawar	Additional Secretary (North)
6.	Shri Sevala Naik Mude	AS(C&WA)
7.	Ms. K Nandini Singla	Additional Secretary/Director General (ICCR)
8.	Shri Viraj Singh	Additional Secretary (DPA-II & IV)
9.	Shri Y.K. Sailas Thangal	Additional Secretary(GEM)
10.	Shri Charanjeet Singh	Additional Secretary(AD/ERS)
11.	Shri Puneet Agrawal	Additional Secretary (IOR)
12.	Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava	Dean (SSIFS)
13.	Shri Rajeev Kumar	JS, MEA / DDG(AD), ICCR
14.	Shri Rohit Rathish	Joint Secretary (DPA-III & RRC)
15.	Ms. Paramita Tripathi	Joint Secretary (Indo-Pacific)
16.	Shri Raghuram S	Joint Secretary (PP&R)
17.	Dr. (Shri) K. J. Srinivasa	Joint Secretary (PSP)&CPO
18.	Ms.Suja K. Menon	Joint Secretary (DPA-I)
19.	Shri Anish Rajan	Joint Secretary (PSP-II)
20.	Ms. Pratibha Parkar	Joint Secretary (Parl & Coord)
21.	Shri. Sugandh Rajaram	Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC & SAARC)
22.	Shri. Anand Prakash M	Joint Secretary (PAI)
23.	Shri Mayank Singh	Joint Secretary (E &SA)
24.	Dr.(Shri) Binoy George	Joint Secretary (CPV)
25.	Shri Siddhartha Nath	Joint Secretary (AD)
26.	Shri Balasubramanian Shyam	Joint Secretary (BM)
27.	Shri Ankan Banerjee	Joint Secretary (DE)
28.	Shri Surinder Bhagat	Joint Secretary (OE) & PGE
29.	Ms. Suman Bala	Principal Chief Controller of Accounts

2. At the outset, the Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry on Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2025-26. He also drew attention of the representatives of the Ministry to Direction 55 (1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson provided a

detailed analysis of the overall budgetary allocations for the Ministry of External Affairs, comparing both the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2025-26 and the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2024-25. He highlighted that the budget allocation of ₹20,516.61 crores for the financial year 2025-26 represents a 7.39% increase over the Budget Estimate (BE) for 2024-25, but it is 18.83% lower than the Revised Estimate (RE) for the same year. Notably, the Ministry's share in the overall Government of India budget stands at a mere 0.41%, marking the second-lowest percentage in the past decade. Additionally, he also noted that the Ministry ranks 22nd in terms of budgetary allocation among all Government Ministries for the current fiscal year. In light of India's growing global influence and the expanding scope of the Ministry's activities, the Chairperson expressed concerns regarding the adequacy of the budgetary provision in achieving the country's foreign policy objectives.

3. After expressing his gratitude to the Committee for its continued guidance, the Foreign Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's budget, achievements during the ongoing fiscal year, challenges encountered in implementing projects abroad, and the actual expenditure trends of the previous year. The Members raised pertinent queries on a range of issues relating to the Ministry's mandate, including but not limited to MEA's budget *vis-a-vis* the Government's overall budget; cross-country comparative assessment of budgetary allocation; Line of Credit (LoC) provisioning; demand-allocation differential; fluctuating nature of demands and allocations to various countries under developmental cooperation; timelines for roll out of e-passports; opening of Passport Seva Kendras (PSK/PoPSKs) in all Lok Sabha constituencies; arbitrariness in budgetary allocation for the Diaspora functions of the Ministry; under-staffing in vital departments & Missions/Posts abroad; cultural exchanges through Indian Council of Cultural Research (ICCR); and status of operationalization of Nalanda University and South Asian University etc.

4. In response to the Members' queries, the Foreign Secretary provided detailed clarifications on various issues such as rationalization of expenditure; enhanced coordination with the Ministry of Finance; distinction between scheme and non scheme classification of MEA's budget; monitoring mechanism for implementation of international projects; lessons learnt from implementing the Passport Seva Programme (PSP); revenue earnings from passport and visa services; establishment of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices; status of Chabahar Port;

representation of women in senior positions; and welfare schemes and programmes dealing with Indian Diaspora. The Chairperson also directed that the Ministry should furnish written replies on the various points raised by the Members during discussion to the Secretariat at the earliest.

The witnesses then withdrew.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (2024-25) HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, 11 March 2024 from 1600 hrs. to 1645 hrs. in Committee Room No.1 Extension Building, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Chairperson**

**Lok Sabha**

- 2 Smt. D. K. Aruna
- 3 Shri Vijay Baghel
- 4 Shri Mitesh Patel Bakabhai
- 5 Shri Arun Govil
- 6 Shri Brijendra Singh Ola
- 7 Shri Sanatan Pandey
- 8 Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
- 9 Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
- 10 Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant
- 11 Ms. Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde
- 12 Shri Akshay Yadav

**Rajya Sabha**

- 13 Dr. John Brittas
- 14 Smt. Sagarika Ghose
- 15 Ms. Kavita Patidar
- 16 Shri A. D. Singh
- 17 Kunwar Ratanjeet Pratap Narayan Singh
- 18 Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Shri Anjani Kumar        | Joint Secretary  |
| 2. Smt. Reena Gopalkrishnan | Director         |
| 3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut  | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2025-26.

4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions for incorporation in the draft Report. The Members suggested some minor modifications. After deliberations the Committee adopted the draft Report with these minor modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned.*



**Details of Training Programme for Indian Diplomats/Officer****For the year 2021-22**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
I.	Promotion related Training Programme for Principal Private Secretaries	05-09 Apr 2021
II.	6th Mid Career Training Programme Phase-I (MCTP-I)	05-16 Jul 2021
III.	Promotion related Training Programme for Private Secretaries	12-16 Jul 2021
IV.	Promotion related Training Programme for Section Officers	12-23 Jul 2021
V.	Special Training Programme for Officers of Haryana State	23 Jul 2021
VI.	Training Programme for the Officers of International Relations Division, Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India	02-03 Aug 2021
VII.	IVFRT	02-03 Aug 2021
VIII.	Accounts Training Programme	05-06 Aug 2021
IX.	80 <sup>th</sup> IMAS	09-23 Aug 2021
X.	Probation Related Training Programme for Officers at the Level of Under Secretaries	31 Aug – 24 Sep 2021
XI.	Accounts Training Programme	06-08 Sep 2021
XII.	81 <sup>st</sup> IMAS	13-24 Sep 2021
XIII.	Training Programme for Defence Attachés	27 Sep – 01 Oct 2021
XIV.	Online Mid-Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for IFS officers	04-14 Oct 2021
XV.	1st Induction Training Programme for Personal Assistants and Stenographers	22 Nov -03 Dec 2021
XVI.	Induction Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2017 and 2018 batches	13-24 Dec 2021
XVII.	Training Programme for Officers Posted to Overseas Audit Officers	06-07 Jan 2022
XVIII.	IVFRT	10-11 Jan 2022
XIX.	Accounts Training Programme	13-14 Jan 2022
XX.	82 <sup>nd</sup> IMAS	17-21 Jan 2022
XXI.	Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the Second Batch of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the 2017 and 2018 batches	31 Jan -11 Feb 2022
XXII.	AKAM Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media	21-25 Feb 2022
XXIII.	1st Training module on 'India and its Neighbourhood' as part of 96th Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie	09-11 Mar 2022
XXIV.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2021 batch	21 Mar – 09 Sep 2022

**For the year 2022-23**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Induction Training Programme for the 2018 batch of Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO)	04-13 Apr 2022
2.	Accounts Training and 83rd IMAS Training	18-25 Apr 2022
3.	IVFRT	26-27 Apr 2022
4.	Mid- Career Training programme-III (MCTP-III) for IFS Joint Secretary Level officers	09-27 May 2022
5.	Training in Computer Skills	02-03 Jun 2022
6.	Mid- Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I) for IFS Officers	06-22 Jun 2022
7.	Citizen-Centric Orientation Programme for MEA Interns	21-22 Jun 2022
8.	Induction Training Programme for ICCR Officials	22-24 Jun 2022
9.	Mid- Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II)	11 Jul – 03 Aug 2022
10.	IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking) Training	27-28 Jul 2022
11.	Training Programme for Defence Attaches	22-26 Aug 2022
12.	Induction Training Program for DR-ASOs of 2019 Batch Batch I	22 Aug – 02 Sep 2022
13.	2nd Training module on 'India and its Neighbourhood' as part of 97th Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie	19-20 Sep 2022
14.	Induction Training Program for DR-ASOs of 2019 Batch Batch II	19-30 Sep 2022
15.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs and Cypher ASOs	21 Nov-25 Nov 2022
16.	Promotion-related Training Programme for Stenographers and Pas	28 Nov-02 Dec 2022
17.	Training Session on India's Foreign Policy for Haryana State Services Officers	28-29 Nov 2022
18.	Training Programme for Liaison Officers for G20 meetings	02 Dec 2022
19.	IVFRT	06-08 Dec 2022
20.	Accounts Module and 84 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	22 Dec 2022 – 06 Jan 2023
21.	Induction Training Programme for IFS OTs of 2022 batch and Bhutanese Diplomats	12 Dec 2022 to 13 Jun 2023
22.	Liaison Officers Training Programme for G20 summit	12 Feb 2023
23.	Accounts Module and 85 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	21 Feb – 07 Mar 2023
24.	Mid Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II)	06-31 Mar 2023

25.	IVFRT	21-23 Mar 2023
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**For the year 2023-24**

Sl. No.	Training Programme	Dates
1.	Induction Training Programme for DR-ASOs of 2020 Batch (Batch I)	10-24 Apr 2023
2.	Training Programme for Indian Trade Service Officers	02-04 May 2023
3.	Promotion related Training Programme for Section Officers	08-19 May 2023
4.	Promotion related Training Programme for Principal Private Secretaries & Private Secretaries	22-26 May 2023
5.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs (Batch I)	29 May-02 Jun 2023
6.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs (Batch II)	05-09 Jun 2023
7.	Mid Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I)	12-30 Jun 2023
8.	Promotion Related Training Programme for Stenographers and Personal Assistants	19-23 Jun 2023
9.	86th Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) for SOs/ PSs and below	26-30 Jun 2023
10.	Promotion related Training Programme for Junior Secretariat Assistant (JSAs)	17-21 Jul 2023
11.	IVFRT	17-21 Jul 2023
12.	Training Programme for Defence Attaches	7-9 Aug 2023
13.	Accounts Module and 87 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	28 Aug-06 Sep 2023
14.	Induction Training Programme for DR-ASOs of 2020 Batch (Batch I)	03-16 Oct 2023
15.	3rd Training module on 'India and its Neighbourhood' as part of 98th Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie	18 Oct 2023
16.	Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of 2023 batch and Bhutanese Diplomats	6 Nov 2023 to 10 May 2024
17.	Training Programme/workshop on International Negotiations for COP	10 Nov 2023
18.	IVFRT	17 Nov 2023 15-2
19.	Mid Career Training Programm-III (MCTP-III) for JS Level IFS Officers	4-22 Dec 2023
20.	Accounts Module and 88 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	15-22 Dec 2023
21.	Accounts Module and 89 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	03-10 Jan 2024
22.	IVFRT	16-18 Jan 2024

23.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs and SSAs (Batch I)	19-23 Feb 2024
24.	Promotion related Training Programme for ASOs and SSAs (Batch I)	26 Feb-01 Mar 2024
25.	Accounts Module and 90 <sup>th</sup> IMAS Training	04-22 Mar, 2024
26.	Training Programme for IRS Officers Trainee	11-13 Mar, 2024

**For the year 2024-25**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1.	Training programme for Defence Attaches	08-10 Apr 2024
2.	Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) for SOs/PSs and below	09-10 Apr 2024
3.	Promotion related Training Programme for Section Officers	27-07 Jun 2024
4.	Promotion Related Training Programme for Stenographers and Personal Assistants	13-20 Jun 2024
5.	1st Pre-posting Training programme	21 Jun 2024
6.	Mid Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for Director level IFS Officers of 2008 batch	24 Jun-19 Jul 2024
7.	Accounts Module and 91st IMAS Training	24 Jun-01 Jul 2024
8.	2nd Pre-posting training programme	04 Jul 2024
9.	An exposure session for IAS OTs of 2022 batch	08 Jul 2024
10.	3rd Pre-posting Training programme	11 Jul 2024
11.	Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) for SOs/PSs and below	11-12 Jul 2024
12.	Promotion Related Training Programme for PPSs and PSs	22-26 Jul 2024
13.	Probation related Training Programme for Induction into IFS from Grade I of IFS B	29 Jul-09 Aug 2024 19-30 Aug 2024
14.	Promotion related Training Programme for Officers of Interpreter's cadre	29 Jul-09 Aug 2024 23-27 Sep 2024
15.	Line Ministry Module for Indian Forest Service officers during 16th MCTP-IV Programme	30 Jul 2024
16.	Special Cyber Security Module for IFS OTs of 2023 batch	30 Jul 2024
17.	4th Pre-posting Training programme	30 Jul 2024
18.	IVFRT	01-02 Aug 2024
19.	Accounts Training Module & 92nd IMAS	08-16 Aug 2024
20.	Mid Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I) for DS level IFS Officers	19 Aug-6 Sep 2024

	of 2012 batch	
21.	Induction Training Programme for DR-ASOs of 2021 and 2022 batch (Batch I)	27 Aug-06 Sep 2024
22.	Accounts Training Module & 93rd IMAS	12-20 Sep 2024
23.	Promotion related Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers	23-27 Sep 2024
24.	IVFRT	18-23 Oct 2024
25.	Training Programme for Defence Attaches	21-25 Oct 2024
26.	Induction Training Programme for DR-ASOs of 2021-2023 batch (Batch II)	11-22 Nov 2024
27.	Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch (Phase I)	03 Dec 2024 – 01 Mar 2025
28.	Accounts Training Module & 94th IMAS	30 Dec 2024– 06 Jan 2025
29.	Accounts Training Module & 95th IMAS	10-14 Feb 2024

**Details of Courses for Foreign Diplomats****For the year 2021-22**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Courses</b>	<b>Duration</b>
1.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Vietnam	11-12 May 2021
2.	Special Training Module on 'Reformed Multilateralism' for Diplomats from Dominican Republic	16 Jun 2021
3.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Sierra Leone	21 Jun – 02 Jul 2021
4.	8th Special Course for Diplomats from Afghanistan	05-17 Jul 2021
5.	4th Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomats	26-30 Jul 2021
6.	4th Familiarization Programme for Resident HoMs	23-27 Aug 2021
7.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)	20 Sep – 01 Oct 2021
8.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures 2021 on Introduction to India for Resident Foreign Diplomats	21-22 Oct 2021
9.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from The Gambia	15-26 Nov 2021
10.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Oman	06-17 Dec 2021

**For the year 2022-23**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Training Courses</b>	<b>Duration</b>
2.	3rd Special course for Diplomats from the Republic of South Sudan	17-27 May 2022
3.	5th Familiarization Programme for Resident Diplomat	13-17 Jun 2022
4.	60th Know India Programme	29-Aug-22
5.	Orientation Programme for 52nd MCTP for Civil Servants of Bangladesh	2-Sep-22
6.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico	5-17 Sep 2022

7.	Orientation Session for 61st Know India Programme	27 Sep 2022
8.	69th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats	03-28 Oct 2022
9.	Orientation Session for 62nd Know India Programme	4-Nov-22
10.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia	5-16 Dec 2022
11.	Orientation Session for 63rd Know India Programme	23-Dec-22
12.	Orientation Session for 64th Know India Programme	04 Jan 2023
13.	3rd Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs (D&ISA) Fellowship Programme	09-17 Jan 2023
14.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Iran	06-17 Feb 2023
15.	Orientation Session for 65th Know India Programme	07 Feb 2023
16.	3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries	20 Feb - 03 Mar 2023
17.	70th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD)	13-31 Mar 2023

For the year 2023-24

Sl. No.	Training Courses	Duration
1.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Eritrea and Zambia	17-28 Apr 2023
2.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Uganda	12-23 Jun 2023
3.	Orientation Session for 66th Know India Programme (KIP)	31 Jul 2023
4.	Special Course for Diplomats from El Salvador	31 Jul-11 Aug 2023
5.	Orientation Session for 67th Know India Programme (KIP)	14 Aug 2023
6.	2nd Special Course for Diplomats from the League of Arab States (LAS)	23 Aug-01 Sep 2023
7.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Timor Leste and 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Dominican Republic	20-29 Sep 2023
8.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Armenia & Georgia and 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Mongolia	18-27 Oct 2023
9.	Orientation Session for 68th Know India Programme (KIP)	01 Nov 2023

10.	1st Global South Young Diplomats Forum	20 Nov-01 Dec 2023
11.	Orientation Session for 70th Know India Programme (KIP)	12 Dec 2023
12.	Orientation Session for 71st Know India Programme	04 Jan 2024
13.	Orientation Session for 72nd Know India Programme	16 Jan 2024
14.	4th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme	22 Jan-09 Feb 2024
15.	Orientation Session for 74th Know India Programme	12 Feb 2024
16.	1st Special Course for diplomats from Cambodia	27 Mar-05 Apr 2024
17.	2nd Special Course for diplomats from Lao PDR	27 Mar-05 Apr 2024

For the year 2024-25

Sl. No.	Training Courses	Duration
1.	71st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD)	22 Apr-03 May 2024
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> Batch of training for diplomatic correspondents of Bangladesh	08 May 2024
3.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Madagascar	12-21 Jun 2024
4.	3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Gambia	12-21 Jun 2024
5.	Orientation Session for 75th KIP	08 Jul 2024
6.	1st Special Course for Diplomats from Pacific Alliance Countries and Moldova	10-19 Jul 2024
7.	1st Special Course for diplomats from Sri Lanka	05-13 Aug 2024
8.	2nd Global South Young Diplomats Forum	09-20 Sep 2024
9.	Orientation Session for 77th Know India Programme	17 Sep 2024
10.	3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia	14-25 Oct 2024
11.	Orientation Session for 78th Know India Programme	04 Nov 2024
12.	Sushma Swaraj Lectures on Introduction to India 2024	13-14 Nov 2024
13.	1st Special Course for diplomats from Nepal	21-29 Nov 2024



14.	Digital Video Conference for students of Diplomatic Academy of Peru	26 Nov 2024
15.	Orientation Session for 79th Know India Programme	26 Nov 2024
16.	1st Special Course for diplomats from Rwanda	11-20 Dec 2024
17.	2nd Special Course for diplomats from Libya	11-20 Dec 2024
18.	4th Special Course for diplomats from South Sudan	11-20 Dec 2024
19.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Batch of training for diplomatic correspondents of Bangladesh	18 December 2024
20.	Orientation Session for 80th Know India Programme	31 Dec 2024
21.	Orientation Session for 81st Know India Programme	02 Jan 2025
22.	4th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme	13-31 Jan 2025

**Region-wise List of Indian Missions/Posts abroad****A. List of Resident Missions (total – 149)**

Sl No	Name of Mission	Country	
<b>AFRICA - 47</b>			
1.	Embassy of India, Abidjan	<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	1.
2.	Embassy of India, Addis Ababa	<b>Ethiopia</b>	2.
3.	Embassy of India, Algiers	<b>Algeria</b>	3.
4.	Embassy of India, Antananarivo	<b>Madagascar</b>	4.
5.	Embassy of India, Asmara	<b>Eritrea</b>	5.
6.	Embassy of India, Bamako	<b>Mali</b>	6.
7.	Embassy of India, Brazzaville	<b>Republic of the Congo</b>	7.
8.	Embassy of India, Cairo	<b>Egypt</b>	8.
9.	Embassy of India, Conakry	<b>Guinea</b>	9.
10.	Embassy of India, Dakar	<b>Senegal</b>	10.
11.	Embassy of India, Djibouti	<b>Djibouti</b>	11.
12.	Embassy of India, Freetown	<b>Sierra Leone</b>	12.
13.	Embassy of India, Juba	<b>South Sudan</b>	13.
14.	Embassy of India, Khartoum	<b>Sudan</b>	14.
15.	Embassy of India, Kinshasa	<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	15.
16.	Embassy of India, Libreville	<b>Gabon</b>	16.
17.	Embassy of India, Lome	<b>Togo</b>	17.
18.	Embassy of India, Luanda	<b>Angola</b>	18.
19.	Embassy of India, Malabo	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	19.

20.	Embassy of India, Monrovia	<b>Liberia</b>	20.
21.	Embassy of India, N'Djamena	<b>Chad</b>	21.
22.	Embassy of India, Niamey	<b>Niger</b>	22.
23.	Embassy of India, Nouakchott	<b>Mauritania</b>	23.
24.	Embassy of India, Ouagadougou	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	24.
25.	Embassy of India, Praia	<b>Cape Verde</b>	25.
26.	Embassy of India, Rabat	<b>Morocco</b>	26.
27.	Embassy of India, Sao Tome	<b>Sao Tome and Principe</b>	27.
28.	Embassy of India, Tripoli	<b>Libya</b>	28.
29.	Embassy of India, Tunis	<b>Tunisia</b>	29.
30.	High Commission of India, Abuja	Nigeria	30.
31.	High Commission of India, Accra	Ghana	31.
32.	High Commission of India, Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania	32.
33.	High Commission of India, Gaborone	<b>Botswana</b>	33.
34.	High Commission of India, Harare	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	34.
35.	High Commission of India, Kampala	<b>Uganda</b>	35.
36.	High Commission of India, Kigali	<b>Rwanda</b>	36.
37.	High Commission of India, Lilongwe	<b>Malawi</b>	37.
38.	High Commission of India, Lusaka	<b>Zambia</b>	38.
39.	High Commission of India, Maputo	<b>Mozambique</b>	39.
40.	High Commission of India, Mbabane	<b>Eswatini</b>	40.
41.	High Commission of India, Nairobi	<b>Kenya</b>	41.
42.	High Commission of India, Port Louis	<b>Mauritius</b>	42.
43.	High Commission of India, Pretoria	<b>South Africa</b>	43.
44.	High Commission of India, Victoria (Mahe)	<b>Seychelles</b>	44.

45.	High Commission of India, Windhoek	<b>Namibia</b>	45.
46.	High Commission of India, Yaoundé	<b>Cameroon</b>	46.
<b>ASIA - 43</b>			
47.	Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	1.
48.	Embassy of India, Amman	<b>Jordan</b>	2.
49.	Embassy of India, Ashgabat	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	3.
50.	Embassy of India, Astana (Nur-Sultan)	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	4.
51.	Embassy of India, Baghdad	<b>Iraq</b>	5.
52.	Embassy of India, Manama, Bahrain	Bahrain	6.
53.	Embassy of India, Bangkok	Thailand	7.
54.	Embassy of India, Baku	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	8.
55.	Embassy of India, Beijing	China	9.
56.	Embassy of India, Beirut	<b>Lebanon</b>	10.
57.	Embassy of India, Bishkek	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	11.
58.	Embassy of India, Damascus	<b>Syria</b>	12.
59.	Embassy of India, Dili	<b>Timor Leste</b>	13.
60.	Embassy of India, Doha	<b>Qatar</b>	14.
61.	Embassy of India, Dushanbe	<b>Tajikistan</b>	15.
62.	Embassy of India, Hanoi	<b>Vietnam</b>	16.
63.	Embassy of India, Jakarta	<b>Indonesia</b>	17.
64.	Embassy of India, Kabul	<b>Afghanistan</b>	18.
65.	Embassy of India, Kathmandu	Nepal	19.
66.	Embassy of India, Kuwait City	<b>Kuwait</b>	20.
67.	Embassy of India, Manila	<b>Philippines</b>	21.
68.	Embassy of India, Muscat	<b>Oman</b>	22.

69.	Embassy of India, Phnom Penh	<b>Cambodia</b>	23.
70.	Embassy of India, Pyong Yang	<b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b>	24.
71.	Embassy of India, Riyadh	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	25.
72.	Embassy of India, Sanaá	<b>Yemen</b>	26.
73.	Embassy of India, Seoul	<b>Republic of Korea</b>	27.
74.	Embassy of India, Tashkent	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	28.
75.	Embassy of India, Tehran	Iran	29.
76.	Embassy of India, Tel Aviv	<b>Israel</b>	30.
77.	Embassy of India, Thimphu	Bhutan	31.
78.	Embassy of India, Tokyo	Japan	32.
79.	Embassy of India, Ulaan Baataar	Mongolia	33.
80.	Embassy of India, Vientiane	<b>Laos</b>	34.
81.	Embassy of India, Yangon	Myanmar	35.
82.	Embassy of India, Yerevan	<b>Armenia</b>	36.
83.	High Commission of India, Bandar Seri Begawan	<b>Brunei</b>	37.
84.	High Commission of India, Colombo	Sri Lanka	38.
85.	High Commission of India, Dhaka	Bangladesh	39.
86.	High Commission of India, Islamabad	Pakistan	40.
87.	High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	41.
88.	High Commission of India, Male	<b>Maldives</b>	42.
89.	High Commission of India, Singapore	Singapore	43.
<b>EUROPE - 38</b>			
90.	Embassy of India, Ankara	Turkiye	1.
91.	Embassy of India, Athens	Greece	2.

92.	Embassy of India, Belgrade	Serbia	3.
93.	Embassy of India, Berlin	Germany	4.
94.	Embassy of India, Berne	Switzerland	5.
95.	Embassy of India, Bratislava	Slovakia	6.
96.	Embassy of India, Brussels	Belgium	7.
97.	Embassy of India, Bucharest	Romania	8.
98.	Embassy of India, Budapest	Hungary	9.
99.	Embassy of India, Copenhagen	Denmark	10.
100.	Embassy of India, Dublin	Ireland	11.
101.	Embassy of India, Helsinki	Finland	12.
102.	Embassy of India, Kyiv	Ukraine	13.
103.	Embassy of India, Lisbon	Portugal	14.
104.	Embassy of India, Ljubljana	Slovenia	15.
105.	Embassy of India, Madrid	Spain	16.
106.	Embassy of India, Minsk	Belarus	17.
107.	Embassy of India, Moscow	Russian Federation	18.
108.	Embassy of India, Oslo	Norway	19.
109.	Embassy of India, Paris	France	20.
110.	Embassy of India, Prague	Czech Republic	21.
111.	Embassy of India, Riga	Latvia	22.
112.	Embassy of India, Reykjavik	Iceland	23.
113.	Embassy of India, Rome	Italy	24.
114.	Embassy of India, Sofia	Bulgaria	25.
115.	Embassy of India, Stockholm	Sweden	26.
116.	Embassy of India, Tallinn	Estonia	27.

117.	Embassy of India, Tbilisi	Georgia	28.
118.	Embassy of India, Tirana	Albania	29.
119.	Embassy of India, The Hague	Netherlands	30.
120.	Embassy of India, Vienna	Austria	31.
121.	Embassy of India, Warsaw	Poland	32.
122.	Embassy of India, Zagreb	Croatia	33.
123.	Embassy of India, Vilnius	Lithuania	34.
124.	High Commission of India, Nicosia	Cyprus	35.
125.	High Commission of India, London	United Kingdom	36.
126.	High Commission of India, Valletta, Malta	Malta	37.
<b>NORTH AMERICA - 9</b>			
127.	Embassy of India, Guatemala City	Guatemala	1.
128.	Embassy of India, Havana	Cuba	2.
129.	Embassy of India, Mexico City	Mexico	3.
130.	Embassy of India, Panama City	Panama	4.
131.	Embassy of India, Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic	5.
132.	Embassy of India, Washington	USA	6.
133.	High Commission of India, Kingston	Jamaica	7.
134.	High Commission of India, Ottawa	Canada	8.
135.	High Commission of India, Port of Spain	Trinidad & Tobago	9.
<b>OCEANIA – 4</b>			
136.	High Commission of India, Canberra	Australia	1.
137.	High Commission of India, Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	2.
138.	High Commission of India, Suva	Fiji	3.
139.	High Commission of India, Wellington	New Zealand	4.

<b>SOUTH AMERICA - 14</b>			
140.	Embassy of India, Asuncion	Paraguay	1.
141.	Embassy of India, Bogota	Colombia	2.
142.	Embassy of India, Brasilia	Brazil	3.
143.	Embassy of India, Buenos Aires	Argentina	4.
144.	Embassy of India, Caracas	Venezuela	5.
145.	Embassy of India, La Paz	Bolivia	6.
146.	Embassy of India, Lima	Peru	7.
147.	Embassy of India, Paramaribo	Suriname	8.
148.	Embassy of India, Santiago	Chile	9.
149.	High Commission of India, George Town	Guyana	10.

**B. List of Permanent / Multilateral Mission (total – 4)**

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Multilateral Mission</b>	<b>Country</b>	
1.	Permanent Mission of India, Geneva	Switzerland	1.
2.	Permanent Delegation of India, Paris	France	2.
3.	Permanent Mission of India, New York	USA	3.
4.	ASEAN Mission in Jakarta	Indonesia	4.

**C. List of Consulates General of India (total – 61)**

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Name of the Post</b>	<b>Country</b>	
<b>AFRICA - 7</b>			
1.	Consulate General of India, Cape Town	<b>South Africa</b>	1.
2.	Consulate General of India, Durban	<b>South Africa</b>	2.
3.	Consulate General of India, Johannesburg	<b>South Africa</b>	3.



4.	Consulate General of India, Saint Denis	France	4.
5.	Consulate General of India, Lagos	Nigeria	5.
6.	Consulate General of India, Zanzibar	Tanzania	6.
7.	Assistant High Commission of India, Mombasa	Kenya	7.
<b>ASIA - 31</b>			
8.	Consulate General of India, Bali	Indonesia	1.
9.	Consulate of India, Bandar Abbas	Iran	2.
10.	Consulate General of India, Birgunj	Nepal	3.
11.	Consulate of India, Chiangmai	Thailand	4.
12.	Consulate General of India, Dubai	United Arab Emirates	5.
13.	Consulate General of India, Erbil	Iraq	6.
14.	Consulate General of India, Guangzhou	China	7.
15.	Consulate General of India, Hambantota	Sri Lanka	8.
16.	Consulate General of India, Herat ()	Afghanistan	9.
17.	Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	10.
18.	Consulate General of India, Hong Kong	China	11.
19.	Consulate General of India, Jaffna	Sri Lanka	12.
20.	Consulate General of India, Jalalabad ()	Afghanistan	13.
21.	Consulate General of India, Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	14.
22.	Consulate General of India, Kandahar ()	Afghanistan	15.
23.	Consulate General of India, Mandalay	Myanmar	16.
24.	Consulate General of India, Mazar e Sharif ()	Afghanistan	17.
25.	Consulate General of India, Medan	Indonesia	18.

26.	Consulate General of India, Osaka Kobe	Japan	19.
27.	Consulate General of India, Phuentsholing	Bhutan	20.
28.	Consulate General of India, Shanghai	China	21.
29.	Consulate General of India, Sittwe	Myanmar	22.
30.	Consulate of India, Zahidan	Iran	23.
31.	Assistant High Commission of India, Chittagong	Bangladesh	24.
32.	Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy	Sri Lanka	25.
33.	Assistant High Commission of India, Khulna	Bangladesh	26.
34.	Assistant High Commission of India, Rajshahi	Bangladesh	27.
35.	Assistant High Commission of India, Sylhet	Bangladesh	28.
	<b>EUROPE - 16</b>		
36.	Consulate General of India, Barcelona	Spain	1.
37.	Consulate General of India, Birmingham	United Kingdom	2.
38.	Consulate General of India, Edinburgh	United Kingdom	3.
39.	Consulate General of India, Frankfurt	Germany	4.
40.	Consulate General of India, Geneva	Switzerland	5.
41.	Consulate General of India, Hamburg	Germany	6.
42.	Consulate General of India, Istanbul	Turkiye	7.
43.	Consulate General of India, Marseille	France	8.
44.	Consulate General of India, Milan	Italy	9.
45.	Consulate General of India, Munich	Germany	10.
46.	Consulate General of India, St Petersburg	Russian Federation	11.
47.	Consulate General of India, Vladivostok	Russian Federation	12.
	<b>NORTH AMERICA - 8</b>		
48.	Consulate General of India, Atlanta	USA	1.

49.	Consulate General of India, Chicago	USA	2.
50.	Consulate General of India, Houston	USA	3.
51.	Consulate General of India, New York	USA	4.
52.	Consulate General of India, San Francisco	USA	5.
53.	Consulate General of India, Seattle	USA	6.
54.	Consulate General of India, Toronto	Canada	7.
55.	Consulate General of India, Vancouver	Canada	8.
	<b>OCEANIA - 5</b>		
56.	Consulate General of India, Auckland	New Zealand	1.
57.	Consulate General of India, Brisbane	Australia	2.
58.	Consulate General of India, Melbourne	Australia	3.
59.	Consulate General of India, Perth	Australia	4.
60.	Consulate General of India, Sydney	Australia	5.
	<b>SOUTH AMERICA - 1</b>		
61.	Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo	Brazil	1.

**D. List of Representative Office - 2**

	<b>Representative Office</b>		
1.	Representative Office of India, Almaty	Kazakhstan	1.
2.	Representative Office of India, Ramallah	Palestine	2.

**State-wise list of Passport Seva Kendras**

S. No.	State/UT	No. of PSKs	Location of PSKs
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3	Assam	1	Guwahati
4	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5	Chandigarh UT	1	Chandigarh
6	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
7	Delhi NCT	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place,
			Bhikaji Cama Place
8	Goa	1	Panaji
9	Gujarat	5	Ahmedabad I& II, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat.
10	Haryana	2	Ambala, Gurgaon.
11	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
12	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
13	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
14	Karnataka	5	Bangalore I & II, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi.
15	Kerala	13	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode I & II, Kannur I & II.
16	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore
17	Maharashtra	8	Mumbai I, II & III, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Solapur.

18	Manipur	1	Imphal
19	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
21	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
22	Odisha	1	Bhubaneswar
23	Puducherry	1	Puducherry
24	Punjab	5	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I & II, Hoshiarpur.
25	Rajasthan	4	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur
26	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
27	Tamil Nadu	8	Chennai I, II & III, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai,
			Tirunelveli, Coimbatore,
28	Telangana	5	Hyderabad I, II & III, Nizamabad, Karimnagar
29	Tripura	1	Agartala
30	Uttar Pradesh	6	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad.
31	Uttarakhand	1	Dehradun
32	West Bengal	3	Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri.
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>93</b>	

S.No.	State/UTs /POPSKs	Total
<b>1</b>	<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Island</b>	<b>1</b>
	Port Blair	
<b>2</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>21</b>
	Amalapuram	
	Anakapalle (Yelamanchili)	
	Anantpur	

	Bapatla	
	Chittoor	
	Eluru	
	Guntur	
	Hindupur	
	Kadappa	
	Kakinada	
	Kurnool	
	Machlipattnam (Gudivada)	
	Nandyal	
	Narasaraopet	
	Nellore	
	Ongole	
	POPSK ARAKU	
	Rajampet (Kodur)	
	Rajamundry	
	Srikakulam	
	Vizianagaram	
<b>3</b>	<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	<b>2</b>
	Aruanchal East (Changlang)	
	Aruanchal East (Khonsa)	
<b>4</b>	<b>Assam</b>	<b>15</b>
	Lakhimpur (North Lakhimpur)	
	Barpeta	
	Dhubri	
	Dibrugarh	
	Dibrugarh (Tinsukia)	
	Dubri (Goalpara)	
	Jorhat	
	Kaliabor (Golaghat)	

	Karbi Anglong	
	Karimganj	
	Kokrajhar	
	Mangaldoi	
	Nawgong	
	Silchar	
	Tezpur	
<b>5</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>35</b>
	Araria(Forbesganj)	
	Arrah	
	Aurangabad	
	Banka	
	Begusarai	
	Bhagalpur	
	Buxar	
	East Champaran (Motihari)	
	Ekma	
	Gaya	
	Gopalganj	
	Hajipur	
	Jahanabad	
	Jamui	
	Karakat(Dalmia Nagar)	
	Katihar	
	Khagaria	
	Kishanganj	
	Madhepura(Saharsa)	
	Madhubani	
	Munger	
	Muzaffarpur	

	Nalanda	
	Navada	
	Paschim Champaran (Bettiah)	
	Pataliputra(Maner)	
	Purnea	
	Samastipur	
	Saran (Chhapra)	
	Sasaram	
	Sheohar	
	Sitamarhi	
	Siwan	
	Supaul	
	Ujjarpur(Dalsingh Sarai)	
<b>6</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>9</b>
	Bastar	
	Bilaspur	
	Durg	
	Janjgir-Champa	
	Kanker	
	Korba	
	Raigarh	
	Rajnandgaon	
	Surguja	
<b>7</b>	<b>Dadar &amp; Nagar Haveli</b>	<b>1</b>
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli (Silvasa)	
<b>8</b>	<b>Daman</b>	<b>1</b>
	Daman & Diu ( Daman)	
<b>9</b>	<b>Delhi</b>	<b>5</b>
	East Delhi (Patparganj)	
	Janak Puri	



	Saket (Mehrauli)	
	South Delhi (Nehru Place)	
	Yamuna Vihar	
<b>10</b>	<b>Goa</b>	<b>1</b>
	South Goa (Margao)	
<b>11</b>	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>23</b>
	Amreli	
	Anand	
	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	
	Bardoli	
	Bharuch	
	Bhavnagar	
	Chhota Udaipur	
	Dahod	
	Gandhinagar	
	Jamnagar	
	Junagadh	
	Junagadh (Veraval)	
	Kachchh (Bhuj)	
	Kheda	
	Mehsana	
	Navsari	
	Panchmahal(Godhra)	
	Patan	
	Porbandar	
	Rajpipla	
	Sabarkantha	
	Surendranagar	
	Valsad	
<b>12</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>11</b>

	Ambala (Yamunanagar)	
	Bhiwani Mahendragarh	
	Bhiwani Mahendragarh (Narnaul)	
	Faridabad	
	Hisar	
	Kaithal	
	Karnal	
	Karnal (Panipat)	
	Rohtak	
	Sirsa	
	Sonipat	
<b>13</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>6</b>
	Hamirpur	
	Hamirpur (Una)	
	Kangra	
	Kangra (Palampur)	
	Mandi	
	Mandi (Kullu)	
<b>14</b>	<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	<b>6</b>
	Anantnag	
	Baramulla	
	Jammu (Rajouri)	
	Ladakh (Leh)	
	Udhampur	
	Udhampur (Kathua)	
<b>15</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>15</b>
	Chatra(Shimaria)	
	Dhanbad	
	Dhanbad (Bokaro)	
	Dumka	

	Giridih	
	Godda	
	Godda (Deoghar)	
	Hazaribagh	
	Jamshedpur	
	Khunti	
	Kodarma(Jumri Tilaiya)	
	Lohardaga (Gumla)	
	Palamu (Medininagar)	
	Rajmahal(Sahibganj)	
	Singhbhum(Chaibasha)	
<b>16</b>	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>23</b>
	Bagalkot	
	Bangalore North (Jalahalli)	
	Bangalore Rural (Channapatna)	
	Belagavi	
	Bellary	
	Bidar	
	Chamrajanagar	
	Chikkballapur	
	Chikkodi	
	Chikmagalur (Udupi)	
	Chitradurga	
	Davangere	
	Hassan	
	Haveri (Gadag)	
	Kolar(Robertsonpet)	
	Koppal	
	Mandya (Maddur)	
	Mysuru	

	Raichur	
	Shivamogga	
	Tumakuru	
	Uttar Kannada(Ankola)	
	Vijayapur	
<b>17</b>	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>7</b>
	Attingal	
	Idukki (Kattappana)	
	Kasargod	
	Mavalikkara (Chengannur)	
	Nenmara	
	Palakkad	
	Pathanamthitta	
<b>18</b>	<b>Lakshadweep</b>	<b>1</b>
	Lakshadweep (Kavaratti)	
<b>19</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>22</b>
	Balaghat	
	Betul	
	Chhindwara	
	Damoh	
	Dewas	
	Dhar	
	Guna	
	Gwalior	
	Hoshangabad	
	Jabalpur	
	Khajuraho (Chhatarpur)	
	Khandwa	
	Mandsaur	
	Ratlam	

	Rewa	
	Sagar	
	Satna	
	Seoni	
	shahdol	
	Tikamgarh	
	Ujjain	
	Vidisha	
<b>20</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>41</b>
	Alibaug	
	Ahmednagar	
	Akola	
	Amravati	
	Aurangabad	
	Baramati	
	Beed	
	Bhandara Gondiya (Bhandara )	
	Bhiwandi	
	Buldhana	
	Chandrapur	
	Dhule	
	Dombivli	
	Gadchiroli Chimur (Gadchiroli)	
	Hatkanangle (Ichalkaranji)	
	Hingoli	
	Jalgaon	
	Jalna	
	Kolhapur	
	Latur	
	Madha	

	Maval (Pimpri Chinchwad)	
	Mumbai NE (Vikroli)	
	Mumbai South-Central (Sion)	
	Nanded	
	Nandurbar	
	Osmanabad	
	Parbhani	
	Ramtek(Katoal)	
	Ratnagiri Sindhugurh (Rajapur)	
	Raver(Bhusawal)	
	Sangli	
	Santa Cruz	
	Satara	
	Shirdi(Srirampur)	
	Shirur	
	Solapur (Pandharpur)	
	Vasai	
	Wardha	
	Yavatmal-Washim (Yavatmal)	
	Navi Mumbai (Vashi)	
<b>21</b>	<b>Manipur</b>	<b>1</b>
	Outer Manipur(Kakching)	
<b>22</b>	<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>1</b>
	Tura	
<b>23</b>	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>20</b>
	Aska	
	Balasore	
	Bargarh	
	Berhampur	
	Bhadrak	

	Bolangir	
	Cuttack	
	Dhenkanal	
	Jagatsinghpur	
	Jajpur	
	Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna)	
	Kandhamal (Phulbani)	
	Kendrapara	
	Keonjhar	
	Koraput	
	Mayurbhanj (Baripada)	
	Nabarangpur	
	Puri	
	Sambalpur	
	Sundergarh (Rourkela)	
<b>24</b>	<b>Puducherry</b>	<b>1</b>
	Puducherry (Karaikal)	
<b>25</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>9</b>
	Bathinda	
	Faridkot (Moga)	
	Fatehgarh Sahib(Basi Pattana)	
	Firozpur	
	Gurdaspur (Pathankot)	
	Hoshiarpur (Phagwara)	
	Patiala	
	Sangrur(Malerkotla)	
	SBS Nagar(Ropar)	
<b>26</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>24</b>
	Ajmer	
	Alwar	

	Banswara	
	Barmer	
	Barmer (Jaisalmer)	
	Bharatpur	
	Bhilwara	
	Bikaner	
	Chittorgarh	
	Churu	
	Dausa	
	Ganganagar (Hanumangarh)	
	Jaipur Rural (Kotputli)	
	Jalore(Sirohi)	
	Jhalawar Baran (Jhalawar)	
	Jhunjhunu	
	Karauli (Dhaulpur)	
	Kota	
	Nagaur	
	Pali	
	Pratapgarh	
	Rajsamand(Kankroli)	
	Sriganganagar	
	Tonk-Sawai Madhopur (Sawai Madhopur)	
<b>27</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>30</b>
	Arakkonam(Ranipet)	
	Arani	
	Cheennai North (Chennai GPO)	
	Chidambaram	
	Cuddalore	
	Dharmapuri	
	Dindigul(Kodairoad)	



	Erode	
	Kallakurichi	
	Kancheepuram	
	Kanyakumari (Nagercoil)	
	Karur	
	Krishnagiri	
	Mayiladuthurai(Sirkali)	
	Nagapattinam (Thiruthuraipoondi )	
	Namakkal (Rasipuram)	
	Nilgiris (Coonoor)	
	Perambalur	
	POPSK Tiruppur	
	Ramanathapuram	
	Salem	
	Shivaganga (Devakottai)	
	Tenkasi(Rajpalyam)	
	Theni(Bodineyaknur)	
	Thoothukkudi	
	Tiruvallur	
	Tiruvannamalai	
	Vellore	
	Viluppuram	
	Virudhunagar	
<b>28</b>	<b>Telangana</b>	<b>14</b>
	Adilabad	
	Bhongir	
	Chevella(Vikarabad)	
	Khammam	
	Mahabubabad	
	Malkajgiri (Medchal)	

	Medak	
	Medak (Siddipet)	
	Mehbubnagar	
	Nagarkurnool(Wanaparthi)	
	Nalgonda	
	Peddapalle(Mancherial)	
	Warangal	
	Zahirabad(Kamareddy)	
<b>29</b>	<b>Tripura</b>	<b>1</b>
	Dharamnagar	
<b>30</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>51</b>
	Agra	
	Aligarh	
	Allahabad	
	Ambedkar Nagar	
	Amethi	
	Amroha	
	Azamgarh	
	Badaun	
	Baghpat	
	Bahraich	
	Ballia	
	Banda	
	Bhadohi	
	Bijnaur	
	Bulandshahr	
	Deoria	
	Domariyaganj (Siddharth Nagar)	
	Etawah	
	Faizabad (Ayodhya)	

	Farukhabad	
	Fatehpur	
	Fatehpur Sikri(Achnera)	
	Gautam Buddha Nagar(Noida)	
	Ghazipur	
	Gonda	
	Goshi (Mau)	
	Hamirpur	
	Hardoi	
	Hathras	
	Jalaun	
	Jaunpur	
	Jhansi	
	Kheri	
	Maharajganj	
	Mathura (Vrindawan)	
	Meerut	
	Mirzapur (Chunar)	
	Misrikh	
	Moradabad	
	Muzaffarnagar	
	Nagina	
	Pilibhit	
	Pratapgarh	
	Rae Bareli	
	Rampur	
	Saharanpur	
	Shahjahanpur	
	Shrawasti (Balrampur)	
	Sitapur	

	Sultanpur	
	Unnao	
<b>31</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>6</b>
	Almora	
	Garhwal (Srinagar)	
	Haridwar (Roorkee)	
	Nainital	
	Nainital (Kathgodam)	
	Naintal (Rudrapur)	
<b>32</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>40</b>
	Alipurduar	
	Arambagh	
	Asansol	
	Balurghat	
	Bangaon	
	Bankura	
	Barasat (Ashok Nagar )	
	Bardhaman	
	Bardhaman Purba(Katwa)	
	Barrackpore	
	Basirhat	
	Birbhum (Rampurhat)	
	Bishnupur	
	Bolpur	
	Coochbehar	
	Darjeeling	
	Diamond Harbour	
	Dum Dum	
	Ghatal	
	Hoogly (Chinsurah)	

	Howrah	
	Jadavpur	
	Jalpaiguri	
	Jangipur (Raghunathganj)	
	Jaynagar (Canning Ferri Ghat)	
	Jhargram	
	Kanthi	
	Kolkata Uttar (Beadon Street)	
	Malda Dakshin ( Makdumpur)	
	Maldaha Uttar(Samsi)	
	Mathurapur(Kakdweep)	
	Medinipur (Kharagpur)	
	Murshidabad(Jiyaganj)	
	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	
	Purulia	
	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	
	Ranaghat	
	Serampore	
	Tamluk	
	Uluberia(Amta)	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>444</b>

**Ref : Replies to LOPs Annexure – G**

<b>Details of 38 Lok Sabha Constituencies where Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) yet to be opened.</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Lok Sabha Constituency</b>
1	Bihar (03)	<b>Jhanjharpur</b>

2		<b>Valmiki Nagar</b>
3		<b>Vaishali</b>
4	Chhattisgarh(1)	<b>Mahasamund</b>
5	Kerala (2)	<b>Ponnani</b>
6		<b>Wayanad</b>
7	Madhya Pradesh (5)	<b>Sidhi</b>
8		<b>Bhind</b>
9		<b>Khargone (Barwani)</b>
10		<b>Mandla (Dindori)</b>
11		<b>Morena</b>
12		<b>Rajgarh</b>
13	Maharashtra (1)	<b>Dindori</b>
14	Punjab (1)	<b>Tarn Taran</b>
15	Tamil Nadu (1)	<b>Pollachi</b>
16	Uttar Pradesh (23)	<b>Kaushambi</b>
17		<b>Barabanki</b>
18		<b>Basti</b>
19		<b>Robertsganj</b>
20		<b>Kushi Nagar</b>
21		<b>Akbarpur</b>
22		<b>Aonla</b>
23		<b>Bansgoan</b>
24		<b>Chandauli</b>
25		<b>Dhauraha</b>
26		<b>Etah</b>

27	<b>Firozabad</b>
28	<b>Kairana</b>
29	<b>Kaiserganj</b>
30	<b>Kannauj</b>
31	<b>Lalganj</b>
32	<b>Machhlishahr</b>
33	<b>Mainpuri</b>
34	<b>Mohanlalganj</b>
35	<b>Phulpur</b>
36	<b>Salempur</b>
37	<b>Sambhal</b>
38	<b>Sant Kabir Nagar</b>

**Percentage share of applications handled by the POPSKs in the country (State-wise)**% of application processed by POPSK during the FY : 2023 - 24

<b><u>RPO</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Total application Processed</u></b>	<b><u>POPSK application Processed</u></b>	<b><u>% of total application processed by POPSK</u></b>
RPO Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	374273	140694	<b>37.59</b>
RPO Visakhapatnam		233155	75293	<b>32.29</b>
RPO Guwahati	Assam	188539	77287	<b>40.99</b>
RPO Patna	Bihar	405324	178002	<b>43.92</b>
RPO Chandigarh	Chandigarh	956960	177473	<b>18.55</b>
RPO Raipur		61226	23186	<b>37.87</b>
CPV Delhi	Delhi	21059		
RPO Delhi		776994	89072	<b>11.46</b>
RPO Goa	Goa	64791	13463	<b>20.78</b>
RPO Ahmedabad	Gujarat	897713	263149	<b>29.31</b>
RPO Surat		241670	42986	<b>17.79</b>
RPO Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	104927	65042	<b>61.99</b>
RPO Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	83352	26388	<b>31.66</b>
RPO Srinagar		121479	35891	<b>29.55</b>
RPO Ranchi	Jharkhand	118327	72609	<b>61.36</b>
RPO Bengaluru	Karnataka	919655	204570	<b>22.24</b>
RPO Cochin	Kerala	749374	60722	<b>8.10</b>
RPO Kozhikode		714477	15703	<b>2.20</b>
RPO Trivandrum		310649	31865	<b>10.26</b>
RPO Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	254270	100100	<b>39.37</b>
RPO Mumbai	Maharashtra	953275	178722	<b>18.75</b>
RPO Nagpur		139602	57861	<b>41.45</b>
RPO Pune		486767	159512	<b>32.77</b>
RPO Bhubaneswar	Odisha	141644	57036	<b>40.27</b>
RPO Amritsar	Punjab	288561	17851	<b>6.19</b>
RPO Jalandhar		498484	52194	<b>10.47</b>
RPO Jaipur	Rajasthan	540782	177792	<b>32.88</b>
RPO Kota		35057	15143	<b>43.20</b>
RPO Chennai	Tamil Nadu	560912	117098	<b>20.88</b>
RPO Coimbatore		191864	55758	<b>29.06</b>
RPO Madurai		273459	56479	<b>20.65</b>
RPO Tiruchirappalli		247516	43843	<b>17.71</b>
RPO Hyderabad	Telangana	857370	153570	<b>17.91</b>



RPO Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	225807	71822	<b>31.81</b>
RPO Ghaziabad		362738	99207	<b>27.35</b>
RPO Lucknow		880390	177197	<b>20.13</b>
RPO Dehradun	Uttarakhand	165563	69651	<b>42.07</b>
RPO Kolkata	West Bengal	678812	208156	<b>30.66</b>

**% of application processed by POPSK during the FY : 2024 – 2025 (upto 31.01.2025)**

<b><u>RPO</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Total application Processed</u></b>	<b><u>POPSK application Processed</u></b>	<b><u>% of total application processed by POPSK</u></b>
RPO Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	268210	102166	<b>38.09</b>
RPO Visakhapatnam		194095	60617	<b>31.23</b>
RPO Guwahati	Assam	162866	68016	<b>41.76</b>
RPO Patna	Bihar	365302	158982	<b>43.52</b>
RPO Chandigarh	Chandigarh	694166	143381	<b>20.66</b>
RPO Raipur		54384	20173	<b>37.09</b>
CPV Delhi	Delhi	18946		
RPO Delhi		612570	71307	<b>11.64</b>
RPO Goa	Goa	51658	10913	<b>21.13</b>
RPO Ahmedabad	Gujarat	667495	175039	<b>26.22</b>
RPO Surat		183103	33251	<b>18.16</b>
RPO Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	65230	44410	<b>68.08</b>
RPO Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	59092	18766	<b>31.76</b>
RPO Srinagar		83886	24912	<b>29.70</b>
RPO Ranchi	Jharkhand	106071	61663	<b>58.13</b>
RPO Bengaluru	Karnataka	801563	173985	<b>21.71</b>
RPO Cochin	Kerala	629203	51142	<b>8.13</b>
RPO Kozhikode		628017	15131	<b>2.41</b>
RPO Trivandrum		264331	25382	<b>9.60</b>
RPO Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	241548	102925	<b>42.61</b>
RPO Mumbai	Maharashtra	776623	145939	<b>18.79</b>
RPO Nagpur		100540	36636	<b>36.44</b>
RPO Pune		390960	137481	<b>35.16</b>
RPO Bhubaneswar	Odisha	89208	37586	<b>42.13</b>
RPO Amritsar	Punjab	186613	14960	<b>8.02</b>
RPO Jalandhar		329648	37670	<b>11.43</b>
RPO Jaipur	Rajasthan	383359	113870	<b>29.70</b>
RPO Kota		79537	32267	<b>40.57</b>

RPO Chennai	Tamil Nadu	471409	96822	<b>20.54</b>
RPO Coimbatore		157701	41804	<b>26.51</b>
RPO Madurai		244391	55494	<b>22.71</b>
RPO Tiruchirappalli		203623	30357	<b>14.91</b>
RPO Hyderabad	Telangana	667538	108429	<b>16.24</b>
RPO Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	182932	54543	<b>29.82</b>
RPO Ghaziabad		290833	77363	<b>26.60</b>
RPO Lucknow		732643	133494	<b>18.22</b>
RPO Dehradun	Uttarakhand	131322	50354	<b>38.34</b>
RPO Kolkata	West Bengal	500069	140187	<b>28.03</b>

**Details of Schools and Centres of Nalanda University**

**Schools:**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the School</b>	<b>Year</b>
1.	School of Historical Studies	2014
2.	School of Ecology and Environment Studies	2014
3.	School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions	2016
4.	School of Languages and Literature/Humanities	2018
5.	School of Management Studies	2020
6.	School of International Relations and Peace Studies	2024

**Centres:**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the Centres</b>	<b>Year</b>
1.	Common Archival Resource Centre (CARC)	2019
2.	Nalanda University Centre, Neemrana	2020
3.	Centre For Conflict Resolution And Peace Studies	2021
4.	Centre For Bay of Bengal Studies	2022

<b><u>List of MoUs/Agreements of Nalanda University for educational and research collaboration</u></b>				
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name of partner Institution/ University</b>	<b>MoU Commencement</b>	<b>Specific Areas of Cooperation</b>
1	Spain	University of Salamanca	Oct'2024	Historical, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies, Spanish, Environmental Studies and Climate Change, Religious and philosophical studies, diplomacy, conflict resolution, and global governance.
2	Sri Lanka	University of Kelaniya	Sep'2024	Buddhist Studies & Religious Heritage Archaeology, History & Cultural Heritage Pali, Sanskrit & Linguistic Studies Environmental Sustainability & Climate Studies
3	Cambodia	University of Management And Economics, Battambang	Apr'2024	Business & Management Studies, Sustainable Development & Environmental Studies, Humanities, and Foreign Languages
4	Sri Lanka	The Pathfinder Foundation	Nov'2023	Regional Diplomacy & Strategic Studies; Maritime Cooperation & Indian Ocean Studies; Sustainable Development & Climate Action; Economic & Trade

5	Czech Republic	University of Ostrava	Oct'2023	Cultural & Historical Studies Environmental Studies & Climate Change Geography
6	Bangladesh	Daffodil University	May'2023	Sustainable Development & Environmental Studies Entrepreneurship, Business & Social Innovation Public Policy, Governance & Regional Cooperation
7	Indonesia	Universitas Jambi	May'2023	Archaeology, History & Cultural Heritage Buddhism & Religious Studies
8	Republic of Korea	Dongguk University	Mar'2023	Buddhist Studies & Religious Heritage
9	Japan	Otani University	Aug'2022	Buddhist Studies & Religious Heritage Cultural Studies & History
10	Nepal	Lumbini Buddhist University	Jun'2022	International Relations & Regional Cooperation Buddhist Studies & Religious Heritage Archaeology, History & Cultural Heritage
11	USA	Bronx Community College, New York	Apr'2022	Public Policy, Governance & Regional Cooperation Social Innovation & Well-being

				Community Development & Social Innovation Sustainability & Environmental Studies Cultural Exchange & Global Studies Public Health & Well-being Education for Underrepresented Groups Technology, Innovation & Entrepreneurship
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**Agreements under ASEAN-India University Network**

SN	Country	Name of the Institution/University	MoU Commencement
1.	Myanmar	University of Computer Studies, Mandalay	Feb'2025
2.	Indonesia	Udayana University	Jan' 2025
3.	Thailand	Prince of Songkla University	Nov'2024
4.	India	Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur	Oct'2024
5.	India	Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad	Oct'2024
6.	India	Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management (IIITM), Gwalior	Sep'2024
7.	Indonesia	Universitas Indonesia	Jul'2024
8.	Thailand	Ubon Ratchathani University	Jul'2024
9.	India	Indian Institute of Management, (IIM) Bodh Gaya	Jun'2024
10.	India	National Institute of Technology, (NIT) Delhi	May'2024
11.	Thailand	Chiang Mai University	May'2024
12.	India	Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Kanpur	Apr'2024
13.	India	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education &	Apr'2024

		Research (NIPER), Guwahati	
14.	India	Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar	Mar'2024
15.	India	Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak	Nov'2023
16.	India	Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Roorkee	Oct'2023
17.	Indonesia	Jambi University	May'2023
18.	Malaysia	Universiti Malaya	May'2023
19.	India	Indian Maritime University	Nov'2022
20.	Indonesia	University of Bengkulu	Nov'2022
21.	India	Tezpur University	Sep'2022
22.	Lao PDR	National University of Laos, Vientiane	Sep'2022

**List of ongoing as well as completed flagship Projects by MEA**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Bhutan	Mangdechhu HEP	Completed
2.	Bhutan	Punatsangchhu-I HEP	Ongoing
3.	Bhutan	Punatsangchhu-II HEP	Ongoing
4.	Nepal	Nepal Police Academy, Kavre Pulchul	Ongoing
5.	Nepal	ICP Nepalgunj	Completed
6.	Nepal	ICP Biratnagar	Completed
7.	Nepal	ICP Bhairahawa	Ongoing
8.	Nepal	ICP Dodhara Chandini	Ongoing
9.	Nepal	Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Projects	Housing projects are completed. Cultural, Education and Health reconstruction projects are ongoing.
10.	Nepal	Modi-Lekhnath Transmission Line Project	Completed
11.	Nepal	Solu Corridor Transmission Line project	Completed
12.	Bangladesh	Khulna-Mongla Rail Line Project	Completed
13.	Bangladesh	Maitree Super Thermal Power Project	Completed
14.	Bangladesh	Power evacuation of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant	Ongoing
15.	Bangladesh	Procurement of 109 Basic Life Support Ambulances to Bangladesh	Completed
16.	Bangladesh	India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline	Completed
17.	Bangladesh	Dredging on two stretches of Jamuna and Kushiara rivers	Ongoing
18.	Bangladesh	Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link Project (Bangladesh portion)	Completed
19.	Bangladesh	Rehabilitation of the Kulaura – Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railway	Ongoing



20.	Myanmar	Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project -Waterways Component	Ongoing
21.	Myanmar	Upgradation of Kalewa Yargi road section of Trilateral Highway, Myanmar	Ongoing
22.	Myanmar	Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) Road Component	Ongoing
23.	Myanmar	Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Yangon	Completed
24.	Myanmar	Up-gradation of Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital	Completed
25.	Myanmar	Establishment of Advance Centre of Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE) at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.	Completed
26.	Myanmar	Basic / Military Technical Training School	Completed
27.	Maldives	Greater Male Connectivity Project	Ongoing
28.	Maldives	Construction of MNDF 'Ekatha' Harbour at UTF	Ongoing
29.	Maldives	Redevelopment of Hanimaadhoo airport	Ongoing
30.	Maldives	Redevelopment of Gan airport	Ongoing
31.	Maldives	Addu Development Project	Ongoing
32.	Maldives	Construction of National College for Police and Law Enforcement	Completed
33.	Maldives	Construction of Ministry of Defence (MoD) Building in Male	Ongoing
34.	Maldives	Water and Sanitation project in 28 islands	Completed
35.	Maldives	Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection project	Completed
36.	Maldives	Addu Detour Link Bridge	Completed

		project	
37.	Maldives	Handing over of Coastal Surveillance Radar System to MNDF	Completed
38.	Sri Lanka	Indian housing project	On-going: A total of 3910 houses under Phase III have been constructed and handed over to beneficiaries in the recent past. Construction of 1300 of 10,000 houses of Phase IV of the project is underway currently.
39.	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project	Ongoing
40.	Sri Lanka	High Impact Community Development Program	Ongoing
41.	Sri Lanka	Rehabilitation of KKS port	On-going
42.	Sri Lanka	Upgrading railway track from Maho-Anuradapura-Omantahi or any other sector	Ongoing
43.	Sri Lanka	Construction of Jaffna Cultural Centre	Completed
44.	Sri Lanka	Island - wide expansion of Emergency Ambulance Services	Completed
45.	Mauritius	Supply of 100 Nos E-Buses to Mauritius	Ongoing
46.	Mauritius	Metro Express Project: Phase I & II	Completed
47.	Mauritius	Metro Express Project: Phase III	Completed
48.	Mauritius	New ENT Hospital	Completed
49.	Mauritius	Social Housing Project	Completed
50.	Mauritius	Supreme Court Building Project	Completed
51.	Mauritius	E-Tablet project	Completed
52.	Mauritius	Construction of Civil Service College in Mauritius	Ongoing
53.	Afghanistan	Supply of 75,000 MT Wheat to Afghanistan	Completed
54.	Tajikistan	Tajikistan – Dushanbe Chortut Highway Project: Phase-I	Completed
55.	Iran	Chabahar Port Project	Ongoing

56.	<b>22 African Countries:</b> Benin , Guinea , Zambia , Malawi , Ghana , Democratic Republic of Congo , Côte d'Ivoire , Sudan , Uganda, Mozambique, Mauritius , Comoros , Sierra Leone ,Mali , Eritrea, The Gambia , Seychelles , Somalia ,Nigeria ,Djibouti , Madagascar ,South Sudan	e-VidyaBharati & e-AarogyaBharati(e-VBAB) Network Project	Ongoing
57.	Burundi	Kabu 16 Hydro-electric project	Completed
58.	Zimbabwe	Deka Pumping station and river water intake system	Completed
59.	Zimbabwe	Upgradation of Indo Zimbabwe Technology Centre	Completed
60.	Zimbabwe	Donation of 950 units of Hand Run Sewing Machines to the angel of Hope Foundation, Zimbabwe, a Charitable Trust of the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe	Completed
61.	Tanzania	Upper Ruvu Water Treatment Plant	Completed
62.	Tanzania	Rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar	Completed
63.	Tanzania	Supply and installation of power backup system to ICT Resource Centre in NM-AIST, Arusha, Tanzania	Completed

64.	Tanzania	Water supply scheme in 17 towns in Tanzania	Ongoing
65.	Togo	161 KV Power Transmission Line and associated Substations	Completed
66.	Cote d'Ivoire	Mahatma Gandhi IT and Bio-technological park	Completed
67.	Pacific Island Countries	Supply of Sea Ambulances to Pacific Island Countries (PIC)	Ongoing
68.	Guyana	East Bank-East Coast Road linkage project	Ongoing
69.	Guyana	Procurement of Passenger-Cargo Ferry Vessel	Completed
70.	Guyana	For procurement of two Hindustan 228-201 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)	Completed
71.	Guyana	Procuring and Installing Solar Home Lighting Systems for 30,000 homes	Completed
72.	Suriname	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
73.	SVG	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
74.	T&T	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
75.	SKN	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
76.	Nicaragua	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
77.	Honduras	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
78.	Grenada	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
79.	Barbados	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
80.	El Salvador	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
81.	Dominican Republic	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
82.	Belize	Supply of SME machinery	Ongoing
83.	Mongolia	India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School	Ongoing
84.	Senegal	Upgradation of Entrepreneur & Technical Development Centre ( ETDC) COLOBANE, Senegal	Completed
85.	Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania	Supply of 10 Ambulances to Tanzania	Completed
86.	Malawi	Gifting of Bhabhatron tele-cobalt cancer-therapy machine	Completed

		to Malawi	
87.	Malawi, Tanzania	Setting up of an Artificial Limb Fitment Temporary Camp	Completed
88.	Mozambique	Procurement and supply of two (02) High Speed Interceptor Boats to the Government of Mozambique as gift from the Government of India	Completed
89.	Mozambique	Supply of 44 Indian manufactured SUVs for donation to the Government of Mozambique	Completed
90.	Uganda	Setting up laboratories at National Forensic Science University Jinja Uganda	Completed
91.	Uganda	Gifting of Bhabhatron tele-cobalt cancer-therapy machine to Uganda	Completed
92.	Uganda	Gifting of 44 Utility Vehicles to Uganda	Completed
93.	Uganda	Establishment of India-Africa Regional Material testing Laboratories for Highways in Uganda (IAFS-II Projects)	Ongoing
94.	Rwanda	Setting up of Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IAFS-II Project)	Completed
95.	Rwanda	Export Targeted Modern Irrigated Agricultural Project	Ongoing
96.	Rwanda	Setting up of Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IAFS-II Project)	Completed
97.	Seychelles	Construction of Feeder road - Anse Solei - Baie Lazare	Completed